Course Overview
Although classical social theorists were concerned with the rise of capitalism and its social effects, the study of markets came to be dominated by economists. It is not until the late 1980s that sociologists returned their attention to the study of economic behavior, offering theories of markets that challenged atomistic rational actor models. Instead, economic sociologists emphasize the social structures in which market action is embedded.

This course examines the rise and dynamics of markets from the perspective of economic sociology. We survey the three dominant sociological approaches to markets: network, institutional, and performativity. The final sessions of the course apply these theoretical perspectives and attendant analytic tools to the study of newly emerging environmental markets, including markets in carbon, air pollutants, wetlands, and other ecosystem services.

Course Requirements:
Participation (30% of grade)
Active, effective contribution to seminar discussions is the most important requirement of participation in the course. The basis of active, effective contribution is coming to class having struggled with the readings enough to understand the arguments that the authors are making and to have given though to what about those arguments seems useful, what seems wrong, and what is unclear. Active, effective contribution to seminar discussions also means attentive listening to the comments of others.

Weekly critical reading commentaries (20% of grade)
In order to make the most of limited class time, it is valuable to start out each class with some ideas of what the members of the class found most interesting, perplexing or otherwise most worth discussion. To that end, you will be asked to submit critical reading commentaries (max 500 words) on the Tuesday before each Thursday seminar. These reading commentaries should be analytical, not descriptive. In other words, they should critically engage the readings rather than summarizing them.
Seminar paper (50% of grade)
A final research paper is due at the end of the semester. The paper, in the range of 15-20 pages, may take several forms: critically engage a cluster of course readings or themes; link course themes to a student’s broader research project; a grant application or dissertation proposal that has been substantially shaped by engagement with course readings and themes.

Final papers are due on June 9 at 4pm in my faculty mailbox in Bren Hall, Environmental Studies Program office. One-page abstracts are due in class on April 22. A first draft of the seminar paper is due on May 18 at 4pm, via email to Prof Pulver and other members of the class. We will dedicate the May 20 seminar to discussion of student papers. The particular format of the discussion will depend on class size.

Required readings
Required texts are on course reserve at the Davidson Library. Articles are available via the courses Gauchospace web page.

Week 1 (April 1): Introduction to economic sociology, the sociology of markets, and the variety of environmental markets


Week 2 (April 8): The rise of the market form


**Week 3 (April 5): Networks (I)**


**Week 4 (April 22): Networks (II)**

**April 22: Seminar paper abstracts due in class**


**Week 5 (April 29): Institutions (I)**


**Week 6 (May 6): Institutions (II)**


**Week 7 (May 13): Performativity**


**May 18, 4pm: First draft of seminar papers due via email to Prof Pulver and other members of the class.**

**Week 8 (May 20): Peer feedback on seminar paper drafts**

**Week 9 (May 27): Carbon markets**


Knox Hayes, J. “The Architecture of Carbon Markets” unpublished manuscript


**Week 10 (June 4): Other environmental markets**


**June 9, 4pm:** Final Seminar papers due in Prof Pulver’s mailbox in Bren Hall Environmental Studies Program office.