

**SOC 201. POWER, INEQUALITY AND MARKETS:  
AN INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY**

T-Th 10:30 – 12:20 • SMITH 205 • Fall 2018

Professor Sarah Quinn (slquinn@uw.edu)  
Office hours: <http://www.meetme.so/SarahQuinn>

TA: Selen Guler (guler@uw.edu)  
Office hours: Tues & Thurs, 1-2 pm in Sav 250

**Course description**

This course provides an introduction to economic sociology through the study of power and inequality in markets.

Markets are often praised as gateways to mobility, spaces where anyone can achieve success through the right combination hard work and good ideas. Yet economic sociologists often argue that markets are better characterized as *uneven playing fields* in which powerful groups strive to lock-in advantages and stifle competition. From a sociological perspective, markets are rife with social hierarchies that reproduce unequal outcomes in the social world. We will study those dynamics in this class. Throughout the quarter, we will move through multiple levels of analysis, from micro-level intimate exchanges to global flows of capital and people. By the end of the quarter, students will be able to:

- Explain how markets contribute to social stratification
- Explain how social hierarchies structure market processes
- Apply concepts from economic sociology to everyday life

**Course Materials & Canvas**

Course readings and links to online materials are posted on Canvas, with the exception of one required book (Hoang's *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline, and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work*) which you can access for free through the library.

**Email Policy**

I answer most emails within 48 hours. If you email over the weekend, I will typically respond on Monday. I keep messages short, usually five sentences or less, so if you have a question that merits an in-depth answer or longer discussion, please sign up for office hours.

## **Missed Classes**

If you have missed class you should check with another student for notes, news, and announcements. I will post copies of my PowerPoint slides from lecture on Canvas, but I do not share additional lecture notes with students, nor do I otherwise provide recaps of from class.

## **Accommodations**

I want students to learn as much as possible and do well in this course, and I will work with you to accommodate learning-related needs. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please share your approved accommodations with your TA in the first two weeks of class. If you have questions about this you are welcome to contact me or contact DRS at 206-543-8924 or [uwdrs@uw.edu](mailto:uwdrs@uw.edu).

## **Academic Honesty**

If caught cheating or plagiarizing, you will receive a zero for the assignment and the violation may be formally reported to the University. You are responsible for understanding the University's guidelines for plagiarism and academic integrity.

## **Grades**

Grades will be based on a project, two tests, and class participation.

- 10% Class Participation  
*This includes participation during lecture, including informal in-class activities and responses papers that are graded pass/no pass (and are not handed back).*
- 30% Midterm (Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>)  
*This will be an in-class multiple-choice exam.*
- 30% Final Exam (Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>)  
*A cumulative in-class multiple-choice exam given during finals period.*
- 30% Video Essay (due Friday November 30<sup>th</sup>)  
*Working alone or in small groups, you will produce a short video that explains a concept from class.*

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Check Canvas for Updates.

Week 1	Economic Sociology
9/27	Dobbin, "The Sociological View of the Economy" (2-7) Smelser & Swedberg, "Introducing Economic Sociology" (1-6)
Week 2	Power, Inequality, Jobs
10/2	Lukes, " <a href="#">Power</a> " Stanford Center of Poverty & Inequality: " <a href="#">Income Inequality</a> " (Fisher & Smeeding), " <a href="#">Wealth Inequality</a> " (Zuckman), " <a href="#">Economic Mobility</a> " (Corak)
10/4	Pager, "Blacks and Ex-Cons Need Not Apply" Rivera, "Hiring as Cultural Matching"
Week 3	Working Conditions, Consent and Control
10/9	Davis, "Capital Markets and Job Creation in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century" Parreñas, "Human Sacrifices"
10/11	Rosenthal, "Accounting for Control: Slavery's Scientific Management." Mears, "Working for Free in the VIP"
Week 4	Advancement, Discrimination
10/16	Wingfield, "Racializing the Glass Escalator"
10/18	Pager & Shepherd, "The Sociology of Discrimination"
Week 5	Consumption
10/23	White, " <a href="#">Why Blacks and Hispanics Have Such Expensive Mortgages</a> " FDIC <a href="#">Report</a> on Unbanked and Underbanked Households
10/25	Glenn, "Yearning for Lightness"
Week 6	Markets as Social Orders
10/30	<b>Midterm (bring a scantron)</b>
11/1	Beckert, "The Social Order of Markets"
Week 7	Competition Within and Between Firms
11/6	Podolny, <i>Status Signals</i> ( Wherry, "The Social Sources of Authenticity in Global Handicraft Markets"
11/8	Hamilton & Biggart, "Market, Culture, and Authority"

## COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTINUED

Week 8	Governments & Property Rights
11/13	Volkov, <i>Violent Entrepreneurs</i> (selected pages)
11/15	Roy, <i>Socializing Capital</i> (selected pages)
Week 9	Understanding Financialization
11/20	Storm, "Financial Markets Have Taken Over the Economy" Covert, "The Demise of Toys 'R' Us Is a Warning"
11/22	Fall Break
Week 10	Finance and Everyday Life
11/27	Financialization of Education
11/29	<i>Hoang, Dealing in Desire</i> . Chapters 1, 3, 4
Week 11	Wrap Up
12/4	<i>Hoang, Dealing in Desire</i> . Chapters 5, 6
12/6	Wrap Up

**Final Exam: Monday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in Smith 205**

**\*\* Bring a Scantron \*\***