Soc 137: Money, Work, and Social Life

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Time: Monday and Wednesday 12-1pm
Location: Harvard Hall 104
Office Hours: Monday 9-10am
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Course Description and Objectives

The course offers a sociological account of production, consumption, distribution, and transfer of assets. Examining different sectors of the economy from corporations and finance to households, immigrants, welfare, and illegal markets, we explore how in all areas of economic life people are creating, maintaining, symbolizing, and transforming meaningful social relations. Economic life, from this perspective, is as social as religion, family, or education.

Requirements

1. One in-class midterm examination – short essays (30% of the grade).
2. One in-class final examination – short essays (40%).
3. One research paper (1,500 to 2,500 words). Due on the last day of the reading period, May 5 by 5pm (20%).
4. Precept participation (10%).

Readings

All required readings are available through the course website. Students must do the readings each week before the class meets.
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. (Jan 28 & 30) Competing Analyses of Economic Life


Week 2. (Feb 4 & Feb 6) Sociological Toolkit for Understanding the Economy


Week 3. (Feb 11 & 13) Money and Finance


Week 4. (Feb 18 & 20) Firms and Corporations (Presidents’s day holiday, no class on Monday.)


Week 5. (Feb 25 & 27) Labor Markets (Presidents’ day holiday, no class on Monday.)


**Week 6. (Mar 4 & Mar 6) Consumer Markets**


**Week 7. (Mar 11 & 13) Review and Midterm**

*Spring Recess (Mar 16 – Mar 24)*
Week 8. (Mar 25 & 27) Household Economies


Week 9. (Apr 1 & 3) Intimate Economies


Week 10. (Apr 8 & 10) Informal and Illegal Economies


**Week 11. (Apr 15 & 17) Markets in Human Goods**


**Week 12. (Apr 22 & 24) Globalization and Local Economic Life**


Week 13. (Apr 29 & May 1) The Future of Economic Life


