

San José State University Department of Anthropology
ORGS 102 - Organizations, Inquiry, and Analysis
Section 01 (22246MW), Spring 2023

Course and Contact Information

Instructor(s): Danae G. Khorasani
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Office Hours: Online Mondays from 12:00-1:00pm PT, and/or by
appointment via Zoom <https://sjsu.zoom.us/my/professor.khorasani>
Class Days/Time: IN-PERSON MW 10:30am-11:45am PT
Classroom: CL204 (Clark Hall)
Prerequisites: ORGS 101, Upper Division Standing or Instructor Permission
Final Exam: Monday, May 22nd, from 9:45am-12:00pm PT

Course Description

Welcome to ORGS 102 - Organizations, Inquiry, and Analysis! This course is designed to introduce students to the study of complex organizations from an anthropological perspective. Organizations form the foundation of how humans collectivize themselves to get things done that cannot be done alone. They take on a variety of forms, functions, and performatives within human society. As a core course in the interdisciplinary organizational studies major, ORGS 102 is designed to introduce students to concepts, qualitative methods and strategies of inquiry related to the study of organizations. Topics for this course include analysis of organizational forms and functions; research skills for understanding internal social and cultural dynamics; workflow, work, and the division of labor; bureaucracy; and ethical issues within organizational life. Students will leave this course with a better understanding of organizations and with a greater awareness of the methods needed to study them.

SJSU Course Catalog Description

Study of complex organizations in which people live their lives. Topics include organizational forms and functions; internal social and cultural dynamics; growth and change in material, social and symbolic environments; and ethical issues of organizational life.

Course Format

Technology Intensive, Hybrid, and Online Courses

This is a technology intensive course. Internet connectivity and access to a laptop or computer are required in order to participate in the classroom activities and/or submit assignments. All assignments must be uploaded to Canvas in .doc or .docx and .pdf formats to be graded. Please save or export documents created in other formats to MS Word or similar before submitting the assignment. Please be aware that the mobile phone Canvas App does not include the full

functionality of Canvas as seen on a computer. See *University Policy F13-2* at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-2.pdf> for more details.

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on **Canvas Learning Management System** course website at: <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. As a student, you are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas (or other communication system as indicated by the professor) to learn of any updates.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

After successfully completing this course, students will:

- CLO1. Demonstrate an understanding of research methods commonly used in studying organizations.
- CLO2. Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the various methods commonly used in researching organizations.
- CLO3. Apply organizational research methods to the study of key organizational issues, such as environments and resources, use of technology, decision-making, workflow, and symbol use.
- CLO4. Evaluate research methods applied in published studies of organizational behavior.
- CLO5. Demonstrate research skills in exploring organizational values, patterns, processes, and environments.
- CLO6. Articulate the ethical considerations organizational researchers face in their work.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook: Brewerton, Paul M., and Lynne J. Millward (2001). *Organizational Research Methods: A Guide for Students and Researchers*. London: Sage. ISBN 9780761971016.

This text is available online for FREE through the SJSU Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library here: https://sjsu-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/1cue0e3/01CAL5_ALMA51439210890002901

Purchase a printed copy here: https://www.amazon.com/Organizational-Research-Methods-Students-Researchers/dp/0761971017/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Organizational+Research+Methods%3A+A+Guide+for+Students+and+Researcher&qid=1643002454&sr=8-1

Other Readings

Additional readings will be made available on Canvas as .pdf downloads. Readings from the textbook and supplementary materials will be assigned on a weekly basis and should be completed before the class session for which they are assigned.

Library Liaison

The Anthropology Library Liaison is Silke Higgins, Silke.Higgins@sjsu.edu. Or visit the SJSU library website here: <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/anthropology>.

Course Requirements and Assignments

The assignments for this course are designed to meet learning objectives and familiarize students with methodological approaches to studying organizations. Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities. Your final grade will be determined by your participation and performance on several assignments as outlined below. All the assignments together **total to 300 points**.

