

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics**  
**ECON 200, Seminar in Law and Economics, Section 01, Fall 2017**

**Course and Contact Information**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
<b>Office Location:</b>	DMH 142
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<b>Office Hours:</b>	TR 3:30pm – 5:00pm
<b>Class Days/Time:</b>	T 6:30 – 9:15pm
<b>Classroom:</b>	DMH 358
<b>Prerequisites:</b>	Previous education in economics and business law helpful, but not essential.

***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 a midterm, three case studies, a paper proposal, an original final research paper related to law and economics, and to present their findings to the class.

***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.

***Required Readings***

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

[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

***Recommended Readings***

[AN] Terry L. Anderson and Peter J. Hill, *The Not So Wild Wild West* (4th edition). ISBN 9780804748544.

[DI] Avinash K. Dixit, *Lawlessness and Economics* (4th edition). ISBN 9780691130347.

[SK] David Skarbek, *The Social Order of the Underworld* (1st edition). ISBN 9780199328505.

# Course Requirements and Assignments

## *Key Semester Dates*

First Day of Classes – August 29  
Last Day to Drop Classes – September 6  
First Case Study Due – September 26  
Midterm – October 17  
Second Case Study Due – October 24  
Paper Proposal Due – October 31  
Third Case Study Due – November 21  
Last Day of Classes – December 5  
Paper Presentation – December 5  
Final Paper Due – December 19

## *Participation*

As classes will be divided between lecture and discussion, students must participate and contribute to the seminar discussion each week.

## *Case Studies*

Students will submit three short written analyses on one of the cases we discuss. These analyses should run between 2 to 3 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12, 1 inch margins. In these case studies, you will describe a court case, evaluate it on the grounds of economic efficiency, and either defend or critique the court decision using sound economic reasoning. You should treat these analyses as if they were reports you were delivering to a politician or business which asked you to evaluate the economic efficiency of a case. I will provide a rubric and suggested cases for you to choose from for each writing assignment. A digital copy of your assignment must be emailed to me at darwyyn.deyo@sjsu.edu by midnight Monday before class on Tuesday and submitted to Turnitin. It is your responsibility to ensure that the digital copy gets to me. If you do not turn in your assignment on Tuesday and your digital copy fails to open in my email, you will receive zero credit for that week's assignment.

## *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 Blue Books for the exam.

## *Paper Proposal and 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 on the day of the university scheduled final exam, **December 19** and should run between 8 to 10 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12, 1 inch margins. You can write on any subject you choose, as long as it relates to law and economics. In order to prepare for the final paper, you will submit a 1 page proposal to me by **October 31** stating the research question and hypothesis, data sources, methods, and 5 citations you plan to use. I will then approve this proposal or require adjustments before you proceed. You do not have to wait until October 31 (and I recommend you don't!) to submit this proposal to me.

The proposal and final paper both operate on a PASS/FAIL basis. You should aim to submit the final paper to me before the December 19 deadline and I will return it to you with comments. Once you have addressed all my comments, you will receive a PASS grade. You cannot pass the class until you receive a PASS on the final paper, and until then you will have an INCOMPLETE for the class. You may find McCloskey and Greenlaw particularly helpful when writing the proposal and final paper. I will not accept first round drafts after the December 19 deadline and excuses about computer failure, etc. will not be accepted as you can submit your final paper to me at any time after your proposal is approved. If you wait until December 19 to submit your paper for first round reviews, you will have an INCOMPLETE grade for the class until your revisions are complete. However, if you submit your first draft to me before the Thanksgiving holiday (November 23), you will receive a 5% grade bump on your final course grade. After you receive final approval on your paper revisions, submit that final draft to Turnitin.

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 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

## **Grading Information**

### *Determination of Grades*

The final grade in the course will be based on the following weights:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Participation	10%
Case Studies	15%
Midterm	25%
Paper Proposal	5%
Paper Presentation	5%
Final Paper	40%

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: 95-100 A-: 90-94

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 [darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu](mailto:darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu). My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30 – 5:00pm in my office, DMH 142, or by appointment on Wednesday.

### *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](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 reply to non-SJSU emails or 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/>

## ECON 200-01 / Seminar in Law and Economics, Fall 2017 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 29	Introduction and Empirical Review (SH 1)
2	Sep 5	Property Rights (SH 2-3, 7; MC 1-3; GR 1-2)
3	Sep 12	The Commons and Anticommons (SH 4-5; MC 4-6; GR 3-4)
4	Sep 19	Regulatory Takings (Handouts; MC 7-9; GR 5-6)
5	Sep 26	Externalities and the Coase Theorem (SH 6-7; MC 10-12; GR 7-8)
6	Oct 3	Applications – Coase Theorem (MC 13-15; GR 9-10)
7	Oct 10	Applications – Coase Theorem, cont'd (GR 11-12)
8	Oct 17	<b>Midterm</b>
9	Oct 24	Contract Theory (SH 13-16; MC 16-18)
10	Oct 31	Strict Liability and Negligence (SH 8-10; MC 19-22)
11	Nov 7	Limited and Unlimited Liability (SH 11-12; MC 23-25)
12	Nov 14	Torts & Liability (SH 17-18; MC 26-28)
13	Nov 21	Deterrence and Criminal Behavior (SH 20-24; SK)
14	Nov 28	Law vs. Legislation (DI; MC 29-31)
15	Dec 5	<b>Final Paper Presentations</b>