Instructor: Dr. Igor Ryabov  
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E-mail: igor.ryabov@utrgv.edu

Required textbook:  
None.

Course Objectives:  
This course surveys economic sociology’s main theoretical camps – institutional, network, power, and cognitive approaches – and some of its main substantive areas – development, globalization, and financial markets. One goal is to explore the extent to which different theoretical paradigms serve as alternatives to one another or as complements. Another is to review some of the most important studies and findings.

Learning Outcomes:  
By the end of this course, students should be able:  
1. To elucidate the link between social structure and the economy.  
2. To demonstrate an understanding of historic changes in the economy.  
3. To explain firms, the development of corporations, and their role in the contemporary national and world economy.  
4. To explain the changing role of work in the economy.  
5. To explain the role of the state and its relationship to banking, finance, and the larger economy.  
6. To explain the role of the informal economy in contemporary society.

Course Requirements:  
1. This is a fully online course which means that 100% of the course content delivered online. The course is available via Blackboard. It means that students are required to be familiar with Blackboard prior to taking this course. Students are required to have access to features of the course contained within a Blackboard platform.  
2. All students are encouraged to use Discussion Board and Chat for interpersonal communication and collaboration. Communication amongst peers is crucial and extremely beneficial in
conceptualizing the issues being addressed. Also keep in mind that communication should be conducted in a professional, academic manner. Reactions that do not reflect quality, critical and well thought out analysis will not receive credit. Please remember that this is an academic, professional learning environment and your participation should reflect such standards. Discussion etiquette should replicate that found within the traditional classroom environment. Please provide respect for your peers by offering articulate responses based in critical analysis.

3. Readings will be posted on Blackboard and are to be completed prior to each class meeting for which they are assigned.

4. Six times during the semester, you are required to write a 2-page reflection paper on a journal article of your choice (choosing only readings with a length of 10 or more pages). Instructions: Summarize the main points briefly (in approximately 1 page of double-spaced text) and add critical evaluation and other thoughts of your own (also approximately 1 page). The summary and the reflections do not necessarily have to be in two sequential chunks; either sequential or interwoven is fine. Your own reflections should bring in some additional content, such as connections with another reading, relevant current events or culture, personal experience related to the content, etc., not just your emotional or analytical reactions to the reading. These are informal, journal-style papers and will be graded accordingly; it matters whether you accurately capture the author’s main points, but the style and format do not matter; your additional reflections should be thoughtful and creative, but they do not need footnotes and do not need to scale great heights of brilliance and originality to get full credit.

5. A term paper is the final requirement of the course. The paper should be at least 10 and at most 15 pages in length, and it may take the form of a research proposal that incorporates ideas from a number of the readings in the course.

Course Policy:

1. Failure to submit a paper by the due date will result in a zero grade (unless you have been granted permission by me prior to the exam or have documented evidence of a family emergency or illness).

2. There will be no opportunities to earn extra credit, and no make-up tests. Nevertheless, consistently high test scores will reflect positively on your final grade for the course.

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<tr>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection Papers (each = 10%)</td>
<td>90-100 A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>80-89 B</td>
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<td></td>
<td>70-79 C</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60-69 D</td>
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<td>&lt;60 F</td>
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**Schedule** (subject to change).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction: Syllabus, Class policies</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Economics/Sociology Divide</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Classical Texts: Smith, Ricardo and Marx</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Classical Texts: Weber and Schumpeter</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Economic Actors and Economic Action</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Social Networks</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Power and Cognition</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Culture and Economy</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Globalization and Nation States</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Informal Economy</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Poverty and Economic Inequality</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Labor Market</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Household Economic Strategies</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Course Review, Term Paper is Due</td>
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**Important dates for Fall 2018 include:**

- Aug. 27 (Mon.) Fall classes begin
- Aug. 30 (Thurs.) Last day to add or register for Fall classes
- Aug. 31 (Fri.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive an 80% refund
- Sept. 3 (Mon.) Labor Day Holiday. No classes.
- Sept. 10 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 70% refund
- Sept. 12 (Wed.) Census Day (last day to drop without it appearing on the transcript)
- Sept. 17 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 50% refund
- Sept. 24 (Mon.) Last day to withdraw (drop all classes) and receive a 25% refund
- Nov. 14 (Wed.) Last day to drop (DR grade) a class or withdraw (grade of W)
- Nov. 22 – Nov. 24 (Thurs. – Sat.) Thanksgiving Holiday. No classes
- Dec. 6 (Thurs.) Study Day. No classes.
- Dec. 7 – Dec. 13 (Fri. – Thurs.) Final Exams
- Dec. 14 – Dec. 15 (Fri. – Sat.) Commencement Exercises
- Dec. 17 (Mon.) Grades Due at 3 p.m

**University Policy:**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who suffer a broken bone, severe injury or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services. Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at ability@utrgv.edu. Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.
MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

Important Notes:
- Only Faculty can see students’ written comments and responses to optional questions.
- Students may customize their course evaluations until the evaluation window opens, after which no changes can be made.
- Evaluations from any student who completed an evaluation and then dropped the course will be swept from the system and enrollment numbers adjusted after the drop deadline.
- Evaluations may NOT be reset in any circumstance. Individual student surveys cannot be traced.

ATTENDANCE: Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY: As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DISCRIMINATION, AND VIOLENCE:
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

COURSE DROPS: According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.