COURSE INFORMATION:

Class Meetings:

Tuesdays, 2:15 to 5:05 pm.
Building 200, Room 217

Instructors:

Walter W. Powell    W. Richard Scott
School of Education, CERAS 509  Department of Sociology, Bldg.120, Rm 132
Phone: 725-7391    Phone: 723-3959
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Office Hours: Tues. 10:30-12    Office Hours: Mon. 12:30-2

Goals of the Course:

This seminar will explore several key lines of current organizational research. Our aim is to assess the utility of these research areas, find points of linkage, and understand the kinds of questions that these different macro-level approaches answer best. We focus on research on institutional change, historical studies of networks, cross-national variation in organizing, and evolutionary approaches.

Course Requirements:

Students will share the responsibility for discussing materials and for raising questions with the instructors. Students will be expected to do all of the required reading and be prepared to discuss the materials in class on the schedule indicated in the syllabus. Final grades are based on three types of information:

1. All students will be asked to lead discussions at least once during the quarter. Discussion assignments will be made on the first day of class. In addition, all students should arrive at class with questions, topics, and issues to be raised for discussion. Twenty percent of the course grade is based on class participation.

2. All students are asked to prepare brief memos (1-2 pages) relating to the reading for each week. Formats may vary but it is useful to include:

   (a) ideas, concepts, arguments which you found stimulating, worth remembering and building on,
   (b) questions, concerns, disagreements with ideas encountered,
(c) connections and/or contradictions between one idea or approach and another.

Memos should be emailed to the instructors by 11 am on the day of class. Thirty percent of course grade will be based on weekly memos.

3. Research proposal:

A twelve to fifteen page paper that applies one of the lines of research to a specific empirical case that the student is interested in. Fifty percent of the course grade will be based on this paper. The research proposal is due on the last day of class.

Auditors are expected to meet requirements 1 and 2.

Course Materials:


Reading packet, available from Field Copy (323-3155). The copy service will bring the packets to the first class. Starred items (*) are not included in the packet.

Schedule:

Week 1 - March 28: Introduction
Overview of course

Week 2 - April 4: Institutional Change


**Week 3 - April 11: Institutional Change**

Scott et al, Chapters 6-10.


**Week 4 – April 18: Institutional Change**


**Week 5 – April 25: The Commercialization of Knowledge**


**Week 6 – May 2: The Evolution of Network Structures**


**Powell, Walter W. “Practicing Polygamy with Good Taste: Organizational Learning and Complexity.” Working paper. (If available in time, it will be distributed in class).**
**Week 7 – May 9:** Organizing in Different Contexts

Mark Fruin will visit.


**Week 8 – May 16:** Organizing in Different Contexts

Nicole Biggart will visit.


**Week 9 – May 23:** Evolutionary Approaches


**Week 10 – May 30: (This class may be rescheduled for a different date):** Evolutionary Approaches

Aldrich, H. chs. 6-11.
