

**San José State University**  
**College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics**  
**ECON 100W, Writing Workshop: Economic Reports, Section 03, Fall 2018**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
Office Location:	DMH 142
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Office Hours:	TR 12:00 – 1:00pm
Class Days/Time:	TR 4:30 – 5:45pm
Classroom:	DMH 166
Prerequisites:	A3 or equivalent second semester composition course (with a grade of C- or better); completion of core GE, satisfaction of Writing Skills Test and upper division standing.

**Course Description**

Writing skills appropriate to majors in economics of lucid expression in essays, reports and other types of communication.

**Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Develop editing, writing, and presentation skills,
2. Apply critical thinking and analysis to current economic issues,
3. Utilize the economic way of thinking in both quantitative and qualitative writing,
4. Learn how to propose, write, and edit a research paper.

**Required Materials**

[SK] Sarah E. Skwire and David Skwire, *Writing with a Thesis: A Rhetoric and a Reader* (12th edition). ISBN 9781133951438.

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

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

Subscription to TheEconomist.com

Mendeley Reference Software *or* Zotero Reference Software (both free)

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  
Op-Ed #1 Due – September 11  
Paper Proposal Due – October 2  
Op-Ed #2 Due – October 11  
First Peer Edits Workshop – November 1  
Op-Ed #3 Due – November 8  
Second Peer Edits Workshop – November 29  
Writing Journal Due – December 6  
Last Day of Class – December 6  
Final Paper Due – December 13

### ***In Class Writing Journal***

Each class will start with 10 minutes of writing time. You may use a laptop or a handwritten notebook for this exercise. These exercises will comprise your semester-long Writing Journal, which must have at least 14 entries of about 250 words. These entries must focus on economics *or* the economic way of thinking, e.g. you can apply economics to everyday life. The point of the assignment is to get you comfortable with writing. I will check off your work at the end of each exercise, which operates as Complete/Not Complete. For reference, the paragraphs below describing the final paper and paper proposal are together about 200 words. You are free to write longer entries. The journal is due *in class* on the last day of class, **December 6**.

### ***In Class Exercises***

Each class will end with about 20 minutes of in-class exercises on writing (Tuesdays) or using data (Thursdays). You should bring your laptop or tablet to class each day so you are able to participate. I will check off your participation at the end of class, which operates as Complete/Not Complete and is reflected in the Participation component of your grade.

### ***Op-Eds***

You will write three op-eds (editorials) for this class which draw on current events. *The Economist* magazine is an excellent reference for learning how to write clearly on economics, and contains both news articles and op-eds. You may also refer to op-eds in other newspapers. Each op-ed must be at least 500 words and *no more* than 700 words. They must be submitted through Canvas before class the day they are due. The constraint of 500-700 words requires that you write something, but it also requires you to condense your thoughts to the concise point you are communicating. Op-eds will be graded using a distributed rubric. I recommend using the online, free version of Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* (<https://www.bartleby.com/141/>).

### ***Final Paper***

As part of this course, each student will propose and submit a *research* paper on a subject covered in this class. 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 5 to 6 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. The final paper will be graded using a distributed rubric.

***Paper Proposal***

In order to prepare for the final paper, you will submit a 1-2 page proposal in Canvas by **October 2** 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. The proposal operates on a PASS/FAIL basis.

***Peer Edits***

The first draft of your paper (minimum 2 pages) is due in class on **November 1**. The second draft of your paper (minimum 4 pages) is due in class on **November 29**. We will then conduct in-class peer review edits and discussion of your drafts using the final paper rubric with which you will be graded. It is your responsibility to make sure you bring *two* copies of your paper to class. Failure to *provide* a draft will result in zero credit for that peer edit round. You will be graded on the quality of the peer edits you provide to your classmate's paper.

***Paper Presentation***

You will also give a short ten minute presentation on your paper, which must be emailed to me by midnight before the day of your presentation. You may use a PowerPoint or a PDF file.

