

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 205, Workshop in Policy Analysis, Section 01, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwynn Deyo
Office Location:	DMH 142
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Email:	darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	W 1:30pm – 2:30pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 4:30 – 5:45pm
Classroom:	DMH 166
Prerequisites:	This course is meant to be taken at the end of your Master's graduate coursework. ECON 201, ECON 202, and ECON 203 are expected.

Course Description

Survey of major areas of economic policy such as taxes, transportation, health, housing, environment, trade and education. We will consider different institutional frameworks for addressing issues in these policy areas, including market-based solutions, common pool resource solutions, centralized regulation solutions, and more. Students prepare a written report on some topic of policy analysis and present the results to the class. Students will be expected to complete in-class exercises, referee reports, a paper proposal, peer edits, a paper presentation and an original final research paper related on a subject related to policy analysis. This 3-unit course satisfies the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Demonstrate understanding of core microeconomic concepts and effectively apply them to complex societal problems.
2. Employ the major theories and techniques prevalent in microeconomics for analysis of government policies.
3. Write clearly and effectively, adjusting the writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out a research project, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.

Required Readings

[SA] Timothy Sandefur, *The Right to Earn a Living*. ISBN 978-1935308331.

[OS] Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons*. ISBN 978-1107569782.

[RB] Robert Baldwin, *The Oxford Handbook of Regulation*. ISBN 978-0199655885.

[DU] Susan E. Dudley and Jerry Brito, *Regulation: A Primer*, (2nd edition). ISBN 978-0983607731.

[BE] David T. Beito, *The Voluntary City*. ISBN 9781598130324.

Articles and handouts posted on Canvas

Recommended Readings

[BO] Wayne C. Booth, *The Craft of Research* (4th edition). ISBN 978-0226239736.

[MC] Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing* (2nd edition). ISBN 9781577660637.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Key Semester Dates

First Day of Class – January 28

Last Day to Drop Classes – February 5

Referee Report #1 Due – February 27

Proposal Due – March 6

Referee Report #2 Due – March 27

Spring Break – April 1 – 5

Last Chance for Proposals – April 8

First Draft Due – April 17

Peer Edits Workshop – April 17

Referee Report #3 Due – April 24

Final Paper Due in Canvas – May 17

Class Presentations

There is a list of academic, peer-reviewed articles on Canvas under Pages titled “Peer Reviewed Articles”. Each article has a specified week for it to be presented in class. Students will sign up to present one paper in class, with approximately one presentation scheduled per Monday. Students will cover the hypothesis, motivation, background, data, methods, results, and conclusions of each paper. Presentations should last between 5 to 7 minutes. Sign-ups will be offered at the end of the first class (January 28) and will continue through February 6. I will assign any remaining articles for presentation after February 6. All students are expected to read the articles for the assigned week.

Seminars

Monday classes will end with about half an hour of seminar discussion on that week’s readings. Each seminar will be led by the student who presented the article at the start of class. Discussions will cover the policy issues, peer-reviewed articles, and other readings. Students should bring 3 questions to prompt conversation; these questions are also due in Canvas before the start of class. Seminar discussions are graded under Participation.

In-Class Exercises

Wednesday classes will end with about half an hour of empirical data exercises. You should bring your laptop

or tablet to class each day so you are able to participate. Exercises are graded under Participation.

Referee Reports

Students will submit three referee reports on an economics article over the course of the semester. Referee reports are an important part of the academic profession and the first stage of peer-review for any academic journal. Resources on how to draft a referee report are included in Canvas but many other resources are available online. The referee report should be single-spaced and *no more than 2 pages* in Times New Roman font, size 12, 1 inch margins in a Word Document (.doc or .docx), uploaded to Canvas.

Final Paper

As part of this course, each student will propose and submit a *research* paper on a subject related to policy analysis. The final paper is due in Canvas on the day of the university scheduled final exam, **May 17**, and should run between 14 to 16 pages of text, double spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12, 1 inch margins in a Word Document (.doc or .docx). Tables and references do not contribute to the page count. Your final paper must be submitted to Canvas by **May 17** to receive credit. The final paper will be graded using a distributed rubric. In addition to the text of your paper, you must include the analysis output used to generate your results (Excel, R, Python, Stata, etc) with your submission.

Paper Proposal

In order to prepare for the final research paper, you will submit a 1-2 page proposal in Canvas by **March 6** stating the research question and hypothesis, data sources, methods, and seven economic journal citations you plan to use (refer to the Canvas Template). I will then approve this proposal or require adjustments before you proceed. You do not have to wait until the due date (and I recommend you don't!) to submit this proposal. The proposal operates on a PASS/FAIL basis. You may find McCloskey and Booth particularly helpful when writing the proposal and final paper. If you receive a RESUBMIT, you must rework the proposal based on my comments by **April 8**.

