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Class: Thursday 12-2 in Barrows 402  
Office Hours: Monday 3:30-5:30 in Barrows 474  
Sign up at: https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/hepeo

SOC 280Q FALL 2017  
ECONOMY AND SOCIETY:  
MORAL VIEWS OF MARKET SOCIETY.

Course Description and Objectives
Sociologists have always studied economic processes, though perhaps never as militantly and self-consciously as they do today. The last thirty + years have indeed seen a rather extraordinary flourishing of sociological scholarship in this area, which seeks both to critique the analytical assumptions and research procedures commonly used in mainstream economics, and also to offer sociologically grounded accounts of economic phenomena. This movement culminates in the formulation of alternative claims regarding economic behavior and economic processes, and in the institutionalization of a specific subfield known as economic sociology.

This course will approach the field of economic sociology from the particular angle of the relationship between market structures, technologies, and moral categories. We will start from the observation that moral judgments that justify or vilify the market on the basis of some final value are extremely common in the social sciences. We will then move progressively toward more constructivist arguments that show, in many different ways, how markets, through their own operation, create the very moral categories we act upon. This will allow us to engage with important foundational work in economics, sociology and political science, as well as with some of the most exciting and most recent literature dealing with debt and credit, social classification and worth, the performative role of technologies and algorithms, and new forms of subjectivity and control.

General information:
The following three books have been ordered at the Cal Student Bookstore:


There is a course website for Sociology 280Q on bCourse. All journal articles and book excerpts are available in PDF format. You can access the papers directly by clicking the hyperlinks in the syllabus or by going to the ‘Files’ page on bCourse.
Course Requirements:
- Active participation of all seminar members to class discussions.
- Two in class presentations. One presentation will cover the readings for one week. It should be supported by a written memo briefly summarizing the main arguments and raising a number of themes/questions for further discussion in class. The memo should be posted on the course website no later than midnight, on the day before class, so that people have enough time to read it. I will not grade the memos. The second presentation will take place at the end of the semester and will involve a discussion of the proposed research paper. (See below)
- One three-to-five pages final paper proposal, due on October 6. (My mailbox or email is fine). The proposal should outline the research question, the research strategy, and explain the sociological motivation behind the problem studied (a critical review of the scholarly literature is an acceptable motivation). You are encouraged to come discuss your proposal in office hours.
- One final research paper (15-20 double-spaced pages), due on December 10 in my mailbox. The only imperatives for this requirement are: (i) The paper must address an economic topic of your choice (ii) It must use some of the readings in this class. The paper may be empirical (e.g., a pilot study) or consist in a research proposal. Additional guidelines will be posted on the course website.
PART I. MORAL VIEWS

Week 1. Aug 24. INTRODUCTION. MORAL VIEWS.


Recommended


Week 2. Aug 31. GOOD MARKETS.


Further reading


**Week 3. Sept 7. BAD MARKETS.**

Karl Marx. 1867. The Fetishism of Commodities and The Secret Thereof. In *Capital Volume I*. Use Tucker (ed.) *The Marx-Engels Reader* from your Sociological Theory class or find it [Here](#).


Further reading


**Week 4. September 14. Book focus.**


**Further Reading**


**PART II. SOCIAL STRUCTURES OF CAPITALISM**

**Week 5. Sept 21. THE DYNAMICS OF CAPITAL.**


**Further Reading**


**Week 6. September 28. THE POLITICS OF MARKETS.**


**Further Reading**


**Week 7. Oct 5. Book Focus. INVESTIGATING A MARKET.**


Watch: *Mondovino*.

**Further Reading.**


Franck Cochoy. 2005. A Brief History of Consumers or the Gradual Standardization of Markets and Organizations. *Sociologie du Travail* 47: 36-56. [Here](#).


--three-to-five pages final paper proposal due October 6--

PART III. MORALITY

Week 8. Oct 12. DEBT AND CREDIT.


Further Reading


Further Reading


Week 10. Oct 26. WORTH, VALUE, PRICE.


**Further Reading**


**PART IV. DESIGNS.**

**Week 11. Nov 2. RISK**


Further Reading


**Week 12. Nov 9. MACHINES**


Further Reading

On the performativity approach:
Daniel Miller. 2002. Turning Callon the right way up. Economy and Society 31(2): 218 – 233. Note: You might also want to see the rest of the debate:
2002 reply by Callon in Economic Sociology. European Electronic Newsletter
2007 reply by Holm (“Which Way is Up Callon?” in MacKenzie, Muniesa, Siu)

Further reading

Week 14. Nov 23. Thanksgiving holiday

Week 15. Nov 30. Professor Fourcade away.


--FINAL PAPER DUE DEC 10--
ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS COURSE


