

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics**  
**ECON 205, Workshop in Policy Analysis, Section 01, Spring 2021**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu">darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu</a>
<b>Class Website</b>	<a href="http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-205-workshop-in-policy-analysis.html">http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-205-workshop-in-policy-analysis.html</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	R 1:00-2:00pm, <a href="https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/86465264452">https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/86465264452</a>
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	R 4:30 – 5:45pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	Zoom Meetings ( <a href="https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/89974851782">https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/89974851782</a> ) and Canvas Course
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	ECON 201 and ECON 203A. This course is meant to be taken at the end of your Master's graduate coursework as a capstone class.

***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 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 Materials***

[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

Stata Software [the student version is sufficient]

***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 8  
Proposal Due – February 25  
Writing Workshop #1 – March 25  
First Draft Due – April 22  
Peer Edits Due – April 29  
Writing Workshop #2 – May 6  
Presentations Due – May 10  
Presentation Discussion – May 13  
Final Paper Due in Canvas – May 21

### *Participation*

Participation is assessed via Canvas Quizzes (75% of participation), and Writing Workshops and Presentation Discussion (25% of participation). Canvas Quizzes may be on the readings, lectures, or other class material. Writing Workshops facilitate the development of the final paper; active participation is required to be eligible for credit. Presentations are discussed below. Make sure you have your Canvas notifications turned on!

### *Data Exercises*

Part of each week's class will focus on empirical data exercises. You will need to use Stata to complete these exercises so you are able to participate in the exercise and group discussion. When you complete the exercise, you will submit your analysis log at the end of class along with your answers to the exercise questions in Canvas. These exercises will introduce students to helpful coding practices in Stata and will facilitate the development of your research papers over the course of the semester. There will be 10 exercises in total. Students are encouraged to turn cameras on in order to facilitate the group interaction component of the exercise. Active participation during the synchronous class portion is required to be eligible for credit. Students who do not respond during class exercises may be removed from the Zoom call. Students must use the name which appears in their official Canvas profile in their Zoom profile in order to match credit for participation in the exercise. I recommend students upgrade their Zoom to the most recent version.

### *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 21**, and should run between 14 to 16 pages of text.

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 in Canvas by May 21 to receive credit. In addition to the text of your paper, you must include the analysis output or analysis log used to generate your results (e.g. Excel, R, Python, Stata, etc) with your submission. The assignment will be graded using the rubric on Canvas for each component.

Students should be aware that the final paper in ECON 205 serves as one of the culminating experiences in our M.A. program, and builds on the skills developed in ECON 203A as well as other classes. Students may wish to develop a research portfolio by substantially revising their ECON 203a or other course paper, or pursuing a topic that is related to another course paper. As a capstone paper, your final paper for ECON 205 must meet a higher quality threshold than all other term papers in the Economics Masters programs. Your ECON 205 paper must be entirely original, or a *substantial revision* of your previously submitted writing and analysis. Cases of substantial revision must first be approved by me before proceeding; cases which are not approved may be automatically flagged as self-plagiarism by Turnitin. In approved cases of substantial revision, students may reuse certain aspects of their prior research, such as data, references, etc.

### ***Paper Proposal***

In order to prepare for the final research paper, you will submit a 1-2 page proposal in Canvas by **February 25** stating the research question and hypothesis, data sources, methods, and seven economic journal citations you plan to use (refer to the template on Canvas). 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 25**, at which point you will lose half-credit for the proposal if you have not earned a PASS yet.

*Covid-19 Note: I encourage students to choose a paper topic unrelated to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. There may be a strong temptation at the start of the semester to write on this topic, but by the end of the semester you may feel burned out or under more stress than you are at the start of the semester. There are countless other subjects that fall under the policy analysis umbrella; I suggest you take the chance to focus on something new and interesting!*

### ***First Draft and Peer Edits***

The first draft of your first draft (minimum 8 pages of text, double spaced) is due in Canvas on **April 22**. You will then conduct peer edits using the final paper rubric and submit your comments through Canvas. Failure to provide a draft for someone else to grade and failure to provide peer edits will result in zero credit. You will be graded separately on the quality of the peer edits you provide to your classmate's first draft. Peer edit comments are due in Canvas on **April 29**.

### ***Paper Presentation***

You will also give a short 15 minute presentation on your research paper, which is due in Canvas Studio by **May 10**. You should use presentation slides and the assignment will be graded using a rubric on Canvas. A complete rubric is available on Canvas and the class website. After presentations are uploaded, you should watch the presentations uploaded by other students and give feedback in small groups in class on **May 13**.

