

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 251, Seminar in Labor Economics, Section 01, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
Email:	darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	By appointment over Zoom
Class Days/Time:	Asynchronous Class
Classroom:	Canvas
Class Website:	http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-251-labor-economics.html
Prerequisites:	Previous education in economics is helpful but not essential. Students are also expected to have a basic understanding of calculus and statistics.

Course Description

Analysis of labor markets, utilizing economic theory and empirical techniques with applications to public policy. Topics include: investment in human capital; employee compensation issues; compensating wages; discrimination; unions; and institutions. Students will be expected to complete exercises, two exams, a project proposal, peer edits, and complete original final research project related to labor economics.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Have a deeper understanding of labor market concepts.
2. Be able to apply economic analysis to puzzles in labor economics.
3. Work with and analyze datasets for statistical analysis.
4. Develop a research project on a topic related to labor economics.

Required Texts/Readings

[EH] Ronald Ehrenberg and Robert Smith, *Modern Labor Economics* (13th edition). ISBN 9780133462784.
[BO] Wayne C. Booth, *The Craft of Research* (4th edition). ISBN 978-0226239736.
[MC] Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing* (2nd edition). ISBN 9781577660637
Articles and handouts posted on the class website.

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 – August 19

Last Day to Drop Classes – August 31
Literature Review #1 – September 25
Exam #1 – October 2
Project Proposal Due – September 25
Literature Review #2 – October 30
Last Chance for Proposals – November 1
First Draft Due – November 16
Peer Edits Due – November 23
Literature Review #3 – November 23
Exam #2 – December 4
Last Day of Class – December 7
Final Project Due – December 16

Class Teams

Online classes can be isolating since we are not sharing a single classroom together. Class teams are a way for students to meet and workshop exercises, work on homework questions, troubleshoot your research projects, and get to know each other. Teams must check in together during at once each month (beginning in September) for at least 15 minutes to discuss general questions, an exercise, or homework. Recordings must be uploaded by the end of the month in Canvas. Further details are listed on Canvas.

Participation

Participation will be assessed at random intervals through the semester. Participation is assessed via Canvas Quizzes, weekly Discussions, and Class Team recordings. Each component represents one-third of the total participation grade. Canvas Quizzes may be on the readings, lectures, or other class material. Students must reply to each weekly prompt on Canvas Discussions, and reply to at least two other students' comments that week. If you perform at least 1% better than the class average for participation, I will add 1% to your final weighted score (e.g. if you earned 8% out of the possible 10%, you would then have a recorded 9%). Make sure you have your Canvas notifications turned on!

Exercises

Exercises are listed in Canvas and can be completed in your class teams over Zoom, but you must submit your work individually. Exercises cover applications in labor economics and work is counted as part of Participation. Instructions will be given for each exercise on Canvas.

Literature Reviews

The semester is broken into three sections: Framework; Search and Mobility; and Barriers to Entry (and Exit). Students will submit a literature review for each section based on the scholarly articles (required reading) listed on the class website. The literature review must cover at least two modules in the section and students must include and discuss two additional scholarly articles per section of the review, e.g. if you have a section on wage determination, cite and discuss two additional articles on that subject. The literature review must be 1-2 pages 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). References at the end of the document do not count to page length. Work will be automatically submitted to Turnitin.

Exams

There will be two exams in this course on Canvas under Canvas Quizzes. If a student must miss an exam, this should be discussed with me at least one week ahead of time. In the event of an emergency, students should email me immediately and provide documentation ASAP. Please note that if a student misses an exam and I have not accepted a student's excuse, a grade of "0" will be given. If the absence is excused, the weight of the missing exam will be distributed across the remaining course material.

Final Project

As part of this course, each student will propose and submit a *research* project on a subject related to labor economics. This project consists of three components: a 25-30 minute presentation recorded in Canvas Studio or with Zoom; presentation slides; and a 1-2 page executive summary which accompanies the presentation. The presentation represents 2/3 of your final project grade; the executive summary represents 1/3 of your final project grade. The executive summary 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 should not appear in this document. In addition to the text of your executive summary, you must include the analysis output file used to generate your results (Excel, R, Python, Stata, etc) with your submission. All three components must be submitted to Canvas by **December 16**, the day of the university scheduled final exam, to receive credit. The assignment will be graded using the rubric on Canvas for each component. There are assignments along the semester which will guide you through this process, detailed below. Further details are listed in Canvas.

