

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 141, Law and Economics, Section 01, Spring 2018

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
Office Location:	DMH 142
Telephone:	(408) 924-5413
Email:	darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	R 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Class Days/Time:	TR 3:00 – 4:15pm
Classroom:	DMH 358
Prerequisites:	Previous education in economics is helpful but not essential. Students are also expected to have a basic understanding of calculus and statistics.

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, a paper presentation 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.

Required Readings

[PO] A. Mitchell Polinsky, *An Introduction to Law and Economics* (4th edition). ISBN 9780735584488.
[FR] David Friedman, *Law's Order*, ISBN 9780691090092.
[MC] Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing* (2nd edition). ISBN 9781577660637.
Articles and handouts posted on Canvas

Recommended Readings

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

Course Requirements and Assignments

Key Semester Dates

First Day of Classes – January 25
Last Day to Drop Classes – February 5
Homework #1 – February 8
Homework #2 – February 22
Exam #1 – March 1
Final Paper Proposal Due – March 6
Homework #3 – March 22
Spring Break – March 26 - 30
First Paper Draft Due – April 5
Peer Edits Due – April 12
Homework #4 – April 19
Exam #2 – April 26
Last Day of Classes – May 10
Paper Presentations – May 10
Final Paper Due – May 17
Final Paper Due to Turnitin – May 17

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.

Exams

There will be two exams in this course. 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. Students should bring a scantron for the exam. Calculators are not permitted.

Paper Proposal, Final Paper, and Presentation

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 to me by email and to Turnitin on the day of the university scheduled final exam, **May 17**, 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. In order to prepare for the final paper, you will submit a 1 page proposal to me by **March 6** stating the research question and hypothesis, data sources, methods, and five citations you plan to use (Canvas Template). I will then approve this proposal or require adjustments before you proceed. You do not have to wait until March 1 (and I recommend you don't!) to submit this proposal to me. The proposal operates on a PASS/FAIL basis. The first draft of your paper (minimum 5 pages) is due in class on **April 5**. You need to email me a copy to me and your peer edits partner *before* class so they have time to give you comments before peer edits are due the week after. It is *your responsibility* to both 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 the week before. If you do not have a paper for peer edits by the deadline, you must alert me on April 5. You may find McCloskey and Greenlaw particularly helpful when writing the proposal and final paper.

You will also give a short ten minute presentation on your paper on the last day of class. Your paper must be submitted to me and to Turnitin by May 17 to receive credit.

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

This course must be passed with a C or better as an SJSU graduation requirement. The final grade in the course will be based on the following weights:

Category	Weight
Homework	20%
First Exam	15%
Second Exam	20%
Paper Proposal	5%
First Draft	10%
Peer Edits	5%
Paper Presentation	5%
Final Paper	20%

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. My office hours are Thursday, 12:00 – 2:00pm 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. *Note that if your final paper is submitted from a non-SJSU email I will not accept it.*
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 141-01 / Law and Economics, Spring 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	Jan 25	Introduction (PO 1; FR 1-2)
2	Jan 30 & Feb 1	Economic Efficiency (PO 2) & Property Rights (FR 5, 10)
3	Feb 6 & 8	Property Rights & The Coase Theorem (PO 3; FR 4, 11); HW #1 (Feb 8)
4	Feb 13 & 15	Breach of Contract and Risk (PO 5, 7-8; FR 6, 12)
5	Feb 20 & 22	Nuisance Law and Accidents (PO 4, 6, 9); HW #2 (Feb 22)
6	Feb 27 & Mar 1	Exam Review; Exam #1 (Mar 1)
7	Mar 6 & 8	Proposal Due (Mar 6) ; Regulation and Regulatory Takings (PO 17; FR 3)
8	Mar 13 & 15	Law and Legislation (FR 17, 19) & Product Liability (PO 14-15)
9	Mar 20 & 22	Writing Workshop; HW #3 (Mar 22)
10	Mar 27 & 29	<i>Spring Break</i>
11	Apr 3 & 5	Torts and Courts (PO 16; FR 7, 14, 16); First Draft Due (April 5)
12	April 10 & 12	The Economics of Crime (FR 9, 15, 18); Peer Edits Due (April 12)
13	April 17 & 19	...and Punishment (PO 10-11; FR 8); HW #4 (April 19)
14	April 24 & 26	Exam Review; Exam #2 (April 26)
15	May 1 & 3	Writing Workshop; Final Paper Presentations
16	May 8 & 10	Final Paper Presentations