***Extra Credit: Cover Letters***

For extra credit, you can pick one op-ed to submit to *The Mercury News* or another local newspaper of your choice. Be sure to include me on the final email when you submit the op-ed! You will include a cover letter in the body of the email to the editor of the editorial section, which you will have drafted for my review and comments beforehand. Extra credit counts as 5 extra points on your final paper. You *must* notify me that you want to submit an op-ed for extra credit by **November 29**. Requests made after that date will not be eligible for extra credit.

Course Component	Student Work	Instructor Engagement
<b>Regular 3 units (9 h/wk)</b>	Readings, Writing Assignments, Op-Eds, Presentation, Final Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class contact hours</li> <li>• Prepare in-class activities</li> <li>• Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback</li> </ul>
<b>Activity 1 unit (3 h/wk)</b>	Exercises, Workshops, Proposals, Peer Edits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and lead proposal workshop including an introduction to data collection</li> <li>• Plan and lead writing workshops</li> <li>• Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback</li> </ul>

## 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
Writing Journal	CLO 1, 2, 3	20%
Op-Eds	CLO 1, 2, 3	20%
Participation	CLO 2	10%
Paper Proposal	CLO 4	5%
Peer Edits	CLO 1, 4	10%
Paper Presentation	CLO 1, 2	10%
Final Paper	CLO 1, 2, 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 [darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu](mailto:darwynn.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](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.
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.
5. I strongly discourage the use of corrective writing aids such as Grammarly. You will not learn to write by having someone else correct your writing mid-stream. The best way to learn how to write is to write quite a bit. It's a truism that your first million words of writing are practice, and while that may seem like a daunting figure you should consider how much you've already written. Many students struggle at first because they think their writing should look like someone else's, which is not true. The McCloskey book will teach you the basic principles of writing but your primary goal is *clarity* rather than *style*. You *should*, however, always run spell-check on your work.

### **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 100W-03 / Writing Workshop: Economic Reports, 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 readings for each week, students should read the handouts associated with each week posted on Canvas. Each module topic will provide a launching point for writing and statistics exercises.

### Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 21 – 23	Introduction and Micro Review (SK 1; MC 1-3)
2	Aug 28 – 30	Module: Incentives (SK 2; MC 4-6; GR 1-2)
3	Sep 4 – 6	Module: The Price System (SK 3; MC 7-9; GR 3-4)
4	Sep 11 – 13	Module: Gains from Trade & <b>Op-Ed #1 Due (Sep 11)</b> ; NO CLASS (Sep 13)
5	Sep 18 – 20	<i>Writing Workshop (Sep 18)</i> ; Module: Economic Efficiency (SK 4;
6	Sep 25 – 27	Module: Property Rights (SK 5; MC 10-12; GR 5-7)
7	Oct 2 – 4	<b>Proposals Due (Oct 2)</b> ; Module: Criminal Behavior (SK 6); Librarian Visit (Oct 4)
8	Oct 9 – 11	<i>Writing Workshop (Oct 9)</i> ; Module: Liability & <b>Op-Ed #2 Due (Oct 11)</b>
9	Oct 16 – 18	Module: Health Care (SK 7; MC 13-14; GR 8-10)
10	Oct 23 – 25	Module: Market Barriers (SK 8; MC 15-18; GR 11-12)
11	Oct 30 – Nov 1	Module: Human Capital; <b>First Draft Due &amp; Peer Edits Workshop (Nov 1)</b>
12	Nov 6 – 8	Module: Immigration & <b>Op-Ed #3 Due (Nov 8)</b> (SK 9; MC 19-23)
13	Nov 13 – 15	Module: Unemployment (SK 10; MC 24-28)
14	Nov 20	<i>Writing Workshop (Nov 20)</i> ; Thanksgiving (Nov 22)
15	Nov 27 – 29	Module: International Trade; <b>Second Draft Due &amp; Peer Edits (Nov 29)</b>
16	Dec 4 – 6	Presentations; <b>Writing Journal Due In Class (Dec 6)</b>
Final Paper Due	Dec 13	Submitted on Canvas with Turnitin