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**Course Outline**

Course Name: Strategy and Economic Sociology

Course Code: RSM 3091

Instructor Name: Prof. Laura Doering

Skype: prof.doering

Year, Term: 2020, Winter/Spring

Office: 7066

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2-3pm

Instructor email: laura.doering@utoronto.ca

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# Office Hours

Wednesdays, 2-3pm, in person, by phone, or via Skype. Reserve your office hours meeting by signing up via [this google doc](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bp0fKjlLvsxqoOhjP6IKPR_3kiGhmU_FzT8Eb-SfwwA/edit?usp=sharing). (No more waiting in line outside the professor’s door!) Should you prefer not to write your name on this public document, simply write “reserved” and email me so that I know you are coming.

If you have class during this time, simply coordinate with me to set up an alternative meeting time. When requesting a meeting, please suggest 2-3 potential times and we’ll find one that works. Meeting with students is one of the best parts of my job—please come by to talk economic sociology.

# Course Description

In this course, students will become familiar with the key theoretical paradigms and motivating questions in economic sociology. Students will read the classic texts that have shaped the central dimensions of the field, as well as contemporary pieces that offer modern takes on traditional questions. As a class, we will bring these pieces to life through group discussions and, when possible, live interviews with authors whose works we discuss. Students will also learn to identify the rhetorical devices that scholars employ to frame their papers, and will apply these tools to framing their own emerging contributions to economic sociology.

# Deliverables and Course Grade

| **Item** | **Weight %** | **Due Date** | **Delivery** | **Note** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class Participation | 35 | Ongoing | Class | Individual |
| Leading Course Session | 15 | Varies | Class | Individual or group |
| Paper Presentation | 20 | Feb 27 or March 5 | Class | Individual |
| Final Paper | 30 | April 9 by 11:59pm | Quercus  | Individual |

# Class Participation

Doctoral seminars are an act of collective production. They work well when everyone comes prepared, engages, and offers ideas. To contribute to a vibrant seminar experience, I expect that you will share your ideas, opinions, and critiques during each class session. I also expect that you will do so in a way that is respectful to your fellow classmates.

# Leading a Course Session

Each student will be responsible for leading at least one session during the semester. To successfully lead a course session, you must: 1) have thoroughly read the readings; 2) have prepared 5-10 discussion-provoking questions for your classmates; and 3) lead an engaged and critical discussion around those readings.

If you opt to lead a session on a day when we have an outside speaker, your responsibilities also include:

1. Carefully read the speaker’s paper or book. You should be a minor expert on this paper or book on the day of class.
2. If we have an outside speaker, prepare a list of 3-4 questions about his/her piece.
3. Send the questions to Laura by the Sunday before class.
4. After the interview, email the speaker to thank him/her for speaking in class. Cc Laura.
5. If the speaker has consented to post the audio file online, edit the audio file of the conversation, deleting any lengthy downtime or dead air.
6. Send a link of the audio file to Laura. She’ll post it online.

# Paper Presentation

Each student will have the opportunity to present his/her paper or paper proposal in a conference-style format. Your presentation will be evaluated on the clarity with which you share your ideas, your ability to present ideas in the time allotted, the appropriateness of your visuals, and your response to the Question and Answer period.

# Final Paper or Paper Proposal

Your final paper or paper proposal should incorporate themes, readings, and questions covered in the course. You may submit either a full manuscript (which you intend later to send to a journal) or a study proposal. The proposal should incorporate ideas from a number of readings in the course but also draw on additional work from pertinent literatures. In essence, it should consist of the front end of a research paper including: a well-motivated and clearly stated research question, a theoretical framework and set of predictions for investigating that question, and a realistic and suitable research design and (if applicable) an appropriate sampling and modeling approach. Please do not hesitate to talk to me at any time about potential ideas and relevant literatures for your paper.

If you submit a manuscript that you plan to submit to a journal, it should be no longer than 40 pages. If you submit a proposal, it should be no longer than 15 pages.

