

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 251, Labor Economics, Section 01, Spring 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwynn Deyo
Email:	darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Class Website:	http://www.darwynndeyo.com/econ-251-labor-economics.html
Office Hours:	T 3:30-5:30pm
Class Days/Time:	T (in person) 12:00 – 1:15pm; R (online) 12:00 – 1:15pm
Campus Classroom:	DMH 161
Prerequisites:	Graduate standing or instructor consent.

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 homework, one midterm, a paper proposal, peer edits, a paper presentation and an original final research paper related to labor markets.

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 paper on a topic related to labor economics.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

[EH] Ronald G. Ehrenberg, *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 – January 27

Last Day to Drop Classes – February 7

Homework Dates – February 15; March 8; April 12; and May 3

Paper Proposal Due – March 10

First Draft Due – April 21

Peer Edits Due – April 28

Exam #1 – March 17

Exam #2 – May 12

Last Day of In Person Class – May 10

Final Paper Due – May 24

Class Structure

ECON 251 follows a hybrid class format ([Mode 6](#)), which means that when the university permits in-person classes, we will meet in-person in DMH 161 on Tuesdays from 1:30 – 2:45pm and synchronously online on Thursdays from 12:00 – 1:15pm. When the university requires all classes to be online, we will meet using the Zoom link listed at the top of the syllabus, in Canvas.

In general, we will not meet online most Thursdays. However, this a real meeting time and all exams take place during this time slot. We will also meet during this time on January 27. You should not schedule other appointments during this time.

Participation

Participation will be assessed at random intervals through the semester via quizzes and other class workshops, equally weighted. Quizzes may be on the readings, lectures, or other class material. If you perform at least 1% better than the class average for participation, I will add 1 percentage point to your final weighted score (e.g., if you earned 8% out of the possible 15%, you would then have a recorded 9%). Make sure you have your Canvas notifications turned on!

Homework

There will be four homework assignments during the semester to be presented in class. You may work on the homework assignments together. Homework questions will be posted on Canvas one week before they are due. Late homework will not be accepted, *including late arrival to class*. Students who decline to present a homework question will receive zero credit for the assignment.

Exams

There will be two midterm exams in this course on Canvas under Canvas Quizzes which will prepare you for a comp exam format. **Make sure you have Respondus LockDown browser set up!** 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. Note that the graduate comprehensive exam takes place on the first Friday in May and the second exam has been scheduled with this in mind.

Final Paper

As part of this course, each student will propose and submit a *research* paper on a subject related to labor economics. The final paper is due in Canvas on the day of the university scheduled final exam, **May 24**, and should run between 10 to 12 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 to Canvas by the final exam date 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. The assignment will be graded using a rubric on Canvas. There are assignments along the semester which will guide you through this process, detailed below.

In order to prepare for the final research paper, you will submit a 1–2-page proposal in Canvas by **March 10** stating the research question and hypothesis, data sources, methods, and seven economic journal citations you plan to use (use the template under Canvas Files). 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. The proposal credit is included with your grade for final paper. You may find McCloskey and Booth particularly helpful when writing the proposal and final paper.

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 law and economics umbrella; I suggest you take the chance to focus on something new and interesting!

First Draft and Peer Edits

The first draft of your paper (minimum 7 pages of text) is due in Canvas on **April 21**. You will then conduct peer edits in class using the final paper rubric and submit your final comments through Canvas. Failure to provide a draft for someone else to grade and/or failure to provide peer edits will result in zero credit. Final peer edit comments are due in Canvas on **April 28**. Further details will be discussed in class.

Course Component	Student Work	Instructor Engagement
Regular 2 units (9 h/wk)	Readings, Homework, Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare class activities• Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback
Activity 1 unit (3 h/wk)	Presentation, Exams	<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	CLOs Assessed	Weight
Participation	CLO 1, 2	15%
Homework	CLO 1, 2, 3	20%
Exams	CLO 1, 2	20%
First Draft	CLO 3, 4	10%
Peer Edits	CLO 3, 4	5%
Final Paper	CLO 1, 2	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 darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu. My office hours are on Zoom, Tuesdays from 3:30 – 5:30pm, 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 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.

Religious Accommodations

Please contact me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a religious holiday. University Policy S14-7 at <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf> requires that students requesting accommodations must inform me in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify me, in writing, at least three days before the date that they will be absent.

Responsibilities

This syllabus outlines both my and your responsibilities in this class. To prove to me that you have read this hefty syllabus thoroughly, send me an email by **February 8** with your favorite fictional vacation spot in the subject line. (For example, if I were to complete this assignment, I would send myself a message with a subject line reading “Atlantis”). In the body of your email, list five important pieces of information you have gleaned from reading this syllabus. This earns you 2 extra points on your final exam.

Other Class Policies

1. Students and the professor will show respect for others at all times and will refer to people using the names and personal pronouns that they share.
2. Class will begin on time and end on time. 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 course-related emails 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.
5. Cumulative grades on Canvas do *not* reflect your class grade. You may request a grade check from me during class with at least two business days’ notice. I cannot send grades over email due to FERPA 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 251-01 / Labor Economics, Spring 2022 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 articles associated with each topic posted here (<http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-251-labor-economics.html>).

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 27	Online Review (EH 1-2)
2	Feb 1	Demand & Elasticity (EH 3-4)
3	Feb 8	Supply (EH 5-6)
4	Feb 15	HW #1 (February 15)
5	Feb 22	Wage Determination and Controls (EH 11, Handouts)
6	Mar 1	Compensating Differentials (EH 8)
7	Mar 8	HW #2 (March 8); Proposal Due (March 10)
8	Mar 15	Exam Review; Exam #1 (March 17)
9	Mar 22	Human Capital & Signaling (EH 9, Handouts)
10	<i>Spring Break (March 28 – April 1)</i>	
11	Apr 5	Unemployment & Search Theory (EH 14, Handouts)
12	Apr 12	HW #3 (April 12)
13	Apr 19	Market Barriers (EH 12-13, Handouts); First Drafts Due (April 21)
14	Apr 26	Mobility & Immigration (EH 10, Handouts); Peer Edits Due (April 28)
15	May 3	HW #4 (May 3)
16	May 10	Exam Review; Exam #2 (May 12)
Final Paper Due	May 24	Final Papers Due in Canvas