

# Economy and Society

Soc 120, LEC 001 • Class # 22832

Fall 2023

University of California, Berkeley

Sociology

Instructor: Fatmir Haskaj, PhD

Lecture time & place: TuTh 3:30P-4:59P - 3 - Physics Building

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:14-3:15 location tbd

## Course Description:

This class has the following goals. First, it will familiarize students with the historical debates surrounding the relationship between what is produced, hoarded, gifted, exchanged, and distributed (economy) and social relationships (society). This will require a foray into conversations about happiness, wealth, morality, poverty, inequality, and the goals of existing and past social orders. We will begin with a firm foundation in the classical discussions of economy and society before proceeding to various academic and theoretical subfields and areas of inquiry. Second, the class familiarizes students with key institutions and actors of the modern economy and global society—from the World Bank to global social movements, national and local governments, nonprofits, NGOs, multinational corporations, and philanthropic organizations. We will also become familiar with US economic history to a small degree to aid us in our understanding of the forces and ideas at play. Third, the course is also concerned with how emotions, relationships, ethics, and morality inform markets and the discourse of markets in societies because we are human after all. Finally, the class adopts a global and historical approach to understanding the economy and society. This helps us contextualize current debates and engage in some degree of distance and reflexivity.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Class Attendance:** Students are expected to attend classes regularly and complete all reading assignments. This is an in-person class. If you have scheduling conflicts or other constraints, I urge you to find another course that can accommodate your absences. The lectures will cover aspects of the readings but will also supplement them with additional material. Doing well on the examinations and assignments will thus depend on diligently attending lectures and keeping up with weekly readings and all assignments. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find the material covered. It's a good idea to find a study buddy in such cases.

**Readings:** You are expected to do the readings, either before or after class is fine, but read you must. While I will cover much of the material in class lectures, I will not be able to cover everything and some of the material may appear on exams. The readings are on bCourses linked directly in the course syllabus.

**Participation:** I will be giving lectures, but they will be interspersed with class discussion and even break-out groups. This is not a passive learning class; you will have to participate in some form or another.

**Term paper:** Each student is expected to write a roughly 8-page paper (2000 words max) in 12-pt Times New Roman font with 1" margins. I will provide several basic prompts for you to choose from. Any

evidence of plagiarism or AI will result in an automatic zero for the assignment and a potential F in the course.

**Exams:** There will be two examinations: a midterm and a final. Both examinations will have a mix of multiple-choice, T/F, and essay-style questions and require knowledge of the course material and the capacity to analyze various paradigms and perspectives.

\*Note-All students must take the exams on these dates: Exceptions will not be granted unless the requests conform with the accommodations policy of the campus.

### Grading structure

- Participation: 10%
- Paper: 20%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final: 40%

## Lecture and reading schedule:

*8/24 Week 1 Introduction to the course General discussion of the course and expectations.*

*8/29 Week 2 Foundations of Economy and Society*

- Kocka, Jürgen. 2018. *Capitalism: A Short History*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, Pp. 1-24.
- Marx, Karl. *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*. [link](#)
- Introduction to Max Weber by Randall Collins [link](#)
- Excerpts from: Weber, Max. *Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*. [link](#)

*9/5 Week 3 individuals and individualism*

- Excerpts from: *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* (1776), Adam Smith. [link](#).
- Simmel, Georg. 1950 (1903). "The Metropolis and Mental Life." Translated by H. H. Gerth. Pp. 409-426 in Kurt Wolff, ed. *The Sociology of George Simmel*. Boston: The Free Press. [link](#)
- Abercrombie, N., Hill, S., Turner, B. S. (1986). *Sovereign Individuals of Capitalism*. United Kingdom: Allen & Unwin, Pp. 5-34.

*9/ 12 Week 4 Markets Society to Society with Markets*

- Polanyi, Karl. 2001. "Introduction by Fred Block" and "Chapter 4", *The Great Transformation*. Beacon Press, pp. xviii-xxxviii, 45-58.
- Fligstein, Neil. 2001. *The Architecture of Markets: An Economic Sociology of Twenty-First-Century Capitalist Societies*. Princeton University Press, pp. 27–44.

*9/19 Week 5 Money*

- Zelizer, Viviana. 2000. "The Purchase of Intimacy." *Law and Social Inquiry*. 25 (3): 817-848.
- Guseva, Alya and Akos Rona-Tas. 2017 "Money Talks, Plastic Money Tattles: The New Sociability of Money." Pp. 201-214 in Nina Bandelj, Frederick F. Wherry, and Viviana Zelizer, eds. *Money*

Talks: Explaining How Money Really Works. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Polletta, Francesca and Zaibu Tufail. 2014. "The Moral Obligations of Some Debts." *Sociological Forum* 29 (1): 1-28.

