

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 205, Workshop in Policy Analysis, Section 01, Spring 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
Office Location:	DMH 142
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Email:	darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Class Website:	http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-205-workshop-in-policy-analysis.html
Office Hours:	R 1:00pm – 2:30pm
Class Days/Time:	TR 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 and ECON 202 are expected.

Course Description

Survey of major areas of economic policy such as taxes, transportation, health, housing, environment, trade and education. Students prepare a written report on some topic of policy analysis and present the results to the class.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Employ the major theories and techniques prevalent in economics for analysis of government policies.
2. Write clearly and effectively, adjusting the writing style appropriately to the the context and nature of the subject.
3. Understand and utilize professional standards of the economics discipline, including publication style, formatting, reference citation, and figure permissions.
4. Develop and carry out a research paper, as well as locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.

Required Readings

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

[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. This 3-unit course satisfies the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR):

<http://www.sjsu.edu/cgs/current-students/policies/index.html>

Key Semester Dates

First Day of Class – January 23

Last Day to Drop Classes – February 4

Op Ed #1 Due – February 20

Proposal Due – February 27

NO CLASS – March 12

Op Ed #2 Due – March 19

First Draft Due – April 9

Peer Edits Workshop – April 9

Op Ed #3 Due – April 16

Final Paper Due in Canvas – May 13

Participation

Thursday classes will focus on empirical data exercises. You should bring your laptop or tablet to class each day so you are able to participate and submit your answers to questions and your log output at the end of class. These exercises will introduce students to Stata code and will facilitate the development of your research papers over the course of the semester (students may use alternative software but must still complete the exercises). There will be 8 exercises total; students should submit their work and questions on Canvas. In addition, participation credit will be assessed through discussion seminars, workshops, and quizzes.

Class Presentations

There is a list of academic, peer-reviewed articles on the class website 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 week. 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. All students are expected to read the articles for the assigned week. A complete rubric is available on Canvas.

Op-Eds

You will write three op-eds (editorials) for this class which draw on current events. *The Economist* magazine is an excellent reference for learning how to write clearly on economics, and contains both news articles and op-eds. You may also refer to op-eds in other newspapers. Each op-ed must be at least 700 words and *no more* than 850 words. They must be submitted through Canvas before class the day they are due and will be run through Turnitin. The constraint of 700 - 850 words requires that you write something, but it also requires you

to condense your thoughts to the concise point you are communicating. A complete rubric is available on Canvas. I recommend using the online, free version of Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* (<https://www.bartleby.com/141/>) as a guide.

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 13**, and should run between 14 to 16 pages of text and be a minimum of 3,000 words. The paper must be double spaced, follow Chicago Style end references, have Times New Roman font, size 12, and 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 13 to receive credit. 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. A complete rubric is available on Canvas.

Paper Proposal

In order to prepare for the final research paper, you will submit a 1-2 page proposal in Canvas by **February 27** 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. I will accept proposal resubmissions until **March 31**, at which point you will lose half-credit for the proposal if you have not earned a PASS yet.

First Draft and Peer Edits

The first draft of your paper (minimum 8 pages) is due in class on **April 9**. You also need to upload a copy to Canvas by midnight *before* class. Bring **two physical copies** of the paper to class on **April 9**. 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. A rubric is available on Canvas.

Paper Presentation

You will also give a short ten to twelve minute presentation on your research paper, which must be emailed to me by midnight before the day of your presentation. You may use a PowerPoint or a PDF file. A complete rubric is available on Canvas and the class website.

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%
Op Eds	15%
Paper Proposal	5%
First Draft & Peer Edits	15%
Paper Presentation	10%
Final Paper	30%

These grade 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 Thursday, 1:00 – 2:30pm in my office, DMH 142.

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. 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. All instances of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will be reported to Student Conduct and Ethical Development. You are expected to be familiar with the SJSU Plagiarism Tutorial & Quiz at <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>.

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 and the professor will show respect at all times for others, and will respect and refer to people using the names and personal pronouns that they share.
2. Class will begin on time and end on time. As such, students are expected to be on time.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. I primarily use Canvas for announcements 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. All final written work is automatically submitted to Turnitin. Additional materials can be found at <http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-205-workshop-in-policy-analysis.html>. Grades on Canvas do not necessarily reflect your class grade! You may request a grade check from me by email or with at least one class notice.

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 2020 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 23	Introduction to Policy Analysis (BE 1; DU 1-2)
2	Jan 28 – 30	Public Choice and Institutional Economics (OS 1)
3	Feb 4 – 6	Private, Public, and Club Goods (DU 3; OS 2)
4	Feb 11 – 13	Urban Planning and Redevelopment (BE 3, 5; DU 4)
5	Feb 18 – 20	Housing and Zoning (BE 13-14; DU 5); Op-Ed #1 Due (Feb 20)
6	Feb 25 – 27	Transportation Funding (BE 4; OS 3); Proposal Due (Feb 27)
7	Mar 3 – 5	Courts and Policing (BE 6-7; DU 6)
8	Mar 10	Prohibition Economics (DU 7; OS 4)
9	Mar 17 – 19	Health Economics (BE 8-9); Op-Ed #2 Due (Mar 19)
10	Mar 24 – 26	Labor Markets (OS 5); <i>Writing Workshop (Mar 26)</i>
11	<i>Spring Break</i>	
12	Apr 7 – 9	Public Pensions (BE 15; DU 8); First Draft & Peer Edits Workshop (Apr 9)
13	Apr 14 – 16	Taxation and Debt (OS 6); Op-Ed #3 Due (Apr 16)
14	Apr 21 – 23	Tariffs and Trade Wars (DU 9); <i>Writing Workshop (Apr 23)</i>
15	Apr 28 – 30	Final Paper Presentations
16	May 5 – 7	Final Paper Presentations & Last Day of Class
Final Paper Due	May 13	Final Paper Due in Canvas