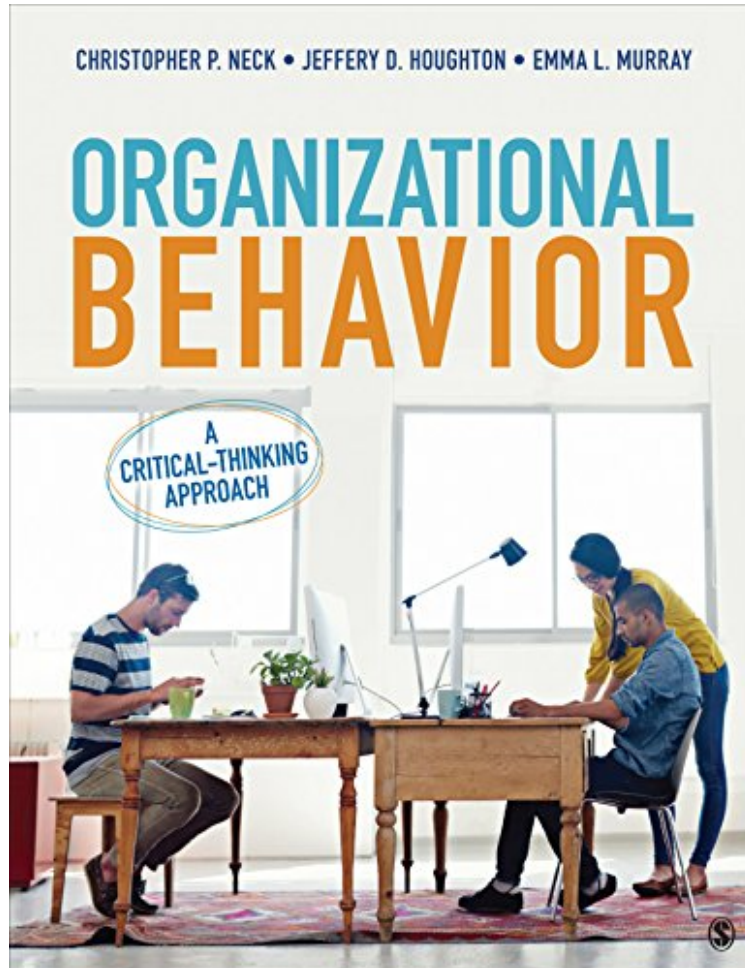


# Organizational Behavior: A Critical-Thinking Approach

*Christopher P. Neck, Jeffery D. Houghton, Emma L. Murray*  
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**Christopher P. Neck, Jeffery D. Houghton, Emma L. Murray : Organizational Behavior: A Critical-Thinking Approach** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Organizational Behavior: A Critical-Thinking Approach:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. FantasticBy Aimee A KaneFor nearly decade, I've been teaching hundreds of students a year Introduction to Management and Organizational Behavior courses. During this time I have often lamented the quality of the text books in these areas. One the one hand, "management" texts fail to accurately characterize and incorporate micro topics. On the other hand, "OB" text fail to accurately characterize macro topics. A false choice is created that fails to capture the intertwined "meso" nature of organizational, team and individual processes and outcomes in organizations. Consequently, I find myself needing to provide many additional notes, bring in research insights, develop exercises, find cases, and teach the students how to apply critical thinking skills to solve real-world organizational problems. While my students appreciate these efforts and it helps their learning, I have long wished that a text book could added more value.At the risk of sounding overly positive, this book has really delivered.

First off, it is fundamentally meso; it is the first book I've encountered that integrates and accurately characterizes micro-level topics (e.g., functions of management, motivation theories and their application) with macro-level topics (e.g. open systems model, organizational structures, and strategy). Importantly, it is well-written, research based, relevant, contemporary, and above all else fully integrated. For example, the critical thinking framework (a tool for student to use) and the integrated conceptual model of how the topics fit together, are carried throughout the text, and students are given many opportunities to practice applying them. I had not been planning on changing the text as that involves a fair amount of additional work for an instructor), but this book is so "good" that I am quite likely to adopt it within the next few months. The quality of this book makes the prospect of this change exciting.

Organizational Behavior: A Critical-Thinking Perspective, by Christopher P. Neck, Jeffery D. Houghton, and Emma L. Murray, provides insight into OB concepts and processes through a first-of-its kind active learning experience. Thinking Critically challenge questions tied to Bloom's taxonomy appear throughout each chapter, challenging students to apply, analyze, and create. Unique, engaging case narratives that span several chapters along with experiential exercises, self-assessments, and interviews with business professionals foster students' abilities to think critically and creatively, highlight real-world applications, and bring OB concepts to life.

