This course provides an introduction to economic sociology. It poses the key idea of "embeddedness" and develops it by exploring various connections between economic behavior and social processes and relations. The course is organized topically, and people are expected to read all the required material. The recommended material is optional (but weekly presenters may wish to consult it).

Students will lead discussion of the required readings on at least one occasion (depending on class size), and write a paper (20 pp., or so) on the topic of their choice (subject to my approval). Everyone is expected to have done the required readings before class, and to discuss them. A paper proposal (1 p. plus preliminary bibliography) will be due February 7.

The required course books are available at Norris bookstore and include:

1. The Sociology of Economic Life, Mark Granovetter and Richard Swedberg eds.
2. The Promise and Limits of Private Power: Promoting Labor Standards in a
   Global Economy, Richard M. Locke, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press,
   2013.
4. Capitalizing on Crisis: The Political Origins of the Rise of Finance,
5. Plastic Money: Constructing Markets for Credit Cards in Eight
   Postcommunist Countries, Akos Rona-Tas and Alya Guseva, Stanford: Stanford
   University Press, 2014.
6. Economists and Societies: Discipline and Profession in the United States,
   Britain, and France, 1890s to 1990s, Marlon Fourcade, Princeton: Princeton

Required articles will be available on JSTOR or blackboard. For recommended readings, you are on your own.

0. Introduction (Jan 3):

No reading for this session.

1. Embeddedness of Economic Action (Jan 10):

Richard Swedberg and Mark Granovetter, 2011, "Introduction," in The Sociology of

Mark Granovetter, 2011, "Economic Action and Social Structure," in the
Granovetter and Swedberg reader.


Brian Uzzi, 2011, "Social Structure and Competition in Interfirm Networks: The
Paradox of Embeddedness," in the Granovetter and Swedberg reader.


Greta R. Krippner and Anthony S. Alvarez. 2007. "Embeddedness and the
Intellectual Projects of Economic Sociology," Annual Review of Sociology 33:
219-240. On canvas.
Recommended:

2. Formal Creation of Markets (Jan 17):


Recommended:

3. Regulation and Private Regulation (Jan 24)


Recommended:
4. Discrimination and Inequality in Markets: (Jan 31)


Recommended:


Emmanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman, 2014, "Wealth Inequality in the United

5. Financialization: Causes and Effects: (Feb 7)


Recommended:


6. The Performance of Economic Knowledge (Feb 14)


Recommended:


7. The Bearers of Economic Knowledge (Feb 21)


Recommended:

8. Money and Credit (Feb 28)


Recommended:

9. The Social Construction of Demand: (Mar 7)


Recommended: