

Proposed course

Title: Developing research capabilities: Theory building in organization science

Instructor:

Don Lange
Associate Professor of Management
Lincoln Professor of Management Ethics
W. P. Carey School of Business
Arizona State University
email: don.lange@asu.edu

Course dates: Spring of 2017, dates to be determined

Language of instruction: English

Target students: Masters and PhD students (post-doc students also welcome)

Prerequisites: To be determined

Course description:

What is good theory in organization science and how do we develop it? This course is about building the skills needed to evaluate existing theory and to develop new theoretical contributions. The learning here will be useful for students developing the theoretical unpinning of their Masters or PhD theses, or pursuing scholarly publication. We will examine exemplars of good theorizing in organization science. We will cover idea finding, idea development, building on the literature, communicating an idea in presentations and in writing, and reviewing the work of others. The course will include lectures, class discussion, student presentations, and individual feedback to students.

Schedule (preliminary)

Day 1 (8 hours of classroom time, plus a one-hour break)

Hours 1-4: Lecture and classroom discussion on: What good theory is; Why theory matters; Approaches to theory building. This session will include in-depth discussions and analysis of the assigned readings.

Hours 5-8: Lecture and classroom discussion on: The craft of forging theory; structuring a theoretical paper; reviewing theoretical manuscripts. Along with in-depth discussions and analysis of the assigned readings, this session will include a walk through the review process of a paper that recently made it into *Academy of Management Review*.

Day 2 (8 hours of classroom time, plus a one-hour break)

Hours 1-4: Theory building exercise in small groups

Hours 5-8: Group presentations to class with time for feedback and class discussion of ideas generated

Day 3 (3 hours)

Hours 1-3: Time set aside for individual consultation meetings by appointment