

## SOC 3740 - Complex Organizations

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section A01, CRN 43180,

Credit hours: 3

### Instructor

James Tague

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### Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Professor

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Master's, Sociology, St. John's University, 2018

Bachelor's, International Relations, Seton Hall University, 2017

Bachelor's, Philosophy, Seton Hall University, 2017

Instructor Office Location: n/a

Instructor Office Phone: 610-612-6448

### Course Description

3740. Complex Organizations. Structures and processes of large-scale organizations: leadership, control techniques, tensions, bureaucratic pathologies, organizational change. Prereq.: SOC 1500. 3 s.h.

### Course Readings

| Group    | Title                                   | Author         | ISBN           |
|----------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Required | Complex Organizations: A Critical Essay | Charles Perrow | 978-1626549029 |

Perrow, C. (2014). Complex organizations: A critical essay (3rd ed.). Echo Point Books & Media.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

### Schedule of Topics and Assignments

| Week of | Reading(s)                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Proposed Topic                                                                                                  | Due/To Prepare for Class |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 10/19   | Complex Organizations Chapter 1: Why Bureaucracy?<br>Supplementary readings and videos.                                                                                                                    | Student Introductions<br>Why Bureaucracy? Discussion<br>Bureaucratic Organizational Chart Assignment            | October 25th             |
| 10/26   | Complex Organizations Chapter 2: Managerial Ideologies and the Origins of the Human Relations Movement<br>Complex Organizations Chapter 3: The Human Relations Model<br>Supplementary readings and videos. | Managerial Ideologies Discussion<br>Human Relations Video Analysis Assignment                                   | November 1st             |
| 11/2    | Complex Organizations Chapter 4: The Neo-Weberian Model: Decision Making, Conflict, and Technology<br>Supplementary readings and videos.                                                                   | Systems and Dysfunction Discussion<br>Video Analysis of Organizational Decision-Making and Conflict Assignment. | November 8th             |



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| 11/9  | Complex Organizations Chapter 5: The Institutional School<br>Supplementary readings and videos.                                                  | Institutional Norms Discussion<br>Draft and Outline for Final Paper                      | November 15th |
| 11/16 | Complex Organizations Chapter 6: The Environment<br>Supplementary readings and videos.                                                           | Environmental Constraints Discussion<br>Environmental Forces Presentation<br>Assignment  | November 22nd |
| 11/23 | Complex Organizations Chapter 7: Economic Theories of Organization<br>Supplementary readings and videos.                                         | Transaction-Cost Theory Discussion<br>Economic Models Comparison Worksheet<br>Assignment | November 29th |
| 11/30 | Complex Organizations Chapter 8: Power in Organizational Analysis: Illustrations, Summary, and Conclusions<br>Supplementary readings and videos. | Power in Organizations Discussion<br>Final Cumulative Research Paper                     | December 6th  |

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.