

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of Economics
ECON 191, Economic Thought of Nobel Prize Winners, Section 01,
Spring 2024

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Dr. Darwyn Deyo
Email:	darwyn.deyo@sjsu.edu
Class Website:	http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-191-nobel-economics.html
Office Hours:	M 3:00-5:00pm, https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84667700448
Class Days/Time:	Tuesday and Thursday, 3:00 – 4:15pm
Campus Classroom:	DMH 166
Prerequisites:	ECON 101, ECON 102, ECON 100W, and ECON 103A, or instructor consent.

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.

Program Learning Objectives (PLOs)

- PLO 1 Microeconomic Theory:** Students will learn about ideas in microeconomic theory including markets and price theory, asymmetric information, labor markets, game theory, and consumption theory.
- PLO 2 Macroeconomic Theory:** Students will learn about ideas in macroeconomic theory including monetary theory, growth models, public finance models, and international trade.
- PLO 4 Specialist Areas:** Students will learn about ideas from major fields in economic thought including public choice, law and economics, institutional economics, development economics, behavior economics, and experimental economics.
- PLO 5 Communication:** In achieving PLO 1, PLO 2, and PLO 4, students will learn how to communicate and present ideas in economic thought using essays and class presentations.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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

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

Required Texts/Readings

Nobel Prize Lectures and Biographies [class website links]

[HB] 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

[MC] Deirdre N. McCloskey, *Economical Writing* (3rd edition). ISBN 9780226448107¹

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 25

Last Day to Drop Classes – February 19

Thought Paper #1 (Micro) – February 29

Thought Paper #2 (Macro) – March 28

Thought Paper #3 (Fields) Due – May 2

Last Day of Class – May 9

Final Presentations Due – May 21

Biographies and Prize Lectures

This course involves reading the biographies and Nobel Prize lectures of the winners for the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, along with readings from the HB book and articles. The Nobel Prize website makes the biographies and prize lectures available online (<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/>). I have also linked to the specific winners we will cover on the class website (<http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-191-nobel-economics.html>). In some cases, the prize lectures are available in video format. Students are not encouraged to watch the videos as a substitute for the written lectures. Students should have read the material for each week *before* class on Tuesday.

Class Seminars

Socratic seminars will take place during class each Thursday, 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, but you can also learn more about it on the class website. 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. Seminar participation represents a non-trivial share of your grade; you will *not* be able to pass this class for credit if you do not participate in seminars. Arriving late to the seminar will result in loss of credit for that week.

Weekly Questions

Students will submit two thoughtful questions on each week's lecture reading. The questions must reflect the lecture readings for that week. Questions are due in Canvas Discussions each Thursday before class each week.

¹ The first and second editions of this text are also fine, as is the e-book.

Thought Papers

As part of this course, each student will write three short papers on economic thought. Thought papers are distinct from summaries of the readings. They are also different from writing a book report. Rather, students must engage critically with the ideas, and raise and answer an interesting question. The first paper will reflect on the ideas covered in Section 1, “Microeconomics” (due **February 29**). The second paper will reflect on the ideas covered in Section 2, “Macroeconomics” (due **March 28**). The third paper will reflect on the ideas covered in Section 3, “Fields in Economics” (due **May 2**). Each paper must be submitted in Canvas and be 2 full pages, double spaced, Times New Roman font, size 12, 1-inch margins in a Word Document (.doc or .docx). References and the title page do not contribute to the page count. A complete rubric is available on Canvas.

Final Presentation on Nobel Prize Winners

Each student will submit an 18 to 20-minute recorded presentation on an Economics Nobel Prize Winner (“Laureate”) for the final project. Students must present on a Laureate not covered in the course. Claim sign-ups for Economics Nobel Prize winners will open the first week of April. The presentation must include a discussion of the Laureate’s biography and the Prize lecture, synthesize the major ideas that the Laureate won the Prize for, discuss one additional paper by the Laureate, and compare the Laureate’s ideas with another covered in the course. Students should use presentation slides in their presentation. Students must be visible in the recording. A complete rubric is available on Canvas. Recorded presentations and the presentation slides must be submitted in Canvas by **May 21**.

