

**San José State University**  
**Economics Department**  
**ECON 191, Economic Thought of Nobel Prize Winners, Fall 2022**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Dr. Triya Seshadri
Office Location:	Online through Zoom meetings.
Email:	Email from Canvas Inbox
Office Hours:	MW 11am-12pm by appointment
Class Days/Time:	MW 12pm-1:15pm
Classroom:	Zoom, TBA
Prerequisites:	ECON 101, ECON 102, ECON 100W, and ECON 103A, or instructor consent.
Library Liaison:	Ms.Christa Bailey

Messaging through Canvas:

If you have any questions or concerns about the content or the course, the best way to communicate with me is through **Canvas**. While I do respond to all student questions as soon as I am able, please be patient since I am not constantly checking my emails.

**Please contact me only through Canvas**. I regularly get more than 50 emails in my college id Inbox and have no way of filtering student emails. Therefore, your important question may get lost in the sea of other emails I receive. If you email me through Canvas, I can see it as soon as I open Canvas, which I do multiple times a day.

Announcements:

Sometimes if multiple students have the same question, I will make an Announcement on Canvas rather than send individual replies to emails. So, please check the Course Announcements periodically, especially if you have sent me an email and did not receive a response.

Time to Respond:

Please give me at least 24 hours to respond to your emails (48 during the weekend). If you waited a day for my response (2 days if it is the weekend) and I did not reply, please resend the email.

How Often?:

**I normally send students two Canvas messages during the week.** One on Monday and one on Friday. Monday emails will have a list of topics we will cover that week, and Friday emails will be a reminder of assignments due the following Monday.

I will email you more often during the first two weeks of class to help you get used to Canvas.

## Things to Note:

1. Once the Canvas course is published (around August 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022), I will communicate exclusively through Canvas messages or Announcements.
2. Please read the syllabus carefully and completely. Most student questions are answered here. If not, email me through Canvas and I will answer your question.
3. Please make sure your email address is accurate and you check at least twice a week for messages from me. You can add my email address to your contact list so that it does not get filtered as Spam.

## Course Description:

Exploration of lectures and essays related to economics Nobel Prize Winners since 1969. Topics include market theory, information theory, game theory, macroeconomic models, and new developments. Students submit weekly questions, three papers, and a presentation on a Nobel Prize winner.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply ideas in Nobel economic thought to contemporary issues,
2. Employ qualitative writing and discussion skills,
3. Design and write thought papers connecting major developments within Nobel economic thought.

## Required Materials

- Nobel Prize Lectures posted on Canvas
- [ME] Stefanie Haeffele-Balch (ed.), Virgil Henry Storr (ed.), Peter J. Boettke (ed.). *Mainline Economics: Six Nobel Lectures in the Tradition of Adam Smith*. ISBN 9781942951278.
- [EW] Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing* (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition). ISBN 9781577660637. (*Highly Recommended*)

Other Articles, handouts and videos 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 practical. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

\*This translates to about 11 hours each week for this course.

## Time Commitment, Reading and Writing Expectations in Econ 191

This is an upper division seminar course. To get As or Bs you need to: read the assigned articles carefully, ask critical-thought questions, and come prepared for classroom discussions.

Each week, you will read two Nobel lectures (about 40-50 pages total). It will take you about 3-4 hours to read each paper carefully. This includes taking notes, writing thoughtful summaries, questioning the assumptions, and thinking critically through the ideas.

We will meet every other week for a classroom discussion. You can choose to be on campus or join us through Zoom. If you are on zoom, please ensure that your video is on and you are fully engaged during class time. You need to actively participate in discussions. You will be graded on your preparation and participation.

Please complete reading assignments before we meet. You will write three critical questions and responses to the questions based on the readings. Then, you will use these questions to participate in classroom discussions.

During the weeks we do not meet, I will post a lecture on that week's readings. You will also take a short quiz on the previous week's readings.

You will write two Thought Essays, one each on one of the big themes (Micro, Macro). This will be a critical analysis of the ideas presented by the laureates. Your thought essay can also be an application essay. For example, you can apply the ideas presented to a real-world economic event and critically analyze it.

The capstone for this course is your research paper. This can either be a synthesis of ideas in two of the three big themes (Micro, Macro, Fields), or it can be an exploration of the gap in the literature.

If you are really organized and efficient, you can spend 6-8 hours each week on this course (including class time) and complete the course with at least a B and zero stress. On the other hand, if you do put things off until the day before assignments are due, you will be unnecessarily stressed out!

