MN3102 – Organisation Studies

MODULE TYPE/SEMESTER: Junior Honours/Core (20 Credits)/Semester 1

PRE-REQUISITE(S): MN2001 and MN2002

MODULE CO-ORDINATOR: Dr Gail Greig

MODULE TUTOR: Dr Lucy Wishart

CONTACT DETAILS: Dr Gail Greig  
gig@st-andrews.ac.uk  
01334 46(2875)  
Dr Lucy Wishart  
la24@st-andrews.ac.uk  
01334 46(XXXX)

AIM:
To provide an understanding of organisation in the 21st century from a range of perspectives to help students become responsible societal - and organisational - members.

Organisation is a central aspect of contemporary life. We all encounter organisations in the course of our day-to-day lives and most of us spend large parts of our lives as members of organisations. How and why we organise, and how this influences our lives, are important questions to address. This module focuses on the phenomenon of organisation in its broadest sense. Based on classical social theory, we look at a range of contemporary approaches that are adopted in Organisation Studies to understand and make sense of this central phenomenon in our lives, first from an individual perspective, and then from a more structural perspective.

METHOD OF TEACHING & LEARNING:
There will be one two-hour lecture each week. This will be supplemented by four one-hour tutorials, beginning in week 3 of semester.

Details of tutorial work will be provided in class and via MMS/Moodle.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the module, students should be able to:
• Demonstrate an integrative understanding of organisation in society.
• Demonstrate an understanding of organisation using a range of contemporary theoretical perspectives, based on (classical) social theory.
• Analyse different aspects of organising and their ideological and practical implications.
• Demonstrate self-motivation and a spirit of enquiry – this is required to engage with the curriculum and be open to new ideas and new ways of thinking.
• Demonstrate critical thinking and synthesis of ideas – this is a core element of the essay assignment.
• Engage in team-work and self-management – students will be assigned to groups and will present on a chosen topic in tutorials, and produce an accompanying written group report for assessment.
• Enhance interpersonal skills, developed through participation in all aspects of tutorials, through guided discussions.
• Undertake independent study – a key element of the module: assessed coursework requires library research into the latest articles published in journals such as Administrative Science Quarterly, Academy of Management Journal, Human Relations, Journal of Management Studies, Organisation Studies and Organisation.

*INDICATIVE TOPIC OUTLINE:
*Lecture Topics:
• What is Organisation Studies? - Theorising the phenomenon of contemporary organisation
• Meaning in organisation – (i) semiotics and (ii) narrative
• Sense-making for learning in organisation
• Identity and organisation
• Capital, labour and value
• Reason and ethics in organisation
• Power and organisation
• Markets as organising

ASSESSMENT:
• Two-hour written examination 60%
• Written assignment of 2,000 words in length 30%
• Tutorial group work 1,000 word report (each tutorial group) 10%

*CORE READING LIST:
While there is no set “textbook” that students must purchase, here are a few books we suggest as background and/or reference for this course. Multiple copies of each have been made available in the library.

(Please read this little book – it sets out the background to the direction we will be taking and will help to contextualise the module)
(useful as a glossary of main theories with helpful reading lists)

(excellent overview of theoretical perspectives on key issues of interest when studying organisation)

(excellent overview of key thinkers in the field of organisation studies)

A detailed breakdown of readings week-by-week will be made available at the start of the module. All readings will be located in either the online reading list via MMS, in the library’s online/electronic resources or in the library short loan section.

**N.B. * subject to change: any changes will be notified via the Moodle page for MN3102.**