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

Category	PLOs Assessed	CLOs Assessed	Weight
Weekly Questions	4	1, 2	15%
Seminars	4	1, 2	30%
Thought Papers	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2, 3	40%
Final Presentation	1, 2, 3, 4	1, 2	15%

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 on Zoom, Mondays from 3:00 – 5:00pm, or 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 hefty syllabus thoroughly, send me an email by **January 30** 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 paper.

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 personal 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 final 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.

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.

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Course Schedule

My proposed schedule for the semester follows. In addition to the HB textbook readings, students must read the prize lectures articles associated with each topic linked on the class website (<http://www.darwyndeyo.com/econ-191-nobel-economics.html>). Semicolons indicate separate wins.

Course Schedule

Week	Class Dates	Nobel Topics	Readings, Assignments, and Deadlines
1	Jan 25	Introduction	Frisch and Tinbergen
SECTION 1 - MICROECONOMICS			
2	Jan 30 - Feb 1	Foundations	Arrow and Hicks
3	Feb 6 - 8	Nonmarket Behavior	Coase (HB 3); Becker
4	Feb 13 - 15	Information	Stigler; Akerlof
5	Feb 20 - 22	Labor Markets	Diamond and Pissarides
6	Feb 27 - 29	Game Theory	Nash; Aumann and Schelling; Paper #1 (Feb 29)
SECTION 2 – MACROECONOMICS			
7	Mar 5 - 7	Foundations	Samuelson; Friedman
8	Mar 12 - 14	The Phillips Curve Debate	Lucas; Phelps; NO CLASS (Mar 14)
9	Mar 19 - 21	Growth Theory	Kuznets; Koopmans; Solow
10	Mar 26 - 28	International Trade	Ohlin; Krugman; Paper #2 (Mar 28)
SECTION 3 – FIELDS IN ECONOMICS			
<i>Spring Break (April 1 – 5)</i>			
12	Apr 9 - 11	Political Economy	Hayek; Buchanan (HB 1-2)
13	Apr 16 - 18	Development	Sen; Deaton
14	Apr 23 – 25	Institutional	Ostrom; Williamson (HB 6)
15	Apr 30 - May 2	Experimental	Smith; Duflo (HB 5); Paper #3 (May 2)
16	May 7 - 9	Missing Giants	Loury and Robinson
Presentation Due	May 21	Submitted on Canvas with Turnitin	

Nobel Prizes by SJSU Course Catalog

The following table lists the week of study, the Nobel Prize winners covered, the year(s) in which they won, and the SJSU Economics Course Catalog number with which the Nobel Prize winner is associated. Some topics may be associated with multiple courses. This table is designed to help students identify the Nobel Prize content for subjects they are potentially interested in or for classes which they have already taken.

Week	Winners	Prize Years	SJSU Econ Course
1	Frisch and Tinbergen	1969	101
SECTION 1 – MICROECONOMICS			
2	Arrow and Hicks	1972	101
3	Coase; Becker	1991; 1992	141
4	Stigler; Akerlof	1982; 2001	101
5	Diamond and Pissarides	2010	151
6	Nash; Aumann and Schelling	1994; 2005	101
SECTION 2 – MACROECONOMICS			
7	Samuelson; Friedman	1970; 1976	102, 135
8	Lucas; Phelps	1995; 2006	102, 135
9	Kuznets; Koopmans; Solow	1971; 1975; 1987	102, 135
10	Ohlin; Krugman	1977; 2008	136
SECTION 3 – FIELDS IN ECONOMICS			
12	Hayek; Buchanan	1974; 1986	133
13	Sen; Deaton	1998; 2015	112
14	Ostrom; Williamson	2009	141
15	Smith; Duflo	2002; 2019	180