I have been teaching writing courses for twelve years, and in every single semester, students who spent 20 minutes writing every single weekday scored *at least* an A-. *I know you can do it too!!*

### Important Dates for the course:

**We will do our best to follow this schedule. However, due dates may change based on lesson progress or due to unforeseen circumstances. Any changes will be communicated through Canvas emails.**

**Class Discussion dates: August 24<sup>nd</sup>, August 29<sup>th</sup>, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>, Oct 10<sup>th</sup>, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>**

Category	Date
Syllabus Quiz, Introductions Discussion	August 29 <sup>th</sup> 2022
Plagiarism Quizzes	Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> 2022 (Tuesday Due date)
Library Resources Quiz	Sept 12 <sup>th</sup> 2022
Big Theme Quiz	Sept 8 <sup>th</sup> , Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> , Oct 6 <sup>th</sup> , Oct 20 <sup>th</sup> , Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Nov 17 <sup>th</sup>
Thought Essays Due Date	Sep 19 <sup>th</sup> , Oct 24 <sup>th</sup>
Presentation	Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> , Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>
Final Paper Due Date	December 12 <sup>th</sup> 2022
Extra Credit Assignment Due dates	Sept 19 <sup>th</sup> , Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Oct 24 <sup>th</sup> , Nov 7 <sup>th</sup>

**\* This is a Tuesday due date because of the Labor day weekend.**

**All assignments are due by 9am on Mondays.**

### Course Components:

**Completion Assignments: (10% of Final grade)**

You will get a completion grade if you complete each of the following assignments on Canvas. You can redo them as many times as you want to get a full score. The only requirement is that you complete it by the due date **and** get a full score on each of them.

***Syllabus Quiz: (3%)***

As the names suggest, you need to complete a Syllabus Quiz. This is to ensure that you understand the course requirements. You need to complete these by 9am August 29<sup>th</sup> 2022.

***Introduction Discussion Board: (2%)***

You will introduce yourself on Canvas and answer a specific set of questions (written in full sentences and paragraphs). This exercise also doubles up as a practice assignment for Canvas discussions you will complete later in the semester. You need to complete this by 9am August 29<sup>th</sup> 2022.

***Plagiarism Quizzes: (3%)***

Canvas will have a series of exercises with quizzes at the end that help you understand what plagiarism is and learn how to paraphrase. You need to complete all of these exercises and quizzes by 9am Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 2022.

***Library Resources Quiz: (2%)***

Our library liaison Ms. Christa Bailey will upload an information video on how to use library resources for this course. You will utilize some of the resources she introduces in the video to complete some graded assignments for this course. Once you have watched the video, you can take a short quiz on the video. You can take it as many times as you want until you score full points. You need to complete this quiz by 9am September 12<sup>th</sup> 2022.

**Big Theme Quiz: (10% of Final Grade)**

You will complete two short quizzes for each module (Micro, Macro, Fields). These are open books, open notes. They are designed to help your critical thinking process. You can use these ideas as starting points for your Thought Essays and Research Paper.

**Classroom Discussion: (10% of Final Grade)**

On class meeting dates, we will have a guided discussion on the readings. You will be graded on the quality of your participation on discussion days. Each of you will have a chance to lead the discussion in the classroom. To lead a discussion, you need to come prepared with a list of thoughtful questions on the assigned readings.

**Critical Analysis: (20% of Final Grade)**

Every other week, you will submit two critical analysis questions and answers based on the week's readings. These will help you lead the classroom discussion. These questions are not informational. They are meant to help you explore the readings and topics in depth. These questions and your answers to them will also help you write your Thought Essays and your Final Research Paper. The latter two can be longer explorations of your Critical Analysis questions.

**Thought Essays: (20% of Final Grade)**

You will complete two Thought Essays. In these essays you will critically explore ideas from the readings in Micro and Macro themes. These are not meant to be summaries or synthesis of the laureates' ideas. This is

your opportunity to explore these themes in depth. You can try to find gaps in their arguments, question their assumptions or apply the ideas (in a novel way) to a current or historical economic event.

### **Presentation (10% of Final grade)**

Each of you will prepare a short 10 minute presentation on a Economics Nobel Laureate of your choice (one whom we did not cover in class). You need to summarize the ideas for which they won the Nobel and some interesting fact about them. To prepare for this you need to meet with me by November 14<sup>th</sup> so we can identify resources you can use.

### **Final Paper (20% of Final grade)**

Each student will complete a research paper synthesizing the ideas from two of the three big themes in the course. Your final paper can also be an exploration of a gap in the literature. Most students develop their Final research paper from either the Critical Analysis or Thought Essay questions. The paper can either be a theoretical exploration or an empirical analysis of the topic. Each student will schedule a meeting with me in early November to discuss their final paper ideas. I will post a sign-up sheet on Canvas.

