

San José State University
College of Social Sciences / Department of Economics
Economics 205-01, Workshop in Public Policy Analysis

Course No. 20184, Spring 2018, Jan 24-May 14

Instructor:	Fred Foldvary
Office Location:	DMH 219
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Email:	fred.foldvary@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00-10:00am
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:15 PM
Classroom:	DMH 166
Prerequisites:	Instructor consent.

Class Web Resources

The class will use the Canvas class system.

Links to course materials such as the syllabus, readings, and assignments are on the class web page at <http://www.foldvary.net/econ205.html>

You are responsible for periodically checking your email to learn of any announcements.

Cell phones and laptops may not be used or be open in class.

Course Description

This survey course introduces students to major areas of economic policy such as taxes, transportation, health, housing, environment, trade and education. We will explore theories of market failure and the rationale for regulation.

This 3-unit course satisfies the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR).

Course Learning Objectives

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

Understand the major topics of public policy and be able to analyze and do scholarly writing on policy analysis. Students will understand current policies, optimal policies, the public-choice making of policy, and remedies.

Course Content Learning Outcomes

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

Be able to understand and conduct scholarly research in public policy.

Develop analytical skills applying economics to public policy.

Develop scholarly writing and presentation skills.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

- PLO1: Microeconomics
- PLO4: Specialist Area: Policy Economics
- PLO5: Communication

Assessment: Students will write weekly essays, write one research paper, make one class presentation of their research, and analyze and discuss current articles.

Readings

Books

The Voluntary City: Choice, Community, and Civil Society
Editors: David T Beito, Peter Gordon, Alexander Tabarrok
9781598130324

America's Healthcare Crisis Solved
J. Patrick Rooney and Dan Perrin
9780470275726

The Joy of Freedom: An Economist's Odyssey
David R. Henderson
9780130621122

Patriot's Toolbox, ed. 17
Joseph Bast
9781934791622

Social Problems
Henry George (sold at <http://schalkenbach.org/product-category/henry-george/page/4/>)
< <http://schalkenbach.org/henry-george/social-problems/spcont.html>>

Other Readings

The other readings are linked on the class web site and are also indicated in the syllabus schedule below.

Library Liaison:

Christa Bailey
christa.bailey@sjsu.edu
408-808-2422

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Grading:

Your grade in this course will be based on the following categories:

Written assignments	25%
Research Project	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	25%
Oral exam	05%

Corresponding letter grades will be assigned as follows:

97-100% A+	87-89%...B+	77-79%...C+	67-69%...D+	
93-96%...A	83-86%...B	73-76%...C	63-66%...D	
90-92%...A-	80-82%...B-	70-72%...C-	60-62%...D-	0-59%...F.

The research project will be about a public policy topic of your choice. It will be submitted to "turnitin" to ensure academic integrity.

Assignments submitted one week late will have a grade deduction of 20 percent. No credit is provided for any later submissions. All written assignments must be turned in on paper; no email attachments.

If you cannot be in class to turn in a written assignment, finish it early and arrange to have it delivered to me.

Note well: your scores are earned by assignments and exams. They are not given as favors. Please do not ask me to up your grade at the end of the semester. Also, grades cannot be changed after being submitted to the university.

Prepared Participation Policy:

You are expected to be prepared for classes. "Prepared" means you have critically read and thought about the materials assigned for class.

Bi-Weekly Essays And Other Assignments:

All assignments in this section are weighted evenly.

Weekly Essays:

Students will complete a 500-1000 word essay assignment every week, due at the start of class. They will usually be scored out of 20 pts (2% of class grade).

Term Paper and Presentation

Choose a policy topic for an essay of 6 or more pages. The project will be due and graded in two stages as indicated in the schedule. The paper will discuss the current policy, judge the policy by the criteria discussed in class, analyze the optimal policy or policy improvements, analyze the public choice reasons (with evidence) preventing better policy, and analyze the governing structure that would generate better policies.

Term paper grading criteria:

- 1) presentation (language, legibility, organization);
- 2) how thoroughly the paper covers the policy criteria;
- 3) focus (avoiding irrelevancies and redundancies);
- 4) knowledge of the relevant theory, facts, and terms, and defining of key terms;
- 5) warranting (by clear, sound, organized reasoning).

Classroom Protocol

1. In class, turn off cell phones, pagers, and other noisy electronic devices. Computers and cell phones should be off and unopened.

Audio recorders are okay so long as they are silent.

2. For exams, plain calculators are permitted, but avoid using devices that can communicate with others.
3. All problem sets and the research project must be submitted on paper, not as email attachments. This includes late submissions. Please do not send me any attachments.
4. Put "Econ 205" on the subject line when you send me an email message.

Please arrive on time. We will conduct this class as a graduate seminar. Rather than only listening to lectures, students should be prepared to discuss the assigned readings for each session. There will be a break around the midpoint of the class time.

While most classes benefit from student participation, it is particularly true with this course. Much of our class time will be spent discussing applications of concepts from the reading. Please come to class ready to participate. It is expected that all readings assigned will be read prior to the class in which they are to be discussed, allowing you to offer your opinions on the material. Unless you engage and digest the readings on your own before class, you will have difficulty.

Class attendance is not mandatory and will not directly affect a student's grade except so far as it impacts your ability to participate in class discussions. It is up to you to measure the costs and benefits of class attendance. However, students will be held responsible for all information presented in class, as well as the information in the readings. I will provide the assignments in class for the next class session. It is your responsibility to obtain this information from a classmate should you not be able to attend class.

NO MAKE-UPS: Students often overcome tremendous obstacles to complete the assignments listed above on time. I am not in a position to weigh one person's obstacles relative to others. Therefore, there are no make-up assignments, quizzes or exams.

