

EXTREME MARKETS

SPRING QUARTER 2016 - 5 Credits (Writing Credit)

Risky, Taboo, Intimate Markets and the Black Market

Sociology 401 B | SLN: 20801

TTH 900 - 1050

Sarah Quinn - slquinn@uw.edu



This course will review core insights of economic sociology through the analysis of particularly risky, taboo, and intimate market exchanges. This will include the study of exchanges in intimacy and sex work, the global black market for organs, donations of cadavers, markets for eggs and sperm, racketeering, colonialism, and more. The first half of the class will focus on intimate and taboo markets, opening with debates about morality in markets, and exploring how social ties, cultural categories, and inequality structure what we buy and sell. The second half of the class will focus on risky markets, focusing on how people rely on governments, institutions, and their own emotions to manage uncertainty and competition. This is a designated writing class, so throughout the quarter we will also focus on the development of critical reading and writing skills.