The Final Paper is due by **9am on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 2022**. All Final papers should be at least 2500 words, approximately 9-10 pages (not longer than 12 pages excluding tables/charts etc.) double-spaced, Times New Roman Font size 12 with 1-inch margins. The paper should be submitted on Canvas and on Turnitin by the due date and time. **If your Turnitin similarity score is 10% or higher you need to revise and resubmit your paper.**

### **Extra Credit (up to 2% of grade)**

You have an option to bank extra grades and use them as an Extra Credit option. You can complete a peer-review of a classmate's Critical Analysis assignment or Thought Essay. I will have an example and a rubric for Peer-Reviews on Canvas. You can submit up to two peer reviews of each category and can earn up to half a point for each. This can give you up to 2% in extra credit points. Individual Extra Credit Assignments are unfair to shy students who do not ask for them. Therefore, any extra credit option will be available to all students in the course.

### **Late Submissions:**

Please plan for due dates early and submit assignments on time. I know several of you have jobs and families to support. There are significant demands on your time and my time outside of class. I have scheduled grading time when I am not disturbed by my family. When you submit assignments on time, I will be able to give you timely feedback to maximize your learning.

However, I understand that sometimes life events get in the way. Many assignments will remain open until 9pm Monday night. Late submissions will be assessed a 2% penalty. However, if *at the end of the semester*, you have **five or fewer late submissions**, I will waive the late submission penalty. This rule applies only to assignments that are submitted during the late submission grace period.

### **Participation:**

Please note the class meeting dates. Any other meetings will be announced at least a week in advance. *Please email me and let me know if you have any conflict and I will make arrangements to accommodate you.*

Successful students usually follow the weekly course schedule and complete all or most assignments on time. They also engage with the professor during office hours and other scheduled interactive sessions and through emails.

## Lecture Videos:

All weekly lessons will become available on Fridays, in the form of recorded lectures on the Canvas Course page.

## Some Examples of Valid Reasons to request due date extensions:

1. If you are sick and unable to complete an assignment, you need to email me immediately, please do not wait till the day the assignment is due.
2. If you have been sick for more than three weeks, please email me so we can draw up a plan to help you complete the course on an alternate schedule or Withdraw.
3. Caring for a family member. If your family member (children, parents, grandparents, in-laws) need medical attention (doctor's appointments, etc.) and you are caring for them.
4. You were in an accident.
5. Jury Summons and subsequent jury duty attendance sheet.
6. Other court mandated presence (for example: incarceration) that requires you missing school for several days in a row.

## Grading Information

### Determination of Grades

These weights are fixed - improvement in other categories will not raise your grades elsewhere. The final grade in the course will be based on the following weights:

Category	Percentage of Course Grade
Syllabus quiz and other completion quizzes	10%
Big Theme quizzes	10%
Discussion Lead	10%
Critical Analysis	20%
Thought Essays	20%
Presentation	10%
Final Paper	20%
Extra Credit Peer Reviews	Up to 2%

\*You get full credit for these assignments if you submit (with adequate effort) on time.

### Grading Scale:

Grade	Percentage
A plus	97 to 100%
A	94 to 96%
A minus	90 to 93%
B plus	87 to 89 %
B	84 to 86%
B minus	80 to 83%
C plus	77 to 79%
C	74 to 76%
C minus	70 to 73%
D	60 to 69%
F	Less than 60%

## 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 which violate the University academic honesty policy will receive zero credit for the assignment which violates the academic honesty policy, and up to a semester grade of "F" for this course. 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.

**All Written work for the course has to be students' original work. If you use a paper writing service and/or purchase papers written by someone else it is a violation of Academic Integrity. If you cut and paste from online sources, and/or use sources without appropriate references it is a violation of Academic Integrity.**

## 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. I am not qualified to evaluate and determine special learning requirements. Therefore, all academic accommodation requests need to be officially processed by AEC.

## Attendance:

While attendance is not mandatory, in my experience, successful students are present (physically and mentally) and participate in all class activities. Multi-tasking when you are listening to recorded lectures will not help you learn from this course. If you are organized and complete weekly tasks on schedule you will be successful.

Email me (through Canvas) anytime you have a question or concern. I welcome student emails and respond to them as soon as I see them.

## Online Class Etiquette:

1. All course communication **has to be through Canvas Inbox.**
2. I will usually reply within 24 hours except during weekends and holidays.
3. I will use Canvas messages and announcements frequently.
4. I will report all disruptive behavior, and students will be removed from the classroom if they are not respectful.

## 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 191, Economic Thought of Nobel Prize Winners, Fall 2022 Course Schedule

**Please Click on Syllabus or Calendar on Canvas to see due dates for all assignments.**

*Any changes to this schedule will be communicated through Canvas.*