Overview of Course Assignments and Total Points

Overall participation grade = 20 points

Eight (8) Reading Check Quizzes, 8 x 6 = 48 points

Four (4) Discussion Posts & Comment, 4 x 10 = 40 points

One (1) Final Project = 136 points

One (1) Final Exam: Monday, May 22nd, from 9:45am-12:00pm PT (online), 56 points

Total: 300 points

1. Overall participation grade - Students are expected to participate in classroom discussions and/or in activities that will be introduced in lecture or on Canvas. Student engagement with their peers and with the course materials will be evaluated at the end of the semester by an overall participation grade. This assignment is **worth 20 points**.

2. Reading Quizzes – eight (8) bi-weekly (every other week, alternating weeks) reading-check quizzes will be available online through Canvas and based on the assigned lectures & readings. The quizzes are brief and will be **approximately 3-6 questions each quiz**. A single quiz question is worth between 1 to 2 points, depending on difficulty. These quizzes are designed to check that students have completed the readings and reviewed the materials. Quizzes will be available on Canvas for the entire assigned week. Quizzes are graded and **worth 6 points each, for a total of 48 points**.

- Quizzes are **due by 11:59pm PT on the Friday of the week it is assigned**.

3. Discussion Posts & Thoughtful Comment – To practice organizational inquiry and analysis, students will be given four (4) scenario discussion prompts. These prompts will require students to apply what they've learned from readings and lecture to design research, analyze organizational trends and data, and develop solutions for fictitious organizations and scenarios. This assignment is graded and **worth 10 points each post, for a total of 40 points**.

Discussion Post #1 - Introduction post

Discussion Post #2 - Journal or Conference Paper Review post

Discussion Post #3 - Scenario 1: Ethics/Work Environment

Discussion Post #4 - Scenario 2: Teamwork/Team Dynamics

Discussion posts should be **between 350-450 words** in a typed response to the assignment prompt and any additional readings, video, or audio media. Discussion post questions, rubric and

requirements can be found in course modules on Canvas. Please do not exceed 500 words per post.

- These discussion posts should be **well-crafted, miniature essays that directly respond to the prompt scenario**. To receive full credit for your discussion, the posts must meet the minimum word requirements, demonstrate critical evaluation of the topic and be relevant to the questions/scenarios.
- As part of this assignment, you are also expected to post **at least one (1) thoughtful comment** (no word count) to discussion posts made by another classmate during the week that discussion posts are due. Your response is part of the discussion post grade. Students are encouraged to post as many times as they would like, but additional responses beyond the first comment will not count towards your grade.
- **Discussion posts and responses** should be posted by **11:59pm PT on the Friday of the week it is due**, unless otherwise stated.

4. Final Project – User Experience Case Study: Students will design and implement a user experience case study with an organization of interest. For this project, you are expected to design, implement, and analyze a user experience survey using the Qualtrics software (available free to SJSU students) with a partnering organization in the Bay Area. This project will challenge you to practice research skills while learning about qualitative research within organizational fields. I will provide guidance to students throughout the semester, and brainstorm ideas for overcoming any challenges that might arise. **This final project is graded and worth 80 points total.**

- **Proposal** (30 points): For this assignment, students should propose a local organization or company to partner with for their case study. Proposals should include a summary of the organization (name, field, or industry, etc.), your reason for choosing this organization and the specific area(s) of interest that will be addressed in the study. Because the emphasis of this case study is on user experience, it is recommended that you chose an organization that has users or clients/patrons. The proposal should be approximately 2-3 pages double-spaced or 600-650 words. A rubric for this assignment will be posted in course modules.
- **Background Research Report and Agreement Statement** (28 points): Students will report what they've learned about the background of the company (date established, size, organizational structure, etc.) and work towards gaining access for the study. The background research report should be approximately 2-3 pages double-spaced or 600-650 words. Along with the background research report, students should obtain a signed copy of a "letter of agreement" with the organization/company.
- **User Experience Survey Draft** (24 points): Students will submit a draft of their proposed user experience survey and a brief paragraph describing how they plan to deploy the survey and collect data. Survey length and type will vary depending on the nature and goals of the case study.
- **Written Report and Analysis** (54 points): Students will submit a final written report of their case study findings. This report must include a summation of the previous assignments as well as data analysis of the end user experiences and interactions with the organization. The report should utilize key concepts from the course and at least 2 graphic figures. The report should be approximately 5 pages double-spaced or 1,300 words. A works cited page should include references to scholarly materials with 3-4 citations.