"Students enjoy stories and the narrative approach of this text is a refreshing change to often dry OB textbooks."-- Tracy H. Porter "A unique approach to OB which emphasizes practical, hands on information, based on a solid theoretical foundation."--Samira B. Hussein "Carefully thought out, well-researched, and invitingly pleasant to read."-- Daniel S. Marrone "This is a very readable text suited for any graduate or undergraduate student. It contains real life examples that make the concepts understandable and explainable."--Robert D. Gulbro "I would feel like students had been exposed to some useful and instructive information as a result of reading the Leadership chapter. I would feel that they had been provided with an illustration of critical thinking through the story of Langston, who analyzed his situational circumstances and then made decisions about leading based on leadership theory."--Deborah S. Butler "Organizational Behavior: A Critical Thinking Perspective will clear your head of the cobwebs as you engage your brain skills in multiple critical thinking exercises."--Janice S. Gates "This textbook is geared to stimulating student interest in the subject."--Nathan Himelstein "I don't usually get excited about changing textbooks, but this book has real potential. OB in the movies is a great way to connect."--Harriet L. Rojas "A new innovative approach to Organizational Behavior that challenges students to think critically by integrating the workplace into the classroom."-- Andrea E. Smith-Hunter "This textbook is centered on student engagement by including features which enable the student to learn by using critical thinking skills."--Maria D. Vitale "Today's students are best served if we can show them how to bridge theory with practice. Today's students will serve the world if they can demonstrate what they have learned best in college."--Audrey M. Parajon "Innovative and well-structured text with emphasis on current business issues and emerging topics."--Frederick R. Brodzinski "I think the text is on the right track. I really value the end of chapter material. You have pioneered some enhancements in that arena that will give the Neck text competitive advantage. It offers a fresh take on some familiar material."--David J. Biemer "The text is well-written and easy to follow. I like the extended narratives running through the chapters. They provide solid real-life examples of how the theory plays out in practice, which is particularly important for students who have limited experience with or understandings of organizations and work. Stories are memorable and will help remember and associate concepts."-- Marla Lowenthal "This text is current and has all the theory and practical applications that we need to teach OB and prepare our students for the world of work. These extended narratives are very useful in linking together the concepts in adjacent chapters to real world situations. The cases and study questions are especially useful to help students learn."--Warren Matthews "Students enjoy stories and the narrative approach of this text is a refreshing change to often dry OB textbooks." (Tracy H. Porter) "A unique approach to OB which emphasizes practical, hands on information, based on a solid theoretical foundation." (Samira B. Hussein) "Carefully thought out, well-researched, and invitingly pleasant to read." (Daniel S. Marrone) "This is a very readable text suited for any graduate or undergraduate student. It contains real life examples that make the concepts understandable and explainable." (Robert D. Gulbro) "I would feel like students had been exposed to some useful and instructive information as a result of reading the Leadership chapter. I would feel that they had been provided with an illustration of critical thinking through the story of Langston, who analyzed his situational circumstances and then made decisions about leading based on leadership theory." (Deborah S. Butler) "Organizational Behavior: A Critical Thinking Perspective will clear your head of the cobwebs as you engage your brain skills in multiple critical thinking exercises." (Janice S. Gates) "This textbook is geared to stimulating student interest in the subject." (Nathan Himelstein) "I don't usually get excited about changing textbooks, but this book has real potential. OB in the movies is a great way to connect." (Harriet L. Rojas) "A new innovative approach to Organizational Behavior that challenges students to think critically by integrating the workplace into the classroom." (Andrea E. Smith-Hunter) "This textbook is centered on student engagement by including features which enable the student to learn by using critical thinking skills." (Maria D. Vitale) "Today's students are best served if we can show them how to bridge theory with practice. Today's students

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About the Author  
Dr. Christopher P. Neck is currently an Associate Professor of Management at Arizona State University, where he held the title "University Master Teacher." From 1994 to 2009, he was part of the Pamplin College of Business faculty at Virginia Tech. He received his PhD in Management from Arizona State University and his MBA from Louisiana State University. Neck is author of the books *Self-Leadership: The Definitive Guide to Personal Excellence* (2016, Sage); *Fit To Lead: The Proven 8-week Solution for Shaping Up Your Body, Your Mind, and Your Career* (2004, St. Martin's Press; 2012, Carpenters' Sons Publishing); *Mastering Self-Leadership: Empowering Yourself for Personal Excellence*, 6th edition (2013, Pearson); *The Wisdom of Solomon at Work* (2001, Berrett-Koehler); *For Team Members Only: Making Your Workplace Team Productive and Hassle-Free* (1997, Amacom Books); and *Medicine for the Mind: Healing Words to Help You Soar*, 4th Edition (Wiley, 2012). Neck is also the coauthor of the principles of management textbook, *Management: A Balanced Approach to the 21st Century* (Wiley 2013; 2017, 2nd Edition); the upcoming introductory to entrepreneurship textbook, *Entrepreneurship*, (Sage, 2017); and the introductory to organizational behavior textbook, *Organizational Behavior* (Sage, 2016).

