

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 141, Law and Economics, Section 01, Spring 2026

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwynn Deyo
Office Location:	DMH 142
Email:	darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Class Website:	http://www.darwynndeyo.com/econ-141-law-and-economics.html
Office Hours:	M 3:00 - 5:00pm, by appointment
Office Hours Link:	https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84667700448
Class Days/Time:	M 6:00 - 8:45pm
Classroom:	DMH 162
Prerequisites:	ECON 1A or ECON 1B; ECON 3 or BUS2 90 or SOCI 15/SOCS 15 or STAT 95; and, ECON 100W.

Course Description

Examines the economic effects of legal institutions, existing and proposed, and application of economic analysis 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.

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. Analyze and present concepts and findings in law and economics.

Required Readings

[CO] Robert D. Cooter and Thomas Ulen, *Law and Economics* (6th edition). ISBN 978-0132540650.
Articles and handouts posted on the class website

The Cooter and Ulen text is available free online as a PDF from UC Berkeley:
<https://lawcat.berkeley.edu/record/1127400?v=pdf#files>

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 – January 26
Last Day to Drop Classes – February 17
Homework #1 Due – February 16
Homework #2 Due – March 9
Midterm Exam – March 16
Homework #3 Due – April 20
Homework #4 Due – May 11
Final Exam – May 18

Understanding Track I and Track II Grading Options

This semester, ECON 141 shares class space with the graduate (Masters) version of the course, ECON 241. The graduate version of the course includes a weekly seminar. ECON 141 students are not required to participate in weekly seminars, but may choose to join these seminars for course credit. This course therefore offers two grading track options to ECON 141 students. ECON 141 students are by default placed on Track I Grading, which includes the homework assignments, weekly questions on Canvas, the midterm exam, and final exam. ECON 141 students may *instead* move to Track II Grading, which includes all the assignments in Track I Grading but adds seminar participation and the assignment weight for homework is adjusted accordingly. Seminars are generally fun and interesting, and provide students with good preparation for graduate school and law school. However, they require active participation each week and require students to read journal articles in addition to the primary course reading material. ECON 141 students must notify me in writing by email that they want to move to Track II Grading by **February 3** (after the first seminar) in order to switch to Track II Grading.

Homework Assignments

There will be four homework assignments during the semester which students will present 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, including late arrival to class. Students who decline to present a homework question will receive zero credit for the assignment.

Weekly Questions

Students will submit two thoughtful questions on each week's readings ahead of class. Students may not use AI to generate their questions; the point of the exercise is to develop your original thoughts on the material. Questions must reflect the readings for that week and are due in Canvas Discussions before class.

Seminar Participation (Track II Grading Only)

Socratic seminars will take place at the end of class each week, during which active student participation will be evaluated and graded. The seminar format has a long traditional in educational institutions and I will provide more resources and guidance on the format during class. The seminar is not a debate with two debaters taking

sides. Instead, it is a group dialogue where students engage in thoughtful interrogation of ideas. You should have your readings and notes with you for seminar discussion. Active participation during the seminar is required to be eligible for credit.

Midterm Exam

There will be one midterm exam in this course, completed in class using a standardized '[Green Book](#)'. Green Books may be purchased from the SJSU bookstore or other academic retailers. Students are responsible for bringing their own Green Books to the exam and the exam must be completed using a Green Book. 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.

Final Exam

Students will complete a final exam at the end of this semester. The final exam will also be completed in class using a standardized '[Green Book](#)'. Green Books may be purchased from the SJSU bookstore or other academic retailers. Students are responsible for bringing their own Green Books to the exam, and exams must be completed using a Green Book.