5. Final Examination - The Final Exam will utilize multiple choice questions to assess your mastery of key topics in organizational studies. The exam will be based on the readings, materials, and lectures from the course and will be administered online through Canvas.

- The Final is graded and worth 56 points.
- See *University Policy S06-4* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S06-4.pdf>) states that “Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.”

Grading Information

As stated earlier, this course is graded out of 300 points, which will be converted to a traditional grading scale with associated letter grades (e.g. roughly 70-72 = C-, 73-76 = C, and 77-79 = C+), please see table below and *University Grading System Policy F18-5* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>).

A	B	C	D	F
97-100% = A plus	87-89% = B plus	77-79% = C plus	67-69% = D plus	Below 60% = F
93-96% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	63-66% = D	
90-92% = A minus	80-82% = B minus	70-72% = C minus	60-62% = D minus	

Grading Information for GE/100W

- This course must be passed with a C- or better as a CSU graduation requirement.
- *More guidelines on grading information and class attendance can be found from the following university policies:*
- *University Syllabus Policy S16-9* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>)
- *University Attendance and Participation Policy F15-12* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf>)
- *University Grading System Policy F18-5* (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F18-5.pdf>)

Late Assignments and Papers

Late assignments/papers will only be accepted with **grade penalty** up to 2 days past the assignment due date, unless a genuine emergency arrives with documentation, or you have received an extension from the instructor in advance. If you are having trouble getting assignments submitted on time, you should discuss your situation with the instructor.

Incompletes

Incompletes will be granted only if the professor has been notified in a timely manner and has approved. Students with missing major assignments (over 50 points) will receive a WU (unauthorized withdrawal). **No work will be accepted after the final.**

Extra Credit

Extra credit may be offered at the instructor’s discretion.

Classroom Protocol

Active participation will be part of your final grade; this includes your participation and activity in the online forums. When participating online, make sure to practice netiquette when replying

to others. Purposefully inflammatory and hateful statements will not be tolerated. Group study before the midterm and final is encouraged.

Covid-19

If you or an immediate family member contracts Covid-19, please notify the instructor **as soon as possible** and accommodations will be made for your situation.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>), requires students to obtain instructor's permission to electronically or digitally record the course: "Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share, or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent."

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

ORGS 102 - Organizations, Inquiry & Analysis, Spring 2022 Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Notifications will be made online through Canvas announcements.