First Draft and Peer Edits

The first draft of your paper (minimum 7 pages) is due in class on **April 17**. You also need to upload a copy to Canvas by midnight *before* class. Bring **two physical copies** of the paper to class on **April 17**. Digital copies are *not* permitted. Make sure to staple your paper and bring a red pen (or another non-black, non-blue, non-pencil pen of your choice). We will then conduct in-class peer review edits using the final paper rubric with which you will be graded. It is your responsibility to make sure you bring your paper to class. Failure to provide a draft for someone else to grade will result in zero credit for the peer edit. You will then be graded on the quality of the peer edits you provide to your classmate's paper.

Paper Presentation

You will also give a short ten minute presentation on your paper, which must be emailed to me by midnight before the day of your presentation. You may use a PowerPoint or a PDF file. The presentation will be graded using a distributed rubric.

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

The final grade in the course will be based on the following weights:

Category	Weight
Participation	15%
Class Presentation	10%
Referee Reports	15%
Paper Proposal	5%
First Draft	10%
Peer Edits	10%
Paper Presentation	10%
Final Paper	25%

These weights are fixed - improvement in other categories will not raise your grades elsewhere except as stated otherwise. Late work will not be accepted.

Grading Scale

A+: 97 to 100 A: 94 to 96 A-: 90 to 93
B+: 87 to 89 B: 84 to 86 B-: 80 to 83
C+: 77 to 79 C: 74 to 76 C-: 70 to 73
D: 60 to 69
F: <60

Classroom Protocol

Office Hours

The best way to contact me is by email at darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu. My office hours are Wednesday, 1:30 – 2:30pm in my office, DMH 142, and by appointment. Many questions can be answered quickly over email.

Academic Honesty

I take academic honesty very seriously and will follow the policies as published by SJSU. These policies are online and available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>. It is the responsibility of the student to read and understand what constitutes a violation of the honor code. Claims of ignorance cannot be used to justify dishonest behaviors. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported through the appropriate channels. In this course, any student caught engaging in activities which violate the honor code as written by the University will receive a semester grade of “F” for this course. I also require all students to take the SJSU Plagiarism Tutorial & Quiz at <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>. Results can be forwarded to me by email or printed out in class.

Disability Notice

Please see me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated. Presidential Directive 97-03 at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities

requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center at <http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/> to establish a record of their disability.

Other Class Policies

1. Students will show respect at all times for others. Class will begin on time and end on time. As such, students are expected to be on time.
2. So as to minimize any disruption to class, ensure that any electronic devices you bring with you to class are set to not produce any sounds during class. This includes setting cell phones to vibrate or silent and muting the speakers on laptops and tablets. Students using their cell phones or laptops for non-class related activities will be asked to leave the room.
3. Students must use their SJSU email to communicate with me regarding course material and messages related to this class. I will make an effort to reply to emails related to the course within 48 hours, excepting weekends, but I will not accept email attachments from non-SJSU emails.
4. I primarily use Canvas for announcements, handouts, articles, and for students to submit their written work. I encourage students to use Criterion before submitting their final paper to me in order to minimize the number of revisions. Students must submit all final written work to Canvas.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these policies and resources.

ECON 205-01 / Workshop in Policy Analysis, Spring 2019 Course Schedule

My proposed schedule for the semester follows. If it proves too ambitious, I will try to simply say less about each topic rather than cut the topics for the final weeks. In addition to the textbook readings for each week, students should read the articles associated with each topic posted on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 28 & 30	Introduction to Policy Analysis (BE 1; DU 1-2; OS 1)
2	Feb 4 & 6	Public Choice and Institutional Economics (RB 2; DU 3; OS 2)
3	Feb 11 & 13	Takings and Zoning (BE 13-14; RB 4; SA 12)
4	Feb 18 & 20	Intellectual Property and Fair Use (SA 4; DU 4; OS 3)
5	Feb 25 & 27	Innovation and Telecommunications (RB 20-21, DU 5); Referee Report #1 Due (Feb 27)
6	Mar 4 & 6	Licensing, Unions, and Labor Regulation (SA 5, 7; DU 6); Proposal Due (Mar 6)
7	Mar 11 & 13	Labor Force Participation and Unemployment (SA 10; OS 4)
8	Mar 18 & 20	Income vs. Consumption Inequality (SA 9; OS 5)
9	Mar 25 & 27	Courts and Policing (BE 6-7; SA 6); Referee Report #2 Due (Mar 27)
10	<i>Apr 1 – 5</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
11	Apr 8 & 10	Urban Planning and Redevelopment (BE 2-3, 5)
12	Apr 15 & 17	Shadow Economies (BE 11-12; RB 7; OS 6); First Draft Due & Peer Edits (Apr 17)
13	Apr 22 & 24	Public Goods (BE 4, 8, 10); Referee Report #3 Due (Apr 24)
14	Apr 29 & May 1	Health Economics (BE 9; RB 22; DU 7)
15	May 6 & 8	Afterword (BE 15; DU 8-9); Final Paper Presentations (May 8)
16	May 13	Final Paper Presentations & Last Day of Class
Final Paper Due	May 17	Final Paper Due in Canvas