## Grading Information

### *Determination of Grades*

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

Category	Weight
Participation	15%
Data Exercises	20%
Paper Proposal	10%
First Draft & Peer Edits	10%
Paper Presentation	10%
Final Paper	35%

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](mailto:darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu). My office hours are on Zoom from Thursday, 1:00-2:00pm or by appointment.

### *Academic Honesty*

The Department of Economics takes academic honesty very seriously and follows the policies posted online at <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf>. It is the responsibility of all students to read and understand what constitutes a violation of academic honesty. Claims of ignorance cannot be used to justify dishonest behaviors. Any student caught engaging in activities which violate the University academic honesty policy will receive zero credit for the course instrument(s) which violates the academic honesty policy, and up to a semester grade of "F" for this course. Faculty are required to report cheating, plagiarism and all instances of academic misconduct (including self-plagiarism) to the Office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development and to the Chair of the Department of Economics who tracks violations. All students must also complete or retake the SJSU Plagiarism Tutorial & Quiz at <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism> by the second week of the semester.

### *Disability Notice*

Please contact me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability. Presidential Directive 97-03 at [https://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](https://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center at <https://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

## ***Responsibilities***

This syllabus outlines both my and your responsibilities in this class. To prove to me that you have read this syllabus thoroughly, send me an email by **February 3** with a movie you enjoy in the subject line. (For example, if I were to complete this assignment, I would send myself a message with a subject line reading, perhaps, “Star Wars” or “The Terminator”). In the body of your email, list five important pieces of information you have gleaned from reading this syllabus. This earns you 1 extra point on your final paper.

## ***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 and students are expected to be on time.
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 two business days, but I will not open email attachments from non-SJSU emails.
4. Students must submit all work through Canvas. All final written work is automatically submitted to Turnitin. Cumulative grades on Canvas do not reflect your class grade. You may request a grade check from me and we can schedule an individual office hour appointment over Zoom to discuss your grade. I cannot send grades over email.
5. Pursuant to California law and University policy (S12-7) <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, this syllabus notifies students that all office hours over Zoom will be recorded. Recordings will only be used in compliance with SJSU policy on academic disputes or in compliance with state and federal law.
6. Students are not permitted to share any class recordings or class material with someone who is not enrolled in the class or without permission. The recordings and class material are protected by instructor copyright.

## **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 2021 Course Schedule & Readings

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 scholarly articles associated with each module posted here

(<http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-205-workshop-in-policy-analysis.html>).

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 28	Course Foundations (DU 1)
2	Feb 4	Introduction to Policy Analysis (BE 1; DU 2)
3	Feb 11	Public Choice and Institutional Economics (OS 1; DU 3)
4	Feb 18	Urban Planning (BE 3; OS 2)
5	Feb 25	Housing and Zoning (BE 13-14); <b>Proposal Due (Feb 25)</b>
6	Mar 4	Transportation (BE 4; DU 4)
7	Mar 11	Labor Markets (DU 5; OS 3)
8	Mar 18	Health Economics (BE 9; DU 6; OS 4)
9	Mar 25	<i>Writing Workshop</i>
10	<i>Spring Break</i>	
11	Apr 8	Tariffs and Trade Wars (BE 15)
12	Apr 15	Public Finance (DU 7; OS 5)
13	Apr 22	Courts and Prisons (BE 6-7; DU 8); <b>First Draft Due (Apr 22)</b>
14	Apr 29	Prohibition (DU 9; OS 6); <b>Peer Edits Due (Apr 29)</b>
15	May 6	<i>Writing Workshop</i>
16	May 13	<b>Presentations Due (May 10)</b> ; Presentation Discussion (May 13)
Final Paper Due	May 21	<b>Final Paper Due in Canvas</b>

## ECON 205-01 / Workshop in Policy Analysis, Spring 2021 Coding Schedule

Week	Date	Topic
1	Jan 28	Exercise #0: Stata Set-up ( <i>No Assignment</i> )
2	Feb 4	Exercise #1: Review of Basic Coding Tools
3	Feb 11	Exercise #2: Checking the Data
4	Feb 18	Exercise #3: Combing Data and Graphs Part 1
5	Feb 25	Exercise #4: Regression 101
6	Mar 4	Exercise #5: String Variables
7	Mar 11	Exercise #6: Reshaping Data
8	Mar 18	Exercise #7: Concatenate and Graphs Part 2
9	Mar 25	<i>No Exercise</i>
10		<i>Spring Break</i>
11	Apr 8	Exercise #8: Generating Maps
12	Apr 15	<i>No Exercise</i>
13	Apr 22	Exercise #9: Confidence Intervals and Graphs Part 3
14	Apr 29	Exercise #10: Margins and Residuals
15	May 6	<i>No Exercise</i>
16	May 13	<i>No Exercise</i>