Taboo Markets

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What this Course is About

This course is about taboo, stigmatized, or otherwise morally controversial markets. Examples include trade in alcohol and other drugs, sex work, gambling, babyselling, paid domestic labor, care work, human blood, organs, eggs, sperm, genetic material, viaticals, and pollution rights. We will read empirical studies and ethical arguments about these markets, focusing mostly on how exchange in these goods is practically accomplished and morally justified in theory and practice. We will also consider broader questions about the scope and limits, if any, of the market as a social institution, and its relationship to other sorts of exchange.

Readings

Readings will be made available through the course website and may change from those listed below. Access details will be given in class. I recommend you purchase two books:


Contact Information

Drop-in office hours are Tuesdays from 9:00–10:30am. My office is 255 Sociology/Psychology, on West Campus. To schedule an appointment or contact me about other class-related matters, email me at kjhealy@soc.duke.edu. The TA for the course is Rose Buckelew. She can be reached at rose.buckelew@duke.edu.

Requirements

You are required to attend and participate in class. There will be an in-class exam, one paper, and a group project you will present in class.

1. **Attendance and Participation.** Do the reading, show up to class, silence your phone. Be prepared to discuss the material. Participation will count for 10% of your final grade.

2. **In-Class Exam.** Friday, February 21st. This will be worth 25% of your final grade.

3. **Paper.** Due on March 21st at 5:00pm and will be worth 45% of your final grade.

4. **Group Presentation.** Presented in-class during the first three weeks of April. It will be worth 20% of your final grade. We will discuss group topics, time slots, and other details in class. Attendance and participation during group presentations (not just your own) is required.

Course Schedule

Assigned readings may change, so pay attention.

Week 1 **Introduction**

Week 2 **Moral Views of Market Society**

Week 3 **Civilizing Markets**
Week 4  **Destructive Markets**

Week 5  **Crowding and Nudging**

Week 6  **Forbidden Exchanges**

Week 7  **Blood and Organs**

Week 8  **Eggs and Sperm** Rene Almeling, *Sex Cells*.

Week 9  **Spring Break: No Class**

Week 10  **Care and Intimacy**

Week 11  **Lives and Nature**

Week 12  **In-Class Presentations**.

Week 13  **In-Class Presentations**.

Week 14  **In-Class Presentations**.