San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 141, Law and Economics, Section 01, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwyyn Deyo
Office Location:	DMH 142
Email:	darwyyn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Class Website:	http://www.darwyyndeyo.com/econ-141-law-and-economics.html
Office Hours:	R 1:00 - 3:00pm
Office Hours Link:	https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84667700448
Class Days/Time:	M 4:00 - 5:15pm
Classroom:	DMH 161
Prerequisites:	ECON 1B; ECON 3 or BUS2 90 or SOCI/SOCS 15 or STAT 95; and ECON 100W.

Course Description

Students in this course will examine the economic effects of legal institutions, existing and proposed, and apply economic analysis to the law. The course will teach students to evaluate the interactions between legal and economic principles and introduce students to standard topics such as property rights, contracts, liability, and torts. Students will be expected to complete homework, two exams, a paper proposal, peer edits, and an original final research paper related to law and economics.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

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 an impact study on a topic related to law and economics.

Required Readings

[CO] Robert D. Cooter and Thomas Ulen, *Law and Economics* (6th edition). ISBN 978-0132540650.
[FR] David Friedman, *Law's Order*, ISBN 9780691090092.
Articles and handouts posted on the class website

Note that the Cooter and Ulen text is available free online as a PDF from UC Berkeley: https://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/books/2/. It is also included in Canvas Files.

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 – August 23
Last Day to Drop Classes – August 31
Proposals Due – October 1
Exam #1 – October 18
First Drafts Due – November 5
Peer Edits Due – November 12
Exam #2 – December 6
Final Paper Due in Canvas – December 8

Participation

Participation will be assessed at random intervals through the semester. Participation is assessed via Canvas Quizzes and Exercises, equally weighted. Canvas Quizzes may be on the readings, lectures, or other class material. **Make sure you have Respondus LockDown browser set up!** 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 15%, you would then have a recorded 9%). Make sure you have your Canvas notifications turned on!

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, *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 exams in this course on Canvas under Canvas Quizzes. **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.

Final Paper

As part of this course, each student will propose and submit a *research* paper on a subject related to law and economics. The final paper is due in Canvas on the day of the university scheduled final exam, **December 8**, and should run between 8 to 10 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 **December 8** 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 **October 1** stating the research question and hypothesis, data sources, methods, and five 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.

In order to prepare for the final paper proposal, you will submit a *specific* research question in Canvas Discussions by **September 13** 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 paper 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 paper topic <u>unrelated</u> 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 5 pages of text) is due in Canvas on **November 5**. 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/or failure to provide peer edits will result in zero credit. Peer edit comments are due in Canvas on **November 12**. Further details are listed on Canvas.

Course Component	Student Work	Instructor Engagement
Regular 3 units (9 h/wk)	Readings, Homework, Exams, Final Paper	• Prepare online activities • Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback
Activity 1 unit (3 h/wk)	Exercises, Proposal, First Draft, Peer Edits	• Plan and lead stats workshop including an introduction to data collection • Plan and lead class exercises • Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback

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	Weight
Participation	15%
Homework	20%
Exams	20%
First Draft	10%
Peer Edits	5%
Final Paper	30%

These 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 darwyyn.deyo@sjsu.edu. My office hours are on Thursdays from 1:00-3:00pm in the Zoom office hours link.

Academic Honesty

The Department of Economics takes academic honestly 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 **August 30** with your favorite movie in the subject line. (For example, if I were to complete this assignment, I would send myself a message with a subject line reading "The Empire Strikes Back"). 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 impact study.

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 at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/ Make sure to review these policies and resources.

ECON 141-01 / Law and Economics, Fall 2021 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 listed for each week, students should read the articles associated with each topic posted on the class website:
http://www.darwyyndeyo.com/econ-141-law-and-economics.html

Course Schedule

Module	Class Day	Topics and Readings
1	August 23	Law and Legislation (CO 1)
2	August 30	Economic Efficiency and Utility Theory (CO 2-3; FR 1-2)
3	September 6	Property Rights and Takings (CO 4; FR 10-11)
4	September 13	**Homework Day**; *HW #1 and Research Topics Due (September 13)*
5	September 20	Externalities and Transaction Costs (CO 5; FR 3-5)
6	September 27	**Librarian Visit**; *Exercise #1 and Proposals Due (October 1)*
7	October 4	Contracts and Breach (CO 8; FR 12)
8	October 11	**Homework Day and Exam Review**; *HW #2 Due (October 11)*
9	October 18	**Exam #1** (October 18)
10	October 25	Product Liability (CO 6; FR 14)
11	November 1	Torts and Public Health; *Exercise #2 and First Drafts Due (November 5)*
12	November 8	**Homework Day**; *HW #3 Due (November 8); Peer Edits Due (November 12)*
13	November 15	The Economics of Crime… (CO 12; FR 9, 15)
14	November 22	…and Punishment (CO 13; FR 18-19)
15	November 29	**Homework Day and Exam Review**; *HW #4 Due (November 29)*
16	December 6	**Exam #2** (December 6)
Final Paper Due	December 8	**Final Paper Due in Canvas**