

Market and Society: SOC 333
Spring 2014
Tentative Syllabus
American University of Central Asia
Department of Sociology

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Classrooms and schedule: Monday and Wednesday
(room 309) at 14:10 – 15:25
Office Hours: by appointment

INTRODUCTION

This course explores the nature of *market embeddedness*. We will examine economic action and economic organizations from a sociological perspective, i.e., look at how markets, corporations and other economic institutions function in our day-to-day life, and how social relationships influence and are influenced by economic institutions. We will employ a historical perspective in order to understand the variation in economic structures, social structures, and their interrelations.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with various major topics within economic sociology, such as a) *market embeddedness*, b) *the rise of markets*, c) *institutions* (interrelations of state and market, environment and market, family and market), d) *networks* (formal and informal networks, interpersonal and inter-organizational networks), e) *market and culture* (consumer culture) and f) *globalization* (multinational corporations). Although each section has its own objectives, one main aim of the course is to introduce the ideas of classical, neo-classical and modern theorists and researchers regarding social mechanisms, processes and the impacts of the market. Upon completing the course, students should have an understanding of the ways in which market structures have affected society, especially the modern capitalist economy.

READINGS

Each class has a reading assignment indicated below. The students are required to prepare the assignments *before* the class in order to take part in the discussion.

Class readings will be drawn from the course reader, with additional materials available in the following books:

- Granovetter, M. and Swedberg, R.(eds) (1992). *The Sociology of Economic Life*. Westview Press: Boulder
- Smelser, N. & Swedberg, R. (2005). *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*. Princeton University Press
- Polanyi, K. (1971 {1944}). *Great Transformations. The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time*. Beacon Press: Boston

REQUIREMENTS

Class participation and effort (15% of final grade)

Learning is an active process, so the classroom should likewise be active: questions and comments are actively welcomed so long as they are on-topic. Students will be held accountable for all class material on the exam and on the assignments. No medical certificates will be accepted.

Grading Guidelines for Seminar and Lecture Participation

‘A’ – Students attend each lecture and seminar with questions about the lectures and readings. In engaged dialogues, they raise these questions for other students to discuss, and listen to contrary opinions. They initiate and develop critical issues concerning the seminar activities. They are well-structured and well-organized for the completion of their research projects.

‘B’ – Students complete their readings, but do not always reflect on the questions and issues raised during the lectures and seminars. Though they articulate their own views, they passively wait for others to initiate interesting issues. They are reasonably well organized for their own projects.

‘C’ – Students attend, prepare and listen attentively, but rarely enter into discussions. They are adequately prepared for their own projects.

‘D’ – Students are inconsistent in their attendance and preparations. They do not respect others’ contributions. They

are also poorly prepared for their own projects.

'F' – Students are consistently ill-prepared and have poor attendance. They are rude and disruptive. They also fail to show any signs of organizing their own projects.

Presentation and moderation of class discussion (20 % of final grade)

Each student is expected to make one presentation based on the required reading to a particular topic that students may choose out of all listed readings in the syllabus. A presentation should be around 15-20 minutes, and should include, but not be limited to the following aspects: summary of the reading, main points of the author, and implications of the reading to the situation in Kyrgyzstan, Central Asia, or other regions. A presenter should also raise questions based on the reading, which should be discussed within the class. Therefore, the presenter will also act as a discussion leader for the seminar.

Reaction paper (15% of the final grade)

Each student should submit 1 reaction paper. Reaction paper should be submitted by the end of 6th week, using the required readings within that period to analyze a question provided by the instructors. A reaction paper should be approximately 1000-1500 words in length, and should include a summary of the reading, the main arguments of the author, a critique of the reading, and questions unanswered by the author. Reaction paper should be submitted not later than the assigned date.

Midterm and Final Exam (2*10=20% of the final grade)

These will include short-answer and essay questions. There will be 6 essay questions overall, out of which you are free to choose 3. Questions will be based on lecture and seminar materials. Both the midterm and final exam will last 75 minutes. **Any student who cheats on an exam will get an "F" grade for that exam.**

Missed exams can be re-taken under following conditions:

1. students inform the instructor before an exam unless of an illness;
2. students must have written documentation for the absence; and
3. the instructor determines when the make-up is taken and the format of the exam.

Final Paper (30% of the final grade)

Each student will also submit one final paper of 2000-2500 words. This paper will involve broader exploration of the themes and readings covered over the course of the class, as well as outside research using additional library sources, to argue a coherent position on a broader issue of the student's choice. Please consult your instructors for help choosing a topic.

GRADING GUIDELINES

Class participation and effort	15%
Presentations and moderation of class discussion	20%
Reaction paper	15%
Midterm and final exams	20%
Final paper / Research paper	30%
Total possible points	100%

Grades will be assigned based on the following ranges:

Grade	Percent
A	Over 95%
A-	90 – 94%
B+	85 – 89%
B	80 – 84%
B-	75 – 79%
C+	70 – 74%
C	65 – 69%
C-	60 – 64%
D	55 – 59%
F	Under 54%

COURSE OUTLINE

Schedule of Classes*

*This schedule is subject to changes. You are responsible for any changes announced during lectures/seminars despite your absences.

