SOC 759R Culture and Interaction in Organizations

Dr. Melissa Pirkey
Office: Tarbutton Hall, room 232
Office Hours: Tues 3-4:30pm, or by appointment
Email: mpirkey@emory.edu

Course Requirements

Informed Participation (20% final grade)
Seminar courses, particularly those small in size, are most successful when all members attend regularly and come well prepared. Seminar members should have readings completed before class, and with questions/comments that will add to a productive discussion of the material.

Response Memos (20% final grade total)
Each week students will write a response memo that addresses connections between the assigned readings for the week. Additionally, students may include any questions or points of confusion. To aid this process, I will take a few moments at the close of each class to introduce the next week’s readings and provide some guiding comments about why the readings were selected and how they fit into the course. The purpose of the memos is twofold. First, they will help you to organize your thoughts so that we can have a productive discussion. Second, they will serve as a starting point for the short papers you will write over the semester. Response memos are due in hard copy at the start of class.

Short Papers (30% of grade each):
You will write two short papers over the course of the term that will allow you to conduct a more thorough, in-depth reflection on the readings from the course than the memos allow. A prompt will be provided for each paper. Short papers should be double spaced, with one inch margins and 11 or 12 point font. All works should be cited in-text in ASA format, and a list of references should be provided. While there is no hard and fast rule regarding the length of the short papers, you should be able to adequately respond to the prompt in 8 pages or less (not including the list of references). Papers may be submitted via email. Due dates are as follows:

- Paper One (Culture and Institutional Theory): March 17
- Paper Two (Culture and Interaction): April 28
Course Expectations and Policies

Honor Code:
The Honor Code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to plagiarize, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. The Emory University honor code applies fully to this course. When you submit your assignments, you are pledging to the honor code. For reference, please consult http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html.

Disabilities:
Students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (http://www.ods.emory.edu/; 727-6016) to obtain proper documentation if accommodations are needed.

Course Schedule

January 10: Intro

- Introductions
- Goals, course organization, syllabus

January 17: Reading, Understanding, and Using Social Theory and Research

3. http://gsi.berkeley.edu/media/Practical-Tips-for-Reading-Sociology.pdf

January 24: Organizational Sociology: Getting the lay of the land

January 31: Approaches to Culture: An Introduction


February 7: Contemporary Perspectives on Culture in Organizations


February 14: An Introduction to New Institutionalism

February 21: Institutional Logics

February 28: Inhabited Institutionalism

March 7: Spring Break

March 14: Culture and Cognition: A Brief Overview
March 21: Culture, Informal Networks, and Organizational Life


March 28: Sensemaking and Sensegiving


April 4: Theories of Social Exchange and the Role of Cultural Context


April 11: Cognitive and Affective Outcomes of Types of Social Exchange


April 18: Culture and Cooperation, Collaboration, and Trust


