

Economic Sociology (ECON 895 – 010; SOC 833 – 001)

Thursday, 7:20 pm – 10:00 pm

David King Jr. Hall 2054

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Course Description & Objectives

This seminar will explore key writings within the “new economic sociology” and survey recent developments within the field. Special emphasis will be placed on how culture, norms, ideologies and values shape economic action and interaction. The first half of the course will focus on the core writings in the economics and sociology of the market. The second half of the course will introduce students to interesting writings in important areas in the current economic sociology literature. The goal of the class is to prepare students to write academic papers in the field of economic sociology suitable for peer review journals. In addition to being graded on class participation, students will be graded on two drafts of a research paper exploring some topic related to economic sociology.

Course Readings & Required Books

You are expected to do all of the required readings (indicted below with an *) prior to the class where they will be discussed. All of the required readings can be obtained through GMU’s e-library or e-reserves (<http://library.gmu.edu/>) or via the links that are provided below.

Course Grading

Grades for this class will be based on class participation and a presentation of your research on April 26th 2012 (50%) as well as the first and final drafts of a research paper (20% and 30%, respectively). Class participation involves submitting and discussing questions raised by your colleagues in the class’ online discussion group before mid-day on the days that the class meets as well as occasionally leading and frequently participating in weekly in-class discussions. You will be expected to turn in and make an appointment to discuss the abstract and outline for the research paper on or before February 23rd, 2012. The first draft of the research paper is due March 22nd and the final draft is due May 10th, 2012. The research paper should explore a topic within economic sociology and the final draft should be suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal within economics or sociology. It will be impossible to receive a high mark in this class without participating in online and class discussions and writing a high quality paper.

Course Outline

Class #1. *Introductions*

Class #2. *The economics of the market: the market process (108 pages)*

- * Hayek, F.A. 1945. "The Use of Knowledge in Society," *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 35, No. 4, pp. 519-530.
- * Kirzner, Israel 1992. *The Meaning of the Market Process*, ch. 2 (38-54)
- * Marx, Karl 1844. "[Estranged Labour](#)," *Economic & Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844* (pp. 69-84).
- * Mises, Ludwig von. 1949. [Human Action](#), ch. 15 [sects. 1 - 5, 11, 12] (pp. 257-279, 311-319).
- * Smith, Adam [1776] 1976. [An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations](#), ch. 1-3 (pp. 1-36).

Class #3. *The economics of the market: the market order (83 pages)*

- * Hayek, F.A. 1976. *Law, Legislation and Liberty, Vol. 1: Rules and Order*, ch. 2 (pp. 35-54).
- * Hayek, F.A. 1976. *Law, Legislation and Liberty, Vol. 2: The Mirage of Social Justice*, ch. 10 (pp. 107-132).
- * Kirzner, Israel 1963. [Market Theory and the Price System](#), ch. 2 (pp. 13-32).
- * Schumpeter, Joseph A. 1942. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*, ch. 6 and 7 (pp. 72-87).
- * Weber, Max [1968] 1978. *Economy & Society*, ch. 7 (pp. 635-640).

Class #4. *The sociology of the market: embeddedness and the social construction of the market (126 pages)*

- * Boettke, Peter J. and Virgil Henry Storr 2002. "[Post Classical Political Economy: Polity, Society and Economy in Weber, Mises and Hayek](#)," *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, Vol. 61, No. 1, pp. 161-191.
- * Lie, John 1997. "Sociology of Markets," *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 23, pp. 341-360.
- * Granovetter, Mark 1985. "[Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness](#)," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 91, pp. 481-510.
- * Storr, Virgil Henry 2008. "[The Market as a Social Space: On the Meaningful Extra-economic Conversations that Occur in Markets](#)," *The Review of Austrian Economics*, Vol. 21, No. 2/3, pp. 135-150.
- * Storr, Virgil Henry 2010. "[The Social Construction of the Market](#)," *Society*, Vol. 47, No. 3, pp. 200-206.
- * Swedberg, Richard 1994. "[Markets as Social Structures](#)," in *Handbook of Economic Sociology* eds. Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg (New York and Princeton: Russell Sage Foundation and Princeton University Press) pp. 255-282.

Class #5. *The sociology of the market: social capital (124 pages)*

- * Coleman, James S. 1988. "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 94, pp. S95-S120
- * Portes, Alejandro 1998. "Social Capital: Its Origins and Applications in Modern Sociology," *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 24, pp. 1-24.
- * Portes, Alejandro and Julia Sensenbrenner 1993. "Embeddedness and Immigration: Notes on the Social Determinants of Economic Action," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 98, No.6, pp. 1320-1360.
- * Portes, Alejandro 2000. "The Two Meanings of Social Capital," *Sociological Forum*, Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 1-12.
- * Putnam, Robert D. 1995. "Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital," *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 6, No. 1, pp. 65-78.

Class #6. *The sociology of the market: structural holes and the strength of weak ties (120 pages)*

- * Burt, Ronald S. 2004. "Structural Holes and Good Ideas," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 110, No. 2, pp. 349-399.
- * Granovetter, Mark 1973. "[Strength of Weak Ties](#)," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 78, pp. 1360-1380.
- * Granovetter, Mark 1983. "The Strength of Weak Ties: A Network Theory Revisited," *Sociological Theory*, Vol. 1, pp. 201-233.
- * Granovetter, Mark 2005. "[The Impact of Social Structure on Economic Outcomes](#)," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 33-50.

