

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 141, Law and Economics Section 01, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor : Dr. Darwyn Deyo
Office Location: DMH 142
Telephone (408) 924-5413
Email: darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: W 1:30pm ±2:30pm

Prerequisites: STAT 95 or ECON 3; 100 Previous education in economic is helpful but not essential.

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 test 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, 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.
3. Work with and analyze datasets for statistical analysis.
4. Develop a research paper on a topic related to law and economics.

Required Readings

[CO] Robert D. Cooter and Thomas Ulen, Law and Economics (6th edition). ISBN 9780132540650.
[PO] A. Mitchell Polinsky, An Introduction to Law and Economics (4th edition). ISBN 9780735584488
[FR] David Friedman, Free Market Economics (2nd edition). ISBN 9780691090092.
Articles and handouts posted on Canvas

Note that the Cooter and Ulen text is available free online as a PDF from UC Berkeley:
<https://scholarship.la.berkeley.edu/books/2/>

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) in 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 28
Last Day to Drop Classes ± February 5
Homework #1 ± February 20
Paper Topics Due ± February 20
Homework #2 ± March 6
Proposal Due ± March 6
Exam #1 ± March 13
Homework #3 ± April 10
Spring Break ± April 1 ± 5
Last Chance for Proposals ± April 8
First Draft Due ± April 17
Peer Edits/Workshop ± April 17
Homework #4 ± April 24
Exam #2 ± May 1
Last Day of Classes ± May 13
Final Paper Due in Canvas ± May 20

Participation

Participation will be assessed at random intervals throughout the semester. Participation is assessed via quizzes on the reading, class activities, workshops, and other participation-based activities at my discretion. If you perform at least 1% better than the class average on participation, I will add 1% to your final weighted score (e.g. if you earned 8% out of the possible 10%, you would then have a recorded 9%).

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, including late arrival to class. Students who decline to present a homework question will receive zero credit for the assignment.

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 the exam will cover material from the following list: W, A, L, I, D, V, W, X, G, H, Q, W, P, L, V, V, H, V, D, Q, H, [D, P, D, Q, G, , K, D, D, J, U, D, G, H, R, I, ^, Z, L, O, O, E, H, J, L, Y, H, Q, , I, W, K, H, D, E, V, H, Q, F, H, L, V, H, [F, X, V, H, G, W, across the remaining course material. Students should bring a scantron to the exam. Calculators are not

permitted.

Final Paper

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 on the day of the university scheduled final exam, May 20, and should run between 8 to 10 pages of text, double spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12, 1 inch margins in Word Document (.doc or .docx). Tables and references do not contribute to the page count. Your final paper must be submitted to Canvas by May 20 to receive credit. The final paper will be graded using a distributed rubric. In addition to the text of your paper, you must include the analysis output used to generate your results (Excel, R, Python, Stata, etc) with your submission.

Research Paper Topic

In order to prepare for the final paper proposal, you will submit a specific 1 paragraph summary on Canvas by February 20 stating the research topic you intend to focus on. If you do not submit your topic on time, you will automatically lose half credit for the paper proposal. You do not have to wait until the due date and I will provide feedback on your proposals as they are due.

Paper Proposal

In order to prepare for the final research paper, you will submit a 2 page proposal on Canvas by March 6 stating the research question and hypothesis, data sources, methods, and five

| Course Component | Student Work | Instructor Engagement |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Regular 3 units (9 h/wk) | Readings, Homework, Exams, Final Presentation, Final Paper | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x Class contact hours x Prepare inclass activities x Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback |
| Activity 1 unit (3 h/wk) | Workshops, Proposal, First Draft, Peer Edits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> x Plan and lead stats workshop including an introduction to data collection x Plan and lead writing workshops x Evaluate student work and provide specific and actionable feedback |

Classroom Protocol

Office Hours

The best way to contact me is by email darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu. My office hours are Wednesday 1:30 ± 2:30pm in my office, DMH 142, and by appointment. Many questions can be answered quickly over email.

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.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. I also require all students to take the SJSU Plagiarism

ECON 141-01 / Law and Economics, Spring 2019 Course Schedule

My proposed schedule for the semester follows. If it proves too ambitious, I will 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 28 & 30 | Introduction and Economic Efficiency (CO 1-2; PO 1; FR 12) |
| 2 | Feb 4 & 6 | Property Rights (CO 3-4; PO 2; FR 3-5, 10) |
| 3 | Feb 11 & 13 | Externalities and the Coase Theorem (CO 5; PO 3; FR 6 11) |
| 4 | Feb 18 & 20 | Contracts and Breach (CO 8-9; PO 5-7; FR 12; HW #1 & Paper Topics Due (Feb 20) |
| 5 | Feb 25 & 27 | Librarian Visit (Feb 25); Proposal Workshop (Feb 27) |
| 6 | Mar 4 & 6 | Product Liability (CO 10-11; PO 14 17); HW #2 & Proposal Due (Mar 6) |
| 7 | Mar 11 & 13 | Exam Review Exam #1 (Mar 13) |
| 8 | Mar 18 & 20 | Torts, Courts, and the Rational Basis Test (CO 6-7; PO 16; FR 7, 14) |
| 9 | Mar 25 & 27 | 7KH (FRQRPLFVRI & ULPEG) (CO 12-13; PO 10-11; FR 15, 18) |
| 10 | Apr 1 ±5 | Spring Break |
| 11 | Apr 8 & 10 | Writing Workshop (April 8); HW #3 (Apr 10) |
| 12 | Apr 15 & 17 | Takings (Canvas); First Draft Due & Peer Edits (Apr 17) |
| 13 | Apr 22 & 24 | Law, not Legislation |