University Policies:

University Policies relevant to all courses are available to you online: <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>. It is very important that you are familiar with these policies, which include, among others, accommodations for religious holidays, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Academic Integrity, dropping and adding, workload expectations, etc.

Economics Department Events and Resources

The David S. Saurman Provocative Lecture Series:

The Economics Department hosts a lecture series each semester, bringing guest lecturers to our campus who work and do research in unexpected and compelling areas. There are usually 3 such lectures per semester. Dates and times will be announced in class, and flyers are posted around DMH. See <http://www.sjsu.edu/economics/provocative/>

Friday Afternoon Workshop Series:

The Economics Department hosts a Friday Afternoon Workshop, which is followed by a gathering of the Barstool Economists. The workshop features a variety of economic speakers and/or book/article discussions. It is open to all. For more information, please see: <http://www.sjsu.edu/economics/workshop/index.html>

Econ 205 / Workshop in Policy Analysis, Spring 2018

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Notes
1	Jan 30	Ethics, policy goals, laws, constitutions, governance	http://www.foldvary.net/econ200/naturalaw.ppt http://digitalcommons.law.scu.edu/scujil/vol3/iss2/3/ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cellular_democracy https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_economics	
2	Feb 6	Fiscal policy: taxation, subsidies, welfare loss. Record PBS show, <i>The Gilded Age</i> .	http://www.foldvary.net/works/policystudy.pdf	Research topic due
		Debt, budgeting, government spending. constitutional reform	Social Problems chs 16, 19 Joy of Freedom, ch 13, Patriot's Toolbox, chs1, 8-10 Voluntary City ch 15	
3	Feb 13	Energy, environment	http://www.scu.edu/scm	Feb 5 – Last

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Notes
			/summer2007/feature6.cfm https://muse.jhu.edu/book/26692 (ch 13)	Day to Drop
		Negative externalities	Patriot's Toolbox, ch 2 Joy of Freedom, ch 17	
4	Feb 20	Discrimination	Joy of Freedom, chs 6, 7 http://www.foldvary.net/ec151/lecs-labor/CHAPTER12.htm	Feb 12 – Last Day to Add
		Distribution, inequality, poverty	Social Problems, ch 8 Joy of Freedom, ch 9 http://www.foldvary.net/ec1/ch20.ppt http://history.msu.edu/history201/files/2013/12/The_Crime_of_Poverty.pdf	
5	Feb 27	Social Security	Joy of Freedom, ch 14 http://www.foldvary.net/ec127/ss.html https://www.progress.org/articles/finlands-basic-income	
		Banking and financial policy	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMn9pc-aTDQ (free banking) http://www.cooperative-individualism.org/foldvary-fred_free-banking-explained-2000.htm	
6	March 6	Education	Patriot's Toolbox ch 3,4 Voluntary City, ch 10 http://www.summerhillschool.co.uk/an-overview.php	
		Transportation	https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/congesti	

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Notes
			on-pricing.asp https://www.progress.org/articles/marginal-cost-pricing	
7	Mar 13	Housing, community	Voluntary City 2, 3, 11 http://www.foldvary.net/ec156/week-01/housing.html	
		War and peace	https://mises.org/library/libertarian-theory-war https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_State_(book)	
8	Mar 20	Planning and governance	Voluntary City chs 2, 3, 12; http://www.foldvary.net/works/uk11.html	
		Regulations	https://cei.org/studies/ten-thousand-commandments-2014 http://wikisum.com/w/Stigler:_The_theory_of_economic_regulation	
9	Mar 27	No Classes		Spring Break
	Apr 3	Victimless crimes, Asset forfeiture.	Joy of Freedom, ch 4 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_forfeiture_in_the_United_States https://www.progress.org/articles/the-police-versus-the-people	
		Drugs	https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1794/13606/Foldvary.pdf;sequence=1 http://www.petermcwilliams.org/page32.html	
10	Apr 10	Trade	First draft, term paper,	

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Notes
			due. Midterm exam http://www.foldvary.net/sciecs/ch18.html https://www.progress.org/articles/a-guide-to-the-economically-perplexed	
		Consumer protection	http://www.econlib.org/library/Enc/ConsumerProtection.html https://muse.jhu.edu/book/26692 (chapt 7)	
11	Apr 17	Competition	http://www.foldvary.net/econ200/lecs/law11ip.html http://www.nytimes.com/library/magazine/home/20000312mag-patents.html	
		Monopoly, anti-trust	http://www.daviddfriedman.com/laws_order/index.shtml (ch16 antitrust) http://www.sup.org/economiclaw/Key%20Points/Chapter%2010.pdf http://www.sup.org/economiclaw/?d=Key%20Points&f=Chapter%208.htm "> (Micelli 10 anti-trust)	
12	Apr 24	Labor	Social Problems 13, 14	
		Unemployment	http://www.foldvary.net/ec2/ch15.ppt http://www.foldvary.net/ec2/ch15min.html https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca8Z__o52sk&feature=related http://www.foldvary.net/ec151/lecs-	

Week	Date	Topics	Readings	Notes
			labor/Chapter14.html	
13	May 1	depressions and recessions	http://www.foldvary.net/works/dep08.pdf	Final Term Paper Due
		economic sustainability Student presentations	https://www.progress.org/articles/the-depression-of-2026 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austrian_business_cycle_theory	
14	May 8	Medical services	America's Health Care Crisis Solved	
		Health care policy Student presentations	Joy of Freedom, ch 15 Voluntary City, ch 9	
	May 22	Final exam	1945-2200 (7:45-10pm)	