

**Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU**

**Course: Introduction to Economic Sociology**

**Level and status: 4 credit points B.A. Elective course for second and third year students.**

**Prior requirements: None**

**Lecturer: Dr. Daniel Maman**

**Taught: 2003/4, 2004/5, 2005/6, 2006/7, 2007/8, 2008/9, 2009/10, 2010/11**

**Course description:**

The course is intended to serve as an introduction to sociological analyses of economic phenomena, such as markets, corporations, leisure, and globalization. The aim is to analyse economic phenomena in their social, institutional, political and cultural contexts. The learning is based on lectures and reading of primary texts.

**Course requirements:**

Students are required to be present in class meetings, read and participate in discussions. There will be two quizzes on the required reading and a final exam.

**Grade: each of the quizzes 20% and final exam 60%**

**Course schedule and reading list:**

**Fall Semester:**

**1. The Theoretical Foundations of Economic Sociology**

Polanyi, Karl. 2001. "The Economy as Instituted Process." Pp. 31-50 in *The Sociology of Economic Life*, edited by M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Swedberg, Richard. 2001. "Max Weber's Vision of Economic Sociology." Pp. 77-95 in *The Sociology of Economic Life*, edited by M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Granovetter, Mark. 2001. "Economic Action and Social Structure: The Problem of Embeddedness." Pp. 51-76 in *The Sociology of Economic Life*, edited by M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Bourdieu, Pierre. 2001. "The Forms of Capital." Pp. 96-111 in *The Sociology of Economic Life*, edited by M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Stokman, F.N. 2001. "Networks: Social." Pp. 10509-10514 in *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Science*, edited by N. J. Smelser and P. B. Bates. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

## **2. Economic Action**

Smith, Adam, 1996, *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, The Open University and Bialik Institute, Pp. 95-107, 130-136 (in Hebrew).

## **3. Markets – Sociological Perspective**

Fligstein, Neil, 1996, "Markets as Politics: A Political-Cultural Approach to Market Institutions," *American Sociological Review*, 61 (4): 656-673.

## **4. The Sociology of Money and Financial Markets**

Zelizer, Viviana A. 1998. "The Proliferation of Social Currencies." Pp. 58-68 in *The Laws of the Markets*, edited by M. Callon. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers.

Zelizer, Viviana A. 2001. "Human Values and the Market: The Case of Life Insurance and Death in 19th-Century America." Pp. 146-162 in *The Sociology of Economic Life*, edited by M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Abolafia, Mitchel Y. 2002. "Making Markets: Opportunism and Restraint on Wall Street." Pp. 94-111 in *Readings in Economic Sociology*, edited by N. W. Biggart. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

## **5. Social Networks**

Laurel Smith-Doerr and Powell, Walter W. 2005. "Networks and Economic Life." Pp. 379-402 in *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, edited by N. J. Smelser and R. Swedberg. Princeton and New York: Princeton University Press and Russell Sage Foundation.

## **Spring Semester:**

### **6. The Sociology of Economic Organizations: Firms and Business Groups**

Roy, William G. 2001. "Functional and Historical Logics in Explaining the Rise of American Industrial Corporation." Pp. 305-326 in *The Sociology of Economic Life*, edited by M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg. Boulder: Westview Press.

Uzzi, Brian. 2001. "Social Structure and Competition in Interfirm Networks: The Paradox of Embeddedness." Pp. 207-238 in *The Sociology of Economic Life*, edited by M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg. Boulder: Westview Press.

Granovetter, Mark. 1994. "Business Groups." Pp. 453-475 in *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, edited by N. J. Smelser and R. Swedberg. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

## **7. Gender and Economy**

Paula England and Flobre Nancy, 2005, "Gender and Economic Sociology" Pp. 627-649 in *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, edited by N. J. Smelser and R. Swedberg. Princeton and New York: Princeton University Press and Russell Sage Foundation.

### **8. The Economic Sociology of Labor and Leisure**

Biggart, Nicole W. 1994. "Labor and Leisure." Pp. 672-690 in *Handbook of Economic Sociology*, edited by N. J. Smelser and R. Swedberg. Princeton and New York: Princeton University Press and Russell Sage Foundation.

### **9. The Economic Sociology of Culture**

Zelizer, Viviana, 2005, "Culture and Consumption" Pp. 331-354 in *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, edited by N. J. Smelser and R. Swedberg. Princeton and New York: Princeton University Press and Russell Sage Foundation.

### **10. Capitalism**

Collins, Randel. 2001. "Weber Last Theory of Capitalism: A Systematization." Pp. 379-400 in *The Sociology of Economic Life*, edited by M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Hamilton, Gary and Nicole W. Biggart. 1988. "Market, Culture, and Authority: A Comparative Analysis of Management and Organization in the Far East." *American Journal of Sociology* 94 supplement:S52-S94.

King, Lawrence and Szelenyi, Ivan, 2005, "Post-Communist Economic System". Pp. 205-229, *The Handbook of Economic Sociology*, edited by N. J. Smelser and R. Swedberg. Princeton and New York: Princeton University Press and Russell Sage Foundation.

### **11. State and Economy**

Dobbin, Frank. 2001. "Why the Economy Reflects the Polity: Early Rail Policy in Britain, France, and the United States." Pp. 401-424 in *The Sociology of Economic Life*, edited by M. Granovetter and R. Swedberg. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Maman, Daniel. 2002. "The Emergence of Business Groups: Israel and South Korea Compared." *Organization Studies* 23:737-758.

### **12. Globalization**

Guillen, Mauro F. 2001. *The Limits of Convergence: Globalization and Organizational Change in Argentina, South Korea, and Spain*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, Pp. 3-19.