

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 241, Seminar in Law and Economics, Section 01, Fall 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
Office Location:	DMH 142
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Email:	darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	TR 12:00 – 1:00pm
Class Days/Time:	TR 4:30 – 5:45pm
Classroom:	DMH 166
Prerequisites:	Previous education in economics and business law helpful, but not essential.

Course Description

Examines the economic effects of legal institutions, existing and proposed, and economic analysis applied to the law. Evaluation of the interactions between legal and economic principles and introduction to standard topics such as property rights, contracts, liability, and torts. Includes case studies, a proposal, research paper and oral presentation.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

1. Have a deeper understanding of the law and economics literature.
2. Be able to apply economic analysis to proposed and existing legal rulemaking.
3. Work with and analyze datasets for statistical analysis.
4. Develop a research paper on a topic related to law and economics.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

[SH] Steve Shavell, *Foundations of Economic Analysis of Law* (4th edition). ISBN 9780674011557.

Other Readings

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

[GR] Stephen A. Greenlaw, *Doing Economics* (6th edition). ISBN 9780618379835.

Articles and handouts posted on Canvas

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 21
Last Day to Drop Classes – August 31
Homework #1 – September 20
Homework #2 – October 4
Paper Proposal Due – October 4
Midterm – October 11
Referee Reports Due - October 18
Homework #3 – November 8
First Paper Draft Due – November 1
Peer Edits Due – November 15
Homework #4 – November 29
Last Day of Class – December 6
Final Paper Due – December 13

Homework Assignments

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.

Midterm

There will be one midterm in this course. If a student must miss the 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. Students should bring Green Books for the exam. Calculators are not permitted.

Referee Report

As part of this course, you will write a referee report on one of the articles posted in Canvas *or* an article which is part of your literature review for your paper, due **October 18**. We will discuss how to write a referee report in class beforehand. The report should be 2 pages of text, double spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12, 1 inch margins in a Word Document (.doc or .docx).

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 and to Turnitin on the day of the university scheduled final exam, **December 13**, and should run between 8 to 10 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 and to Turnitin by **December 13** to receive credit.

Paper Proposal

In order to prepare for the final paper, you will submit a 1 page proposal to me by **October 4** stating the research question and hypothesis, data sources, methods, and five 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 to me. The proposal operates on a PASS/FAIL basis. You may find McCloskey and Greenlaw particularly helpful when writing the proposal and final paper.

First Draft and Peer Edits

The first draft of your paper (minimum 5 pages) is due in class on **November 1**. You need to email me a copy to me and your peer edits partner by midnight *before* class so they have time to give you comments before peer edits are due (**November 15**). It is your responsibility to make sure your peer edits partner has a copy of your paper *and* that you have a paper to work on. Peer edits partners will be posted on Canvas one week beforehand. If you do not have a paper for peer edits, you must alert me by the end of class on **November 1**. I strongly suggest using the final paper rubric when conducting your peer review.

Paper Presentation

You will also give a short fifteen minute presentation on your paper, which must be emailed to me by midnight before the day of your presentation.

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

This course must be passed with a C or better as an SJSU graduation requirement. 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
Homework	CLO 1, 2, 3	10%
Midterm	CLO 1, 2	20%
Referee Report	CLO 1, 2	15%
Paper Proposal	CLO 3, 4	5%
First Draft	CLO 3, 4	10%
Peer Edits	CLO 4	5%
Paper Presentation	CLO 4	10%
Final Paper	CLO 3, 4	25%

Grading Scale

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

Classroom Protocol

Office Hours

The best way to contact me is by email at darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu. My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00 – 1:00pm 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. 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.

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. If you are using a laptop or tablet, I also require that you sit in the front two rows of the class.
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 Turnitin.

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 241-01 / Seminar in Law and Economics, Fall 2018 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	Aug 21 – 23	Introduction and Empirical Review (SH 1)
2	Aug 28 – 30	Economic Efficiency & Property Rights (SH 2-3, 7; MC 1-3; GR 1-2)
3	Sep 4 – 6	Property Rights, cont'd (SH 4-5; MC 4-6; GR 3-4)
4	Sep 11 - 13	Externalities and the Coase Theorem (SH 6-7; MC 7-9; GR 5-6); NO CLASS (Sep 13)
5	Sep 18 – 20	Contracts (SH 13-16; MC 10-12; GR 7-8); HW #1 (Sep 20)
6	Sep 25 – 27	Applications – Coase Theorem (MC 13-15; GR 9-10); Proposal Workshop (Sep 27)
7	Oct 2 – 4	Regulatory Takings (Handouts; GR 11-12); Proposal Due & HW #2 (Oct 4)
8	Oct 9 – 11	Midterm Review & Midterm (October 11)
9	Oct 16 – 18	Law & Legislation (MC 16-18); Writing Workshop & Referee Reports Due (Oct 18)
10	Oct 23 – 25	Strict Liability and Negligence (SH 8-10; MC 19-22)
11	Oct 30 – Nov 1	Limited and Unlimited Liability (SH 11-12; MC 23-25); First Draft Due (Nov 1)
12	Nov 6 – 8	Torts & Courts (SH 17-18; MC 26-28); HW #3 (Nov 8)
13	Nov 13 – 15	Crime...and Punishment (SH 20-24; MC 29-31); Peer Edits Due (Nov 15)
14	Nov 20	Writing Workshop (Nov 20); Thanksgiving (Nov 22)
15	Nov 27 – 29	Forfeiture and Licensing (Handouts); HW #4 (Nov 29)
16	Dec 4 - 6	Writing Workshop (Dec 4); Presentations (Dec 6)
Final Paper Due	Dec 13	Submitted on Canvas with Turnitin