

Course Outline 2017
MGMT 314: Critical Issues in Organizations (15 POINTS)
Semester 1 (1173)

Course Prescription

This paper examines the nature of modern organizations in a changing context. Each semester the course engages with key issues effecting organizational life, across various levels of organizational analysis. Topics are drawn from diversity, gender at work, power and politics, technological dimensions, the nature of work and occupations, and contemporary perspectives.

Programme and Course Advice

Prerequisite: BUSINESS 200 or MGMT 211

This course is designed for students seeking a critical understanding of organizations. Each semester the course engages with critical issues facing organizations using organizational concepts and theories as well as case organizational studies to highlight issues that managers and employees are confronted with in practice. A special emphasis is given to developing an understanding how organizational practice is formed and shaped by ideas and concepts and how these exist within a wider social context.

Goals of the Course

1. To highlight elements of power, politics, inclusion and exclusion in organizational life.
2. To explore the development and transformation of organizations as they interact with their environments.
3. To apply theoretical frameworks and develop practical techniques for understanding the role of individual, group and political dynamics in organizational life.
4. To examine the development and transformation of organizations, and the impact of these changes on employees and the future of work

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course it is expected that the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with a variety of theoretical perspectives, empirical findings and contemporary trends in organization studies literature.
2. Show an awareness of the complexity and interrelatedness of organizational issues and their impact upon the future of work

3. Critically examine some key macro and micro issues and their implications in contemporary organizations.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the complexities and challenges of organizational life.
5. Analyse organizational challenges by researching, identifying relevant theories and applying that information, in order to suggest effective solutions.

Course schedule

Week 1	Course introduction and overview Organizations in a changing world: Chaos, control and complexity- a critical perspective.
Week 2	The rhetoric and discourse of and about organizations: Is it all just talk?
Week 3	Emotions at work and the impacts of emotional labour
Week 4	Feeding the organization: Food rituals, inclusion, exclusion and the experience of eating at work.
Week 5	Aesthetic organization: Creativity and sensory aspects of work
Week 6	Happiness, fun and humour: Are they really part of work?
Week 7	Bullying and other misbehaviour: The dark side of organizations
<i>Mid-semester break</i>	
Week 8	The invasiveness and pervasiveness of technology at work: New issues and dilemmas
Week 9	Diversity dimensions: What does workplace diversity really mean?
Week 10	Workplace stress and well-being: Whose responsibility is it?
Week 11	Maintaining a critical focus: Course recap and exam preparation
Week 12	<i>Queen's Birthday holiday –no class</i>

Teaching Staff

Dr Barbara Plester

b.plester@auckland.ac.nz

Room 455 OGGB

DDI: 9232484

Department of Management and International Business

Learning Resources

All resources will be available on CANVAS. Lecture slides will be posted weekly after the lectures. Course Readings will be accessible via CANVAS and can also be accessed via the University's libraries.

Assessment

Assessment 1:	Issue exposé	20%
Assessment 2:	Issue analysis	30%
Assessment 3:	Final Exam	50%

Learning Outcome	Assignment 1	Assignment 2	Final Exam
1	x	x	x
2	x	x	
3	x	x	x
4	x	x	x
5		x	x

Inclusive Learning

Students are urged to discuss privately any impairment-related requirements face- to- face and/or in written form with the course convenor/lecturer and/or tutor.

Student Feedback

Previous student feedback has shaped both the content of the course and how it is run. In particular, changes have been made to the way groups are formed and assessed to ensure that they are consistently diverse.

Student feedback will be requested half way through the course and any necessary changes will be made. Students are also encouraged to speak to their class rep if they have any issues they wish to raise.