Course Schedule

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	01/25 - 01/27/2 3	<i>Introduction to the Course</i> Read: Chapter 1, “Introduction” from the Brewerton & Millward Textbook DUE: Discussion Post #1 and Week 1 Syllabus Quiz **Wednesday, January 25th is the First Day of Instruction**
2	01/30- 02/03	<i>Origin Story of Organizational Studies</i> Read: Hall and Tolbert - Chapter 1, “The Nature of Organizations” (on Canvas) Optional: “Leading Innovation” article by MIT’s Prof. Budden and Prof. Fiona Murray (on Canvas) DUE: Start thinking about your final research project
3	02/06 - 02/10	<i>Introduction to Organizational Inquiry - What is work?</i> Read: Chapter 2, “Applying Social Science to the Real World” from the Brewerton & Millward Textbook “The Ox, The Slave and The Worker” article by Richard H. Thompson (on Canvas) “Preface” and “Prologue” to <i>Aramis</i> by Bruno Latour (on Canvas) DUE: Select an organization for your final research project and Week 3 Reading Quiz
4	02/13 - 02/17	<i>Bureaucracy and Stupidity - Why study it?</i> Read: Chapter from <i>The Utopia of Rules</i> by David Graeber (on Canvas) DUE: Proposal Statement
5	02/20 – 02/24	<i>What is a Bullshit Job? Foundations and Concepts</i> Read: Chapter 3, “Starting Off the Research Process” from your Textbook Chapter from <i>Bullshit Jobs: A Theory</i> by David Graeber (on Canvas) DUE: Discussion Post #2 and Week 5 Reading Quiz
6	02/27- 03/03	<i>Open Systems & System Components</i> Read: “Open Systems Models” pp. 27-53 by Harrison (on Canvas) DUE: Background Research Report & Signed Letter of Agreement
7	03/06 - 03/10	<i>Access, Buy-In and Power</i> Read: Chapter 4, “Obtaining & Using Access to an Organization” from your Textbook “Organizational Commitment” article by Randall B. Brown (on Canvas) DUE: Week 7 Reading Quiz
8	03/13 - 03/17	<i>Project Design & Working with Humans Research Subjects</i> Read: Chapter 5, “Project Design” from your Textbook “An Anthropologically Based Consulting Firm” chapter by <i>Crain and Tashima</i> (on Canvas) DUE: Nothing

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
9	03/20 - 03/24	<i>Ethics in Organizational Research</i> Read: “Ethics and Practicing Anthropology – Pragmatic, Practical, and Principled” article by Lenora Bohren and Linda Whiteford “Human Subjects Protection and Cultural Anthropology” article by Stuart Plattner (on Canvas) DUE: Discussion Post #3 and Week 9 Reading Quiz *Guest speaker*
10	03/27 - 03/31	**Spring Break: March 27, 2023 - March 31, 2023** ** March 31 st is Cesar Chavez Day**
11	04/03 - 04/07	<i>Designing Surveys and Qualitative Methods</i> Read: “Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis,” pp. 337-340 by Bernard (on Canvas) “The Hawthorn Effect” article by Coombs and Smith (on Canvas) DUE: Week 11 Reading Quiz
12	04/10 – 04/14	<i>Data Collection Methods</i> Read: Brewerton & Millward - Chapter 6, “Methods of Data Collection” Brewerton & Millward, Chapter 7, “Sampling Considerations” DUE: User Experience Survey Draft *Guest speaker*
13	04/17 - 04/21	<i>More Data Collection Methods</i> Read: Bernard Chapter 8, “Interviewing I: Unstructured and Semi-structured,” pp. 156-172 (on Canvas) Q-method study: “Understanding young immigrant Chinese consumers’ freshness perceptions of orange juices” by Zhang et al. (on Canvas) DUE: Week 13 Reading Quiz
14	04/24 - 04/28	<i>Performance in Organizations</i> Read: Brewerton & Millward, Chapter 8, “Assessing Performance in Organizations” DUE: Discussion Post #4
15	05/01 - 05/05	<i>Data Analysis and Reporting Findings</i> Read: Brewerton & Millward, Chapter 9, “Data Analysis” Brewerton & Millward, Chapter 10, “Reporting Research Findings” DUE: Work on Final Project
16	05/08 - 05/12	<i>Practical Considerations & Review</i> Read: Yagoda, “The Cognitive Biases Tricking Your Brain” (on Canvas) **Review for Final Exam** DUE: Work on Final Project and Week 16 Review Quiz
Final Exam 17-18	05/15 - 05/23	**No readings** DUE: Final Project Report Final Exam scheduled for Monday, May 22 nd , from 9:45am-12:00pm PT

Week/Module	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		Monday, May 15 th is the Last Day of Instruction **Final Examinations Period is from May 17 th to 23 rd **