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| **Date** | **Topics, Readings, and Materials** |
| 09/01/19 | Smelser, Neil and Richard Swedberg. 2005. “[Introducing Economic Sociology](https://search-proquest-com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/docview/189251677/4340130D882B41F3PQ/1?accountid=14771)”. Pp. 3-26 in Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberd (eds.), *The Handbook of Economic Sociology.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.  |
| Gibbons, Robert. 2005. “[What is Economic Sociology and Should any Economists Care?](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/4134989?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=what&searchText=is&searchText=economic&searchText=sociology&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoAdvancedSearch%3Fc5%3DAND%26amp%3Bpt%3D%26amp%3Bq6%3D%26amp%3Bf2%3Dall%26amp%3Bc4%3DAND%26amp%3Bgroup%3Dnone%26amp%3Bq5%3D%26amp%3Bf1%3Dall%26amp%3Bacc%3Don%26amp%3Bc1%3DAND%26amp%3Bq1%3D%26amp%3Bsd%3D%26amp%3Bf6%3Dall%26amp%3Bc3%3DAND%26amp%3Bisbn%3D%26amp%3Bf0%3Dall%26amp%3Bq2%3D%26amp%3Bed%3D%26amp%3Bq3%3D%26amp%3Bq4%3D%26amp%3Bq0%3Dwhat%2Bis%2Beconomic%2Bsociology%26amp%3Bc2%3DAND%26amp%3Bla%3D%26amp%3Bc6%3DAND%26amp%3Bf5%3Dall%26amp%3Bf3%3Dall%26amp%3Bf4%3Dall&refreqid=search%3A8137b7dac8d1b55a06704e94f447c274)” *The Journalof Economic Perspectives*, 19: 3-7. |
| Mark Granovetter. 2002. “A Theoretical Agenda for Economic Sociology.” Pp. 35-60 in *The New Economic Sociology: Developments in an Emerging Field at the Millennium*, edited by Randall Collins, Mauro F. Guillén, Paula England and Marshall Meyer. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. (**on Quercus**) |
| **Bring to class:** list of course requirements, list of MA or PhD deliverables, short-term (weekly) and long-term (yearly) calendars |
| 16/01/19 | Foundational texts |
| Simmel, Georg. 1950 [1922]. *The Sociology of Georg Simmel.* Glencoe, IL: Free Press. Chapter 4 "The Triad” (p. 145-62) (**on Quercus**) |
| Weber, Max. 2006 [1930]. [*The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*](http://www.tandfebooks.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/doi/book/10.4324/9781315063645)*.* London: Routledge. (Chapters 1, 2, and 3) |
| Marx, K. and F. Engels, 1867. [Manifesto to the Communist Party. In R. Tucker, ed. The Marx-Engels Reader](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/1891891) . New York: Norton & Company, 1978. (p. 469-500) |
| 23/01/19 | Production & Consumption: Cultural Markets |
| Bourdieu, Pierre. 1993. *The Field of Cultural Production: Essays on Art and Literature.* New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 1, p. 29-52. (**on Quercus**) |
| Christin, Angèle. 2018. [“Counting Clicks: Quantification and Variation in Web Journalism in the United States and France](https://doi-org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/10.1086/696137).” *American Journal of Sociology* 123(5):1382–1415. **(in-class interview with Angèle Christin)** |
| Childress, Clayton. 2017. [*Under the Cover: The Creation, Production, and Reception of a Novel*.](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/11672073) Princeton Studies in Cultural Sociology. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1, 3, and 11. [Listen to Childress interview](https://www.dropbox.com/s/s5y9glypm2yi8d8/Clayton%20Childress_edited.mp3?dl=0) |
| **Optional:** Askin, Noah, and Michael Mauskapf. 2017. [What Makes Popular Culture Popular? Product Features and Optimal Differentiation in Music](http://journals.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/doi/full/10.1177/0003122417728662).” *American Sociological Review* 82 (5): 910–44. [Listen to Askin interview](https://www.dropbox.com/s/5mdjpulpbk36ndr/Noah%20Askin_edited.mp3?dl=0) |

