Course description: This is an advanced treatment of the theory and empirical practice of institutional analysis in sociology and related fields. Part one of the course focuses on three core approaches—economic or rational choice institutionalism, historical institutionalism, and sociological/organizational institutionalism—working through classic statements and then important elaborations. Of central interests here are the different mechanisms by which institutions promote order, stability and distinctive patterns of behavior, policy and organization. Topics covered included path dependence, isomorphism, "lock in," structure-induced equilibria, institutional contingency, diffusion, and globalization. Part two of the course focuses on more recent, cutting edge work on the creation, emergence, reproduction and transformation of institutions, tackling the thorny problems of how explain institutional building and change without abandoning the contextual insights of institutional analysis. Topics covered include punctuated equilibria versus evolutionary theories of change, the microdynamics of institutional work, institutionalization and change, and processes of transposition, theorization and translation. Here, we will be particularly interested in how recent work on the institutional emergence and change takes into account the preexisting structure of institutions or fields, and the interactions between conventional institutional dynamics and more political processes grounded in mobilization, contestation and collective action.

Course prerequisite: Sociology 211, Introduction to Sociology and one upper division class in sociology, or consent of the instructor.

Course assignments: This is a reading intensive seminar that will proceed entirely by discussions of materials supported by regular reading memos. One to two page memos are due each week for the first half of the semester. Three to four somewhat longer reading memos of three to five pages will be due roughly every other week for the second half of the semester. There are no other papers or exams. Late work will not be accepted.

Readings: The following books are available at the Reed College bookstore and are on reserve. Additional readings listed below are available though JSTOR or the moodle.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART I
THE NEW INSTITUTIONALISMS: CORE APPROACHES AND ELABORATIONS

Week 1: (September 9)

Rational choice/economic institutionalism: classic statements


Week 2: (September 16)

Elaborations: Institutions as equilibria, endogenous change, modernity

Avner Greif. 2006. Institutions and the Path to the Modern Economy. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-4, 6, 8, 10.

Week 3: (September 23)

Historical Institutionalism: Institutions as context, comparative structuralism


**Week 4:** (September 30)

*Elaborations: path dependence, time and institutional development*

Paul Pierson, Politics in Time, chapters 1-6 no


**Week 5:** (October 7)

*Sociological/Organizational Institutionalism: Classic statements, modernity*


**Week 6: (October 14)**

*Elaboration: Shifts in Logics and Institutional Contingency*


**Fall break: October 19-27**

**PART II**

**INSTITUTIONAL EMERGENCE AND CHANGE: CUTTING EDGES**

**Week 7 (October 28)**

*Institutional Fields*

Fligstein and McAdam. *A Theory of Fields*. Entire

**Week 8: (November 4)**

*Field creation, institution building and change: empirical studies I*


**Week 9:** (November 11)

*Field creation, institution building and change: empirical studies II*


**Week 10:** (November 18)

*Institutional Logics*

Thornton, Ocasio and Lounsbury. *The Institutional Logics Perspective*

**Week 11:** (November 25)

*Field creation, institution building and change: empirical studies III*


**Week 12: (December 2)**

*Institutional and Organizational Genesis*


**Week 13: (December 9)**

*Institutional and Organizational Genesis, cont’d*

Powell and Padgett. 2012. *Emergence*. Chapters 13, 14, 16