Class #7. *The economic sociology of work and workplaces (112 pages)*

- * Abbott, Andrew 1993. "The Sociology of Work and Occupations," *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 19, pp. 187-209.
- * Coase, Ronald 1937. "The nature of the firm," *Economica*, Vol. 4, No. 16 (pp. 386-405).
- * DiMaggio, Paul J. and Walter W. Powell 1983. "The iron cage revisited: Institutional isomorphism and collective rationality in organizational fields," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 48, No. 2, pp. 147-160.
- * Granovetter, Mark 1992. "Economic Institutions as Social Constructions: A Framework for Analysis," *Acta Sociologica*, Vol. 35, No. 1, pp. 3-11.
- * Lin, Nan, and Mary Dumin 1986. "Access to Occupations through Social Ties," *Social Networks*, Vol. 8, pp. 365-385.

* White, Harrison C. 1981. "Where Do Markets Come From?" *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 87, No. 3, pp. 517-547.

Class #8. *The economic sociology of economic culture: "the spirit of capitalism" (113 pages)*

* Levin, Peter 2008. "Culture and Markets: How Economic Sociology Conceptualizes Culture," *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 619: 114-129.

* Storr, Virgil Henry 2006. "[Weber's Spirit of Capitalism and the Bahamas' Junkanoo Ethic](#)," *The Review of Austrian Economics*, Vol. 19, No. 4, pp. 289 – 309.

* Swedberg, Richard 2002. "The Economic Sociology of Capitalism: Weber and Schumpeter," *Journal of Classical Sociology*, Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 227-255.

* Weber, Max 1930. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*, ch. 2 (pp. 47-78).

* Zelizer, Viviana A. 1978. "Human Values and the Market: The Case of Life Insurance and Death in 19th-Century America," *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 84, No. 3, pp. 591-610.

Class #9. *The economic sociology of norms and institutions (127 pages)*

* Ostrom, Elinor 1999. "Coping with Tragedies of the Commons," *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 2, pp. 493-535.

* Ostrom, Elinor 2010. "Beyond Markets and States: Polycentric Governance of Complex Economic Systems," *American Economic Review*, 100(3), pp. 641–672.

* Nee, Victor 1998. "Norms and Networks in Economic and Organizational Performance," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 87, No. 4, pp. 85-89.

* Nee, Victor 2000. "The Role of the State in Making a Market Economy," *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, Vol. 156, pp. 64-88.

* Nee, Victor and Paul Ingram 1998. "Embeddedness and Beyond: Institutions, Exchange and Social Structure," pp. 19-45 in *The New Institutionalism in Sociology*, edited by M. Brinton and V. Nee (New York: Russell Sage Foundation).

Class #10. *The economic sociology of post-disaster community recovery (133 pages)*

* Aldrich, Daniel forthcoming. "[The Externalities of Strong Social Capital: Post-Tsunami Recovery in Southeast India](#)," *Journal of Civil Society*, pp. 1-34.

- * Aldrich, Daniel 2012. "[Social, Not Physical, Infrastructure: The Critical Role of Civil Society in Disaster Recovery](#)," *Disasters: The Journal of Disaster Studies, Policy and Management* Vol. 36 (3), pp. 398-419.
- * Chamlee-Wright, Emily and Virgil Henry Storr 2011. "Social capital as collective narratives and post-disaster community recovery," *The Sociological Review*, Vol. 59 (2), pp. 266-282.
- * Chamlee-Wright, Emily and Virgil Henry Storr 2011. "[Social capital, lobbying and community-based interest groups](#)," *Public Choice*, Vol. 149 (1-2), pp. 167-185.
- * Hurlbert, Jeanne S., Valerie A. Haines, John J. Beggs 2000. "Core Networks and Tie Activation: What Kinds of Routine Networks Allocate Resources in Nonroutine Situations?" *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 65, No. 4, pp. 598-618
- * Shaw, Rajib and Katsuihiro Goda 2004. "From Disaster to Sustainable Civil Society: The Kobe Experience," *Disasters*, Vol. 28(1), pp. 16-40.

Class #11. *The economic sociology of economic development (156 pages)*

- * Biggart, Nicole and Mauro Guillen 1999. "Developing Difference: Social Organization and the Rise of the Auto Industries of South Korea, Taiwan, Spain and Argentina," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 64, No. 5, pp. 722-747.
- * Boettke, Peter, Christopher Coyne and Peter Leeson 2008. "[Institutional Stickiness and the New Development Economics](#)," *American Journal of Economics and Sociology*, Vol. 67, No. 2, pp. 331-358.
- * Chamlee-Wright, Emily 2005. "['Bottom Up' Development Strategies in Zimbabwe](#)," *The Review of Austrian Economics*, Vol. 18, No.1, pp. 5-28.
- * Woolcock, Michael 1998. "Social capital and economic development: Toward a theoretical synthesis and policy framework," *Theory and Society*, Vol. 27, pp. 151-208.
- * Woolcock, Michael and Deepa Narayan 2000. "Social Capital: Implications for Development Theory, Research, and Policy," *World Bank Research Observer*, Vol. 15, No. 2, pp. 225-249.

Class #12. *Student Presentations (abstracts and introductions to be circulated on April 23rd).*

Note: We will not have class on March 1st or May 3rd. Please use these periods to work on your research papers.