Research Project Topic

In order to prepare for the final project proposal, you will submit a *specific* research question in Canvas Discussions by **September 14** stating the research topic you intend to focus on. Each student must choose a separate topic! If you do not submit your topic on time, you will automatically lose half-credit for the project proposal. You do not have to wait until the due date (and I recommend you don't!) to submit this topic. I will then give feedback before your proposals are due. Further details are listed on Canvas.

Covid-19 Note: I encourage students to choose a project 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 labor economics umbrella; I suggest you take the chance to focus on something new and interesting!

Project Proposal

In order to prepare for the final project, you will submit a 1-2 page proposal in Canvas by **September 25** stating the research question and hypothesis, data sources, methods, and seven economic journal citations you plan to use (refer to the template under Canvas Files). 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 Booth and McCloskey particularly helpful when writing the proposal and executive summary for the final project. I will accept proposal resubmissions until **November 1**, 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 executive summary (minimum 1 page of text, double spaced) is due in Canvas on **November 16**. You will then conduct peer edits using the executive summary 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 summary. Peer edit comments are due in Canvas on **November 23**. Further details are listed on Canvas.

Course Component	Student Work	Instructor Engagement
Regular 2 units (9 h/wk)	Readings, Exams, Final Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare class activities• Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback
Activity 1 unit (3 h/wk)	Exercises, Proposal, First Draft, Peer Edits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan and lead proposal workshop including an introduction to data collection• Plan and lead exercises• Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

These weights are fixed - improvement in other categories will not raise your grades elsewhere except as stated otherwise. Late work will not be accepted. The final grade in the course will be based on the following weights:

Category	Weight
Participation	15%
Literature Reviews	15%
Exams	20%
Project Proposal	10%
First Draft & Peer Edits	10%
Final Project	30%

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 darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu. My office hours are by appointment over Zoom. 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. Any student caught engaging in activities which violate the honor code as written by the University 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. 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 contact me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability. 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.
2. 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 accept email attachments from non-SJSU emails.
3. Students must submit all work through Canvas. All final written work is automatically submitted to Turnitin. Additional class materials can be found at <http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-141-law-and-economics.html>
4. 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. Students are required to record class team meetings for documentation, but cameras do not need to be turned on so long as other documentation of team interaction exists.
6. Students will not be 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's 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](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these policies and resources.

ECON 251-01 / Seminar in Labor Economics, Fall 2020 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-251-labor-economics.html>).

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	August 19	Introduction and Online Class Prep (EH 1 – 2)
FRAMEWORK		
2	August 24	Demand and Elasticity (EH 3 – 4)
3	August 31	Frictions and Firm Decisions (EH 5)
4	September 7	Supply and the Decision to Work (EH 6 – 7)
5	September 14	Wage Determination (EH 11)
6	September 21	Compensating Differentials (EH 8); <i>Literature Review #1 Due (September 25)</i>
7	September 28	Exam Review; Exam #1 (October 2)
SEARCH AND MOBILITY		
8	October 5	Human Capital and Signaling (EH 9)
9	October 12	Unemployment & Search Theory (EH 14)
10	October 19	Mobility and Migration (EH 10)
11	October 26	Immigration and Trade (EH 16); <i>Literature Review #2 Due (October 30)</i>
BARRIERS TO ENTRY (AND EXIT)		
12	November 2	Labor Market Regulations (EH 13)
13	November 9	Discrimination (EH 12)
14	November 16	Health Insurance (Articles Only); <i>First Draft Due (November 16) & Peer Edits</i>
15	November 23	<i>Literature Review #3 Due (November 23); Thanksgiving Break</i>
16	November 30	Exam Review; Exam #2 (December 4)
17	December 7	Last Day of Class
Final Project Due	December 16	Final Project Due in Canvas