

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 241, Seminar in Law and Economics, Section 01, Fall 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
Office Location:	DMH 142
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Email:	darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	R 1:00pm – 2:30pm and by appointment
Class Days/Time:	TR 4:30 – 5:45pm
Classroom:	DMH 166
Prerequisites:	Previous education in economics and business law helpful, but not essential.

Course Description

Examines the economic effects of legal institutions, existing and proposed, and economic analysis applied to the law. Evaluation of the interactions between legal and economic principles and introduction to standard topics such as property rights, contracts, liability, and torts. Includes case studies, exams, a research proposal, research project, and an oral presentation.

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 a research project on a topic related to law and economics.

Required Readings

[SH] Steve Shavell, *Foundations of Economic Analysis of Law* (4th edition). ISBN 9780674011557.
Articles and handouts posted on Canvas

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 22
Last Day to Drop Classes – September 3
Case Study #1 Due – September 19
Proposal Due – October 1
Exam #1 – October 10
Case Study #2 Due – October 24
Final Proposal Attempt Deadline – October 31
Case Study #3 Due – November 21
Exam #2 – November 26
Final Project Due in Canvas – December 17

Participation

Participation will be assessed at random intervals through the semester. Participation is assessed via pop quizzes on the reading, project workshop participation, and other participation activities.

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 you were asked to evaluate the economic efficiency of a case. A full rubric is provided along with suggested cases for you to choose from for each writing assignment. Case studies must be uploaded to Canvas in a Word Document (.doc or .docx).

Exams

There will be two exams in this course which will prepare you for a comp exam format. 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 Blue Book for the exam. Calculators are not permitted.

Final Project

As part of this course, each student will propose and submit a *research* project on a subject related to law and economics. The completed final project, in presentation format, is due in Canvas on the day of the university scheduled final exam, **December 17**. You may use a PowerPoint (.ppt) or a PDF (.pdf) file. A full rubric is provided. In addition to the presentation slides, you must include the analysis output file used to generate your results (Excel, R, Python, Stata, etc) with your submission.

Project Proposal

In order to prepare for the final project, you will submit a 1-2 page proposal in Canvas by **October 1** (refer to the 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. You may find Booth and McCloskey particularly helpful when writing the proposal and final project. I will accept proposal resubmissions until **October 31**, at which point you will lose half-credit for the proposal if you have not earned a PASS yet.

Project Presentation

You will present a brief fifteen minute version of your final project at the end of the semester. The presentation must be emailed to me by midnight before the day of your presentation. Failure to do so will lead to a loss of points on the presentation. You should not attempt to present all your final project slides in this assignment, but rather present a briefer version of the overall project. You may use a PowerPoint or a PDF file. A full rubric is provided.

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

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

Category	Weight
Participation	15%
Case Studies	15%
Exams	20%
Project Proposal	10%
Project Presentation	15%
Final Project	25%

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 darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu. My office hours are Thursday, 1:00 – 2:30pm 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.
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 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. All final written work is automatically submitted to Turnitin. Additional materials can be found at <http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-241-law-and-economics.html>.
5. Grades on Canvas do not necessarily reflect your class grade! You may request a grade check from me by email or with at least one class notice.

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 241-01 / Seminar in Law and Economics, Fall 2019 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 here (<http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-241-law-and-economics.html>).

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 22	Introduction and Empirical Review (SH 1)
2	Aug 26 – 29	Economic Efficiency & Property Rights (SH 2-3)
3	Sep 3 – 5	Property Rights, cont'd (SH 4-5)
4	Sep 10 - 12	Externalities and the Coase Theorem (SH 6-7)
5	Sep 17 – 19	Contracts (SH 13-16); Case Study #1 (Sep 19)
6	Sep 24 – 26	Applications – Coase Theorem (Handouts); Project Workshop (Sep 26)
7	Oct 1 – 3	Regulatory Takings & Law vs. Legislation (Handouts); Proposal Due (Oct 1)
8	Oct 8 – 10	Exam Review & Exam #1 (October 10)
9	Oct 15 – 17	Liability and Negligence (SH 8-9); Project Workshop (October 17)
10	Oct 22 – 24	Liability and Negligence (SH 10-11) & Case Study #2 (Oct 24)
11	Oct 29 – 31	Limited and Unlimited Liability (SH 12)
12	Nov 5 – 7	Torts and Courts (SH 17-18)
13	Nov 12 – 14	Crime...and Punishment (SH 20-24)
14	Nov 19 – 21	Forfeiture and Licensing (Handouts); Exam Review & Case Study #3 (Nov 21)
15	Nov 26	Exam #2 (Nov 26) ; Thanksgiving (Nov 28)
16	Dec 3 – 5	Project Presentations
Final Paper Due	Dec 17	Submitted on Canvas