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| 30/01/19 | Structured Opportunities: Employment & Hiring |
| Fernandez, Roberto M., and Isabel Fernandez-Mateo. 2006. “[Networks, Race, and Hiring](http://journals.sagepub.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/doi/pdf/10.1177/000312240607100103).” *American Sociological Review* 71 (1): 42–71. |
| Kang, Sonia K., Katherine A. DeCelles, András Tilcsik, and Sora Jun. 2016. [“Whitened Résumés: Race and Self-Presentation in the Labor Market.](http://search.ebscohost.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=buh&AN=116979394&site=ehost-live)” *Administrative Science Quarterly* 61 (3): 469–502. **(in-class interview with Sonia Kang)** |
| Rivera, Lauren A. 2015. [*Pedigree: How Elite Students Get Elite Jobs*](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/11952709). Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1, 6-8.  |
| 06/02/19 | Social Networks |
| Granovetter, Mark. 1973. “[The Strength of Weak Ties](http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/10.2307/2776392?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=The&searchText=Strength&searchText=of&searchText=Weak&searchText=Ties&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3Ffilter%3Djid%253A10.2307%252Fj100067%26amp%3BQuery%3DThe%2BStrength%2Bof%2BWeak%2BTies&refreqid=search%3Ae7bcf3b7674b600f3172be10fd13504c).” *The American Journal of Sociology.* 76 (6): 1360-1380. |
| Burt, Ronald S. 1992. [*Structural Holes: The Social Structure of Competition*.](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/11380689) Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press. Pp. 8-30. |
| Yenkey, Christopher. 2015. “[Mobilizing a Market: Ethnic Segmentation and Investor Recruitment into the Nairobi Securities Exchange,”](https://www-jstor-org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/24758806) *Administrative Science Quarterly,* 60 (4): 561-595. **(in-class interview with Chris Yenkey)** |
| **Optional:** Wang, Dan. 2015. “[Activating Cross-Border Brokerage](http://search.ebscohost.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=buh&AN=100948253&site=ehost-live).” Administrative Science Quarterly 60 (1): 133–76. [Listen to Wang interview](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ci3iez7qpzmvntf/Dan%20Wang_edited.mp3?dl=0) |
| 13/02/19 | Embeddedness and Relationships |
| Granovetter, Mark. 1985. “[Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness](http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/2780199).” *American Journal of Sociology* 91: 485-510. |
| Uzzi, Brian. 1997. “[Social Structure and Competition in Interfirm Networks: The Paradox of Embeddedness](http://search.ebscohost.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=buh&AN=9706191515&site=ehost-live).” *Administrative Science Quarterly* 42 (1): 35–67. |
| Doering, Laura. 2018. “[Risk, Returns and Relational Lending: Personal Ties in Microfinance](https://doi-org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/10.1086/696214).” American Journal of Sociology 123(5):1341–81. |
| In-class preparation: Giving a good presentation & writing a clear proposal |
| Savage, Van and Pamela Yeh. 2019. “[Novelist Cormac McCarthy’s Tips on How to Write a Great Science Paper](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-02918-5).” *Nature* 574:441–42. |
| 20/02/19 | No class: Reading Week |
| 27/02/19 | Student Presentations |
| 05/03/19 | Student Presentations |

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| 12/03/19 | Economic Development |
| Evans, Peter. 1995. [*Embedded Autonomy: States and Industrial Transformation*](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/8840060). Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 & 10. |
| Sen, Amartya Kumar. 1999. *Development as Freedom.* New York: Knopf. Ch 1 & Ch 4 (pp. 87-96). (**on Quercus**) |
| Samford, Steven. 2017. “[Networks, Brokerage, and State-Led Technology Diffusion in Small Industry](https://doi-org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/10.1086/690454).” *American Journal of Sociology* 122(5):1339–70. **(in-class interview with Steve Samford)** |
| Ang, Yuen Yuen. 2016. [*How China Escaped the Poverty Trap*](http://go.utlib.ca/cat/11361967)*.* Ithaca New York: Cornell University Press. Chapter 1. |
| 19/03/19 | Social Status in Market Transactions |
| Podolny, Joel M. 1993. “[A Status-Based Model of Market Competition](http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/2781237).” *American Journal of Sociology* 98 (4): 829–72. |
| Ridgeway, Cecilia L. 1997. [Interaction and the Conservation of Gender Inequality: Considering Employment](http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/2657301).” *American Sociological Review* 62 (2): 218–35. |
| Kovács, Balázs, and Amanda J. Sharkey. 2014. “[The Paradox of Publicity: How Awards Can Negatively Affect the Evaluation of Quality](http://search.ebscohost.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=buh&AN=94618726&site=ehost-live).” *Administrative Science Quarterly* 59 (1): 1–33. [Listen to Kovács & Sharkey interview](https://www.dropbox.com/s/i4h41jvkhiokxtq/Kovacs%20%26%20Sharkey_edited.mp3?dl=0) |
| 26/03/19 | Gender Roles & Household Economy |
| Gary Becker. 1991. “Division of Labor in Households and Families.” Pp. 20-53 in *A Treatise on the Family*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. **(on Quercus)** |
| Viviana Zelizer. 2005. [*The Purchase of Intimacy*](https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/lib/utoronto/detail.action?docID=457949)*.* Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 5, “Household Commerce”, pp. 209-218; 225-230; 240-246.  |
| Michael Bittman, Paula England, Nancy Folbre, and George Matheson. 2003. “[When does Gender Trump Money? Bargaining and Time in Household Work.](http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/10.1086/378341)” *American Journal of Sociology* 109(1): 186-214.  |
| Grigoryeva, Angelina. 2017. “[Own Gender, Sibling’s Gender, Parent’s Gender: The Division of Elderly Parent Care among Adult Children.”](https://doi-org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/10.1177/0003122416686521) *American Sociological Review* 82(1):116–46. **(in-class interview with Angelina Grigoryeva)** |
| **Optional:** Thébaud, Sarah. 2015. “[Business as Plan B](http://search.ebscohost.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/login.aspx?direct=true&db=buh&AN=110716603&site=ehost-live).” *Administrative Science Quarterly* 60 (4): 671–711.[Listen to Thébaud interview](https://www.dropbox.com/s/u682puaadimobe6/Sarah%20Thebaud_edited.mp3?dl=0) |
| 02/04/19 | Final Session: Topic of Students' Choice |