Course Component	Student Work	Instructor Engagement
Regular 3 units (9 h/wk)	Readings, Homework, Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare activities • Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback
Activity 1 unit (3 h/wk)	Weekly Questions, Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and moderate class seminars • Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback

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. ECON 141 students are placed in Track I grading by default. Students must notify me in writing by email that they want to move to Track II Grading by **February 3** (after the first seminar) in order to switch to Track II Grading. Final grades in the course will be based on the following weights:

Track I Grading (Default Track):

Category	Weight
Weekly Questions	10%
Homework	40%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

Track II Grading (Opt-in Only):

Category	Weight
Weekly Questions	10%
Seminars	20%
Homework	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%

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 darwynn.deyo@sjsu.edu. My office hours are on Zoom, Mondays from 3:00 – 5:00pm, by appointment. Students should email me ahead of time to confirm an appointment during office hours. The Zoom link is: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84667700448>

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 that violate the University academic honesty policy will receive zero credit for the course instrument(s) that violates the academic honesty policy, and up to a semester grade of “F” for this course. Students are not permitted to use unapproved aids to complete their work for them. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, ChatGPT, Grammarly, predictive Google text, Microsoft Copilot, and other AI writing aids. You should check with the professor regarding whether an aid is approved. This policy does not apply to aids covered through the Accessible Education Center (AEC). 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.

Disability Notice

Please contact me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability. Presidential Directive 97-03 at https://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center at <https://www.sjsu.edu/aec/> to establish a record of their disability.

Religious Accommodations

Please contact me as soon as possible if you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a religious holiday. University Policy S14-7 at <https://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf> requires that students requesting accommodations must inform me in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify me, in writing, at least three days before the date that they will be absent.

Responsibilities

This syllabus outlines both my and your responsibilities in this class. To prove to me that you have read this syllabus thoroughly, send me an email by **February 3** with your favorite movie in the subject line. (For example, if I were to complete this assignment, I would send myself a message with a subject line reading “The Empire Strikes Back”). In the body of your email, list five important pieces of information you have gleaned from reading this syllabus. This earns you 2 extra points on your final exam.

Other Class Policies

1. Students and the professor will show respect for others at all times and will refer to people using the names and pronouns that they share.
2. Class will begin on time and end on time. Students are expected to be on time. Students who are late to seminar may not receive full credit for the seminar that day.
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 course-related emails within two business days. I will not open email attachments from non-SJSU emails.
4. Students must submit all work through Canvas. All written work is automatically submitted to Turnitin.
5. Cumulative grades on Canvas do *not* reflect your class grade. You may request a grade check from me during class with at least two business days’ notice. I cannot send grades over email due to federal U.S. FERPA law.
6. Students are not permitted to share any class recordings or class material with someone who is not enrolled in the class or without permission. Recordings and class material are protected by instructor copyright. Students may not record the professor, other students, or lecture or seminar material.

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 141-01 / Law and Economics, Spring 2026 Course Schedule

In addition to the textbook readings listed for each week, students should read the supplemental material associated with each topic posted on the class website: <http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-141-law-and-economics.html> There are supplemental readings associated with every topic, even when the Cooter and Ulen textbook is not listed.

Week	Class Dates	Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines
1	Jan 26	Law and Legislation (CO 1)
2	Feb 2	Economic Efficiency and Utility Theory (CO 2-3)
3	Feb 9	Public Choice and Institutional Economics (supplemental readings only)
4	Feb 16	<i>Homework #1 Day – Due in Class</i>
5	Feb 23	Property: Rights and Custom (CO 4-5)
6	Mar 2	Social Costs and Transaction Costs (CO 10)
7	Mar 9	<i>Homework #2 Day – Due in Class – Midterm Exam Review</i>
8	Mar 16	<i>Midterm Exam</i>
9	Mar 23	Contracts and Breach (CO 8-9)
10	<i>Spring Break (March 30 – April 3)</i>	
11	Apr 6	Product Liability and Torts (CO 6-7)
12	Apr 13	No Class
13	Apr 20	<i>Homework #3 Day – Due in Class</i>
14	Apr 27	The Economics of Immigration and Mobility (supplemental readings only)
15	May 4	The Economics of Crime and Punishment (CO 12-13)
16	May 11	<i>Homework #4 Day – Due in Class – Final Exam Review</i>
Final Exam	May 18	5:30-7:30pm, DMH 162