*9/26 Week 6 Exam*

- Review
- Midterm Exam

*10/3 Week 7 Culture*

- Marx, Karl. 1867. "The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof." *Capital*, Vol. 1.
- Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno. 1944. "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment and Mass Deception." *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. New York Continuum 1972. Pp 94-136.
- Wherry, Frederick F. "Analyzing the Culture of Markets." *Theory and Society*, vol. 43, no. 3/4, 2014, pp. 421–36.

*10/10 Week 8 Consumers*

- Robbins, R. 2002. "Capitalism and the making of the consumer". *Global Problems and the Culture of Capitalism*, Pp. 1-31.
- G. McCracken, G. 1990. "Chapter Two: Patina". *Culture and Consumption*, Pp. 3-30.
- Film: "The Merchants of Cool"

*10/17 Week 9 Stuff: What's it for?*

- J. De Graaf et al. 2001. *Affluenza* (selections: pp. 1-8, 68-76, 109-118, 121-127)
- Sahlins, M. 1972. "The original affluent society". *Stone Age Economics*, Pp. 1-39.
- Sherman, R. 2017. *Uneasy Street: The Anxieties of Affluence*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Introduction and Chapter 1, Pp. 1-57.

*10/24 Week 10 Systems*

- Goldman, Michael. 2005. "The Rise of the Bank" in *Imperial Nature: The World Bank and Struggles for Social Justice in the Age of Globalization*, Pp. 46–99.
- In-class film: *Life & Debt*

*10/31 Week 11 Modernity*

- Berman, Marshall. 1982. "Preface" and excerpts from "Introduction" and "Marx and Modernism" in *All That is Solid Melts Into Air: The Experience of Modernity*. New York: Simon and Schuster, Pp. 5–36, 93–98 (optional pages 173-176, 219-232).
- Hartwick, E., Peet, R, 2009. "From Keynesian Economics to Neoliberalism" in *Theories of Development: Contentions, Arguments, Alternatives*. Pp. 53–87

\*Suggested reading: <https://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/marshall-berman-archive-cities-modernism-signs-in-streets>

*11/7 Week 12 Globalization & Migration (1980s–2000s)*

- Friedman, Tom. 2005. "It's a Flat World, After All" in New York Times Magazine, April 3.
- Reichman, D. R. (2011). The broken village: coffee, migration, and globalization in Honduras. Cornell University Press. P. 128-155
- Wallerstein, I. (2020). World-systems analysis: An introduction. Duke University Press. Chapter 2.
- Robinson, W. I. (2011). Globalization and the sociology of Immanuel Wallerstein: A critical appraisal. International Sociology, 26(6), 723–745.
- In-class film: Black Gold: Wake Up and Smell the Coffee

*11/14 Week 13 The Good Market*

- Friedrich von Hayek. 1945. The Use of Knowledge in Society. American Economic Review 35(4): 519-530.
- Deirdre McCloskey. 2006. The Bourgeois Virtues. Ethics for an Age of Commerce. The University of Chicago Press, Pp. 13-32, 139-148
- Michel Foucault. 2010. The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the College De France, 1978-1979. Palgrave MacMillan. Chapter 9.
- VIDEO: Bill Gates, interview with TIME Magazine editor Richard Stengel, "How To Fix Capitalism."

*11/21 Week 14 Film & Break*

- Tuesday film: True Cost
- Term paper due

*11/28 Week 15 The Bad Market*

- Graeber, David. 2011. "A Brief Treatise on the Moral Grounds of Economic Relations." Pp. 89-126 in Debt: The First 5,000 Year
- Fourcade, Marion and Kieran Healy. 2007. "Moral Views of Market Society." Annual Review of Sociology. 33:285-311
- Almeling, Rene. 2007. "Selling Genes, Selling Gender: Egg Agencies, Sperm Banks, and the Medical Market in Genetic Material." American Sociological Review 72(3):319-40.
- Livne, Roi. 2014. "Economies of Dying: The Moralization of Economic Scarcity in U.S. Hospice Care." American Sociological Review 79(5):888-911.

*12/5 Week 16 RRR no class*

*12/15 Week 17 Final Exam*

- Fri, Dec 15 • 7:00P - 10:00P • Exam Location TBD