

What do supply chains, influencers, MLMs, Theranos, Covid tests, alumni networking, and college admissions scandals have in common? They're all fascinating studies in economic sociology -- the study of how societies shape economies and how economic forces affect people's life chances.

This semester, we'll explore all of these economic and social dynamics and more. We'll cover the meanings of money and the role it plays in practical and symbolic exchange processes. We'll delve into concepts like value, trust, and reciprocity, and learn why grifters and fraudsters are so compelling to observe. We'll also emphasize the way economic and social dynamics create, perpetuate, and (sometimes) mitigate inequality.

You do not need any background in economics or in sociology to take, enjoy, and succeed in this course. You only need to be a person who has bought something or ever made a decision about what to do with a limited resource. In particular, I welcome students who are curious to know more about the complicated relationships individuals, families, and communities have with money due to racism, immigration, xenophobia, poverty, and climate change. I especially encourage and welcome first generation college students into this class.

- You can see the syllabus here: [Econ Soc Syllabus for Spring 2024](#)
- The google drive with [class readings](#) and links to [lecture slides](#), etc. is [here](#).

You are welcome to reach out by email with any questions; please contact me at [doctora.leah@gmail.com](mailto:doctora.leah@gmail.com).

I look forward to welcoming you into this class!