Dr. Neck's research specialties include employee/executive fitness, self-leadership, leadership, group decision-making processes, and self-managing teams. He has over 100 publications in the form of books, chapters, and articles in various journals. Some of the outlets in which Neck's work has appeared include *Organizational Behavior and Human Decision Processes*, *The Journal of Organizational Behavior*, *The Academy of Management Executive*, *Journal of Applied Behavioral Science*, *The Journal of Managerial Psychology*, *Executive Excellence*, *Human Relations*, *Human Resource Development Quarterly*, *Journal of Leadership Studies*, *Educational Leadership*, and *The Commercial Law Journal*. Due to Neck's expertise in management, he has been cited in numerous national publications, including *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *The Houston Chronicle*, and *the Chicago Tribune*. Additionally, each semester Neck teaches an introductory management course to a single class of anywhere from 500 to 1,000 students.

Dr. Neck was the recipient of the 2007 Business Week Favorite Professor Award. He is featured on [www.businessweek.com](http://www.businessweek.com) as one of the approximately twenty professors from across the world receiving this award. Neck currently teaches a mega section of Management Principles to approximately 500 students at Arizona State University. Neck received the Order of Omega Outstanding Teaching Award for 2012. This award is awarded to one professor at Arizona State by the Alpha Lambda Chapter of this leadership fraternity. His class sizes at Virginia Tech filled rooms up to 2,500 students. He received numerous teaching awards during his tenure at Virginia Tech, including the 2002 Wine Award for Teaching Excellence. Also, Neck was the ten-time winner (1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009) of the "Students' Choice Teacher of The Year Award" (voted by the students for the best teacher of the year within the entire university). Also, some of the organizations that have participated in Neck's management development training include GE/Toshiba, Busch Gardens, Clark Construction, the United States Army, Crestar, American Family Insurance, Sales and Marketing Executives International, American Airlines, American Electric Power, W. L. Gore Associates, Dillard's Department Stores, and Prudential Life Insurance. Neck is also an avid runner. He has completed 12 marathons, including the Boston Marathon, the New York City Marathon, and the San Diego Marathon. In fact, his personal record for a single long distance run is a 40-mile run.

Dr. Jeffery D. Houghton completed his PhD in management at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and is currently an associate professor of management at West Virginia University (WVU). Dr. Houghton has taught college-level business courses at Virginia Tech, Abilene Christian University (Texas), Lipscomb University (Tennessee), The International University (Vienna, Austria), and for the US Justice Department-Federal Bureau of Prisons. Prior to pursuing a full-time career in academics, he worked in the banking industry as a loan officer and branch manager. A member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Dr. Houghton's research specialties include human behavior, motivation, personality, leadership, and self-leadership. He has published more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and his work has been cited more than 1,600 times in academic journals. He currently teaches undergraduate-, masters-, and doctoral-level courses in management, organizational behavior, and leadership. Dr. Houghton was named the 2013 Beta Gamma Sigma Professor of the Year for the WVU College of Business and Economics, awarded annually to one faculty member within the college as selected by a vote of the student members

of Beta Gamma Sigma; and he received the 2008 Outstanding Teaching Award for the WVU College of Business and Economics, awarded annually to one faculty member for outstanding teaching. In addition to his research and teaching activities, Dr. Houghton has consulted and conducted training seminars for companies including the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, and the Bruce Hardwood Floors Company. In his spare time, Dr. Houghton enjoys traveling, classic mystery novels, racquetball, and snow skiing. Finally, Dr. Houghton has trained for and completed two marathons, the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, DC, and the Dallas White Rock Marathon in Dallas, Texas. Emma L. Murray completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Spanish at University College Dublin (UCD) in County Dublin, Ireland. This was followed by a Higher Diploma (Hdip) in business studies and information technology at the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business in County Dublin, Ireland. Following her studies, Emma spent nearly a decade in investment banking before becoming a full-time writer and author. As a writer, Emma has worked on numerous texts, including business and economics, self-help, and psychology. Within the field of higher education, Emma worked with Dr. Christopher P. Neck and Dr. Jeffery D. Houghton on *Management* (Wiley 2013); and is the coauthor of the principles of management textbook *Management: A Balanced Approach to the 21st Century* (Wiley 2013, 2017-2nd Edition) and the coauthor of *Organizational Behavior* (Sage 2017). She is the author of *The Unauthorized Guide to Doing Business the Alan Sugar Way* (2010, Wiley-Capstone); and the lead author of *How to Succeed as a Freelancer in Publishing* (2010, How To Books). She lives in London..