

Course Syllabus



ECO4903: Undergraduate Seminar; Section RVD

Instructor Information Table



Dr. Jesse Bull

Instructor Information

- **Contact Me: Via Canvas Inbox**
- **Email: bullj@fiu.edu**
- **Phone: 305-348-3893**
- **Office: DM 319C**
- **Office Hours: by appointment**
- **[Instructor Biography](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/instructor-biography)**
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/instructor-biography>)

Course Time Zone | Eastern Standard Time (EST). Course due dates are according to this time zone.

General Information

Course Description

(from the catalog) Small class in which students will discuss readings, write a research paper, and defend research and ideas orally.

Course Goal

That you develop a strong ability to communicate, both written and orally, about economics.

Course Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- CLO1. evaluate primary research in the field of Economics
- CLO2. formulate intuitive explanations to convey the findings of formal economic analysis
- CLO3. synthesize the ideas of several research papers
- CLO4. develop a presentation of primary research
- CLO5. collaborate to use economic intuition and analysis in a team environment

How to do Well

As you know, most of the problems that economists consider interesting are analyzed using some math. However, most of these interesting problems are initially thought about by using words, and words are essential in conveying why they are interesting.

A critical part of presenting your ideas is being able to describe the important features of the issue and analysis using words. Working to be able to explain intuition for economic questions and analysis will be very helpful for your success in the course, **and for your career**. Further, I suggest trying to find ways to be excited about both the research ideas we will cover this term, and communicating about them. Additionally, