

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 251, Seminar in Labor Economics, Section 01, Fall 2024

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
Email:	darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Class Website:	http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-251-labor-economics.html
Office Hours:	M 3:00-5:00pm, by appointment, at https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84667700448
Class Days/Time:	TR 4:30 – 5:45pm
Campus Classroom:	DMH 166
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 public sector labor markets. Students will be expected to complete quizzes and other class exercises, homework, seminars, one midterm exam, and a final exam.

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.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

[EH] Ronald G. Ehrenberg and Robert Smith, *Modern Labor Economics* (13th edition). ISBN 9780133462784. 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 22

Last Day to Drop Classes – September 17

Midterm – October 10

Final Exam – December 17, 2:45-5:00pm

Participation

Participation will be assessed at random intervals through the semester via quizzes and other class exercises, equally weighted. Quizzes may be on the readings, lectures, or other class material.

Class Seminars

Students will participate in four Socratic seminars discussing the assigned journal articles. Student engagement and familiarity with the journal articles will be evaluated as outlined on Canvas. The seminar format has a long tradition in educational institutions and I will provide more resources and guidance on the format during class. The seminar is not a debate with two debaters taking sides. Instead, students engage in the thoughtful interrogation of ideas in a group dialogue. You should have the journal articles and notes with you for seminar discussion.

Homework

There will be four homework assignments during the semester; these will 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 one midterm exam and one final exam 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.

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	10%
Homework	20%
Seminars	20%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	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, Mondays from 3:00 – 5:00pm, by appointment. Students should email me ahead of time to confirm an appointment during office hours. The Zoom link is: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84667700448>

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 that violate the University academic honesty policy will receive zero credit for the course instrument(s) that violates the academic honesty policy, and up to a semester grade of “F” for this course. Students are not permitted to use unapproved aids to complete their work for them. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, ChatGPT, Grammarly, predictive Google text, Microsoft Copilot, and other AI writing aids. You should check with the professor regarding whether an aid is approved. This policy does not apply to aids covered through the Accessible Education Center (AEC). 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 **September 5** with your favorite fictional character in the

subject line. (For example, if I were to complete this assignment, I would send myself a message with a subject line reading “Luke Skywalker”). 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. 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. I will not open email attachments from non-SJSU emails.
3. Students must submit all work through Canvas. All final written work is automatically submitted to Turnitin.
4. 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 federal U.S. FERPA law.

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 / Labor Economics, Fall 2024 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	Class Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 22	Introduction and Empirical Overview (EH 1-2)
2	Aug 27 - 29	Demand and Elasticity (EH 3-4)
3	Sep 3 - 5	Supply (EH 5-6)
4	Sep 10 - 12	HW #1 (Sept 10); No Class (Sept 12)
5	Sep 17 - 19	Seminar #1 (Sept 17); Wage Determination (EH 11)
6	Sep 24 - 26	Compensating Differentials & Wage Controls (EH 8)
7	Oct 1 - 3	HW #2 (Oct 1); Seminar #2 (Oct 3)
8	Oct 8 - 10	Exam Review (Oct 8); Midterm (Oct 10)
9	Oct 15 - 17	Unemployment & Job Search (EH 14)
10	Oct 22 - 24	Human Capital & Signaling (EH 9)
11	Oct 29 - 31	Unions & Credentialing (EH 13)
12	Nov 5 - 7	HW #3 (Nov 5); Seminar #3 (Nov 7)
13	Nov 12 - 14	Immigration and Mobility (EH 10)
14	Nov 19 - 21	Discrimination (EH 12); No Class (Nov 21)
15	Nov 26 - 28	HW#4 (Nov 26); Thanksgiving (Nov 28)
16	Dec 3 - 5	Exam Review (Dec 3); Seminar #4 (Dec 5)
Final Exam	Dec 17, 2:45-5:00pm	Final Exam