

Copy.
Put in Spring 1981
folder

SYLLABUS

SYSTEMS 781

SOCIAL SYSTEMS DESIGN

The course meets from 2 to 3:15 PM on Monday and Wednesday in MEC 345. It is a 3-credit course.

The course is being offered for the first time in the fall of 1979.

We do not know of any textbook that contains the majority of the material to be discussed in this course. The closest approximation to the thrust of this course is a book that deals with private sector organization design. Thus this book has been selected as a text for the course. However it will only be useful for about 40% of the course. The book is:

Jay Galbraith: ORGANIZATION DESIGN
Addison-Wesley Publ. Co.
1977

In addition to the mentioned text, a number of references are being placed on reserve in the Engineering Library. These are listed on an attached page. A few additions might be made as the course proceeds.

It is intended that about half of the course will involve lectures, and about half will involve student oral reports. The latter will be based on student study of materials placed on reserve in the Engineering Library. Written reports will be required on these materials too.

Each student will be asked to prepare a term paper dealing with some current issue. The issue will be approached from a social systems design perspective. The student will be asked to become familiar with the issue and with the social system to which that issue pertains. Then a design approach to resolving the issue will be used. Additional resource materials available for this purpose include a substantial number of State Department papers relating to a variety of issues, and various journal articles. The student must have the topic of the term paper approved before proceeding.

The course is intended to help prepare the student either for a career in research on public systems issues or for a career involving management or public administration, especially as these relate to technology, its development, its application, and its consequences.

Various frameworks useful for thinking about social systems design will be discussed. These will include the several frameworks given in Galbraith, along with others developed in the references.

Several design algorithms will be discussed, and methodology related to their use will be discussed and illustrated with specific applications.

Because this is a course in design rather than in analysis, classroom examinations are not as useful as they are in many courses. Thus the grade will be based in part on the reports (written and oral) presented as the course proceeds and on the term paper. Between 60 and 70% of the grade will be based on these. The remaining 30 to 40% of the grade will be based on examinations. There will be either one or two examinations, one of which will be the final examination.

The student should appreciate that this is the first time the course is being offered at UVA and, perhaps, is the first time such a course has ever been offered. Thus we will be learning as we go, and we will be evaluating everything for possible use the next time the course is offered.

The course will appeal the most to students who are willing to take considerable initiative in outside reading, and who will spend time outside the classroom in careful organization of both classroom notes and notes based on outside reading.

John N. Warfield *JNW*
C-253, Thornton Hall
977-5963

August 13, 1979

P.S. Each student will be given a copy of the pamphlet Science and Technology for Development, a U. S. National Paper, prepared for a 1979 U. N. Conference