Economic sociology is concerned with the social bases of economic behavior, and the relations among business organizations, economic institutions, and the larger society. It is one of the most vibrant and fastest-growing areas of sociology. Some of the most interesting work in the social sciences is being done by sociologists and economists at the intersection of the two fields. One goal of this course is to work toward developing a systematic conception of the field.

We begin the course with a discussion of the differences between sociological and economic approaches, followed by samples from the classic works of Adam Smith, Karl Polanyi, Marx, and Weber. We then discuss the rise of the large corporation, focusing on both economic and sociological accounts. Following this unit, we move progressively from the internal workings of the firm toward macro-level discussions of the relation between business and society. Topics covered include issues of corporate control, the social meaning of money, production and financial markets, mergers and divestitures, globalization, and fundamental questions about the distribution of income and wealth.

Our focus will be on the scholarly literature within each of these topics. Much of this reading will be difficult, but all of it should be rewarding. Students will be expected to complete the readings and be prepared to discuss them in class and/or section. The requirements for the course include a short paper (18 percent of the final grade), midterm and final examinations (36 percent each), various short assignments, and class participation (10 percent). The purpose of the sections is to provide an opportunity for increased discussion, as well as more detailed attention to the readings. The required readings for the course will come from two books, which are available for purchase at the Shaman Drum Bookstore at 313 South State Street; a coursepack, assembled by Dollar Bill Copying and available at the store, 611 Church Street, just below South University; and a few items on the class Ctools site.
Books Available for Purchase (purchase strongly recommended):

Granovetter, Mark and Richard Swedberg (eds.), *The Sociology of Economic Life* (second edition)
Frank, Robert H. and Philip J. Cook, *The Winner-Take-All Society*

**COURSE OUTLINE** (Topics associated with particular dates are approximate and are subject to change. Unless otherwise noted, readings not from the books are in the coursepack.)

**January 8**: Introduction to the Course

**January 13**: Sociological vs. Economic Approaches


**January 15, 20, 22, 27**: Classical Writings on the Economy


**January 29**: The Rise of the Large Corporation


**February 3**: Transaction Cost Economics

Reading: Oliver E. Williamson, *The Economic Institutions of Capitalism*, pp. 43-63.

**February 5, 10, 12**: Sociological Alternatives to Transaction Cost Economics


February 17: Review; Midterm Examination Distributed

February 19: Midterm Examination in Progress; no class

March 3: Inside the Firm

Reading: Rosabeth M. Kanter, Men and Women of the Corporation, pp. 186-221, 237-242 (on Ctools site).

March 5: A Sociological Theory of Markets


March 10, 12: Labor Markets


March 17, 19: Who Controls the Corporation?


March 24, 26: Money and Financial Markets

**March 31, April 2: The Current Crisis**

Readings: Gerald F. Davis, *Portfolio Society*, Chapter 6 (on Ctools site); other topical readings (TBA).

**April 7: Globalization**


**April 9: Corporate Social Responsibility**


**April 14: Business and Politics**


**April 16, 21: The Distribution of Income and Wealth**


**April 21: Final examination distributed**