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading
WK1	Jan 13	Introduction to the content of the course. Course objectives, structure, requirements, grading system, academic writing guidelines.	
	Jan 15		
WK2	Jan 20	Introduction: The Division Between Economics and Sociology	Smelser, N. & Swedberg, R. (2005). Introducing Economic Sociology. In <i>The Handbook of Economic Sociology</i> . Princeton University Press
	Jan 22		Mark Granovetter (1993) Ch1 'The Nature of Economic Relationships' Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg (1994) Ch1 'The Sociological Perspective on the Economy'
WK3	Jan 27	Embeddedness of Markets	Granovetter, Mark (1995), 'Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness' in Mark Granovetter and Richard Swedberg (eds) (1992), <i>The Sociology of Economic Life</i> . Westview Press: Boulder
	Jan 29		Hart, Keith (2001) 'The Market From a Humanist Point of View', Chapter 5 in <i>Money in an Unequal World</i> . Texere: New York
WK4	Feb 3	Rise of markets	Polanyi, Karl (1971 {1944}) 'Societies and Economic Systems' in <i>Great Transformation. The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time</i> . Beacon Press: Boston
	Feb 5		Geertz, Clifford (1978) 'The Bazaar Economy: Information and Search in Peasant Marketing' in Mark Granovetter and Richard Swedberg (eds) (1992), <i>The Sociology of Economic Life</i> . Westview Press: Boulder
WK5	Feb 10		Chandler, Alfred (1984) 'The Emergence of Managerial Capitalism' in Mark Granovetter and Richard Swedberg (eds) (1992), <i>The Sociology of Economic Life</i> . Westview Press: Boulder
	Feb 12		Polanyi, Karl (1971 {1944}) 'The Self-regulating Market and the Fictitious Commodities: Labor, Land, and Money' in <i>Great Transformations. The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time</i> . Beacon Press: Boston
WK6	Feb 17	Institutions I: The Role of States	READ Slater, Don (2001) 'States and Markets', Chapter 5 in Don Slater and Fran Tonkiss (2001) <i>Market Society: Markets and Modern Social Theory</i> . Blackwell Publishers Inc.: Malden
	Feb 19		Block, Fred (1994) 'The Roles of the State in the Economy' in Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg (eds), <i>The Handbook of Economic Sociology</i> . Princeton University Press: New Jersey
WK7	Feb 24	No classes	
	Feb 26	Institutions II: Gender and Economy	READ Milkman, Ruth and Townsley, Eleanor (1994) 'Gender and the Economy' in Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg (eds), <i>The Handbook of Economic Sociology</i> , Princeton University Press: New Jersey
WK8	Mar 3		READ Cynthia, Werner (2004) 'Feminizing the New Silk Road: Women Traders in Rural Kazakhstan' in Kathleen Kuehnast (2004) <i>Post-Soviet Women Encountering Transition: Nation Building, Economic Survival, and Civic Activism</i> . Woodrow Wilson Center Press
	Mar 5	Midterm examination	
WK9	Mar 10 Mar 12	Spring break	
WK10	Mar 17	Institutions III: The Economy and the Environment	READ Berger, Johannes (1994) 'The Economy and the Environment' in Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg (eds), <i>The Handbook of Economic Sociology</i> . Princeton University Press: New Jersey

	Mar 19		READ Creed, Gerald (2002) 'Economic Crisis and Ritual Decline in Eastern Europe' in <i>Postsocialism</i> .
WK11	Mar 24	Networks and Economic Life	Carruthers, B (2000) <i>Economy/Society: Markets, Meanings, and Social Structure</i> . Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press, Chapter 3: Networks and the Economy
	Mar 26		Powell, Walter and Smith-Doerr Laurel (1994) 'Networks and Economic Life' in Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg (eds), <i>The Handbook of Economic Sociology</i> . Princeton University Press: New Jersey
WK12	Mar 31		Portes, Alejandro (1994) 'The Informal Economy and its Paradoxes' in Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg (eds), <i>The Handbook of Economic Sociology</i> . Princeton University Press: New Jersey
	Apr 2		Ledeneva, Alena (1998) 'Networking' in <i>Russia's Economy of Favors: Blat, Networking, and Informal Exchange</i> . Cambridge University Press: Cambridge
Reaction paper is due on the 4th of April			
WK13	Apr 7	Markets and Culture I: Cultural Aspects of the Economy	Slater, Don (2001) 'Commerce and Culture', Chapter 6 in Don Slater and Fran Tonkiss (2001) <i>Market Society: Markets and Modern Social Theory</i> . Blackwell Publishers Inc.: Malden
	Apr 9		Bourdieu, Pierre (1983) 'The Forms of Capital' in Mark Granovetter and Richard Swedberg (eds) (2001), <i>The Sociology of Economic Life</i> , 2 nd edition. Westview Press: Boulder
WK14	Apr 14	Markets and Culture II: Consumer Culture and Modernity	Robbins Richard (2002) <i>Capitalism and Making of the Consumer in Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism</i> . Allyn and Bacon a Pearson Education Company
	Apr 16		Documentary film: Seduction in the City: The Birth of Shopping (2010). http://filmix.net/33649-gorodskie-soblazny-istoriya-shoppinga-seduction-in-the-city-the-birth-of-shopping-2010.html
WK15	Apr 21	Markets and Culture III: Commodification	Keat, Russel (2000) 'Colonization by the Market: Waltzer on Recognition' in <i>Cultural Goods and the Limits of the Market</i> . Machmillan: Basingstoke
	Apr 23		Patino, Jennifer. <i>Chocolate and Cognac: Gifts and the Recognition of the Social Worlds in Post-Soviet Russia</i>
WK16	Apr 28	Globalization	Donna M. Hughes, 'The Natasha Trade' <i>The Transnational Shadow Market of Trafficking in Women</i> , 53 <i>Journal of International Affairs</i> 2 (Spring 2000)
	Apr 30		Bodnar, Judit (2001) 'Globalizing Art and Consumption' in <i>Fin De Millenaire Budapest</i> . University of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis
Finals week: Exam is scheduled on 6 th of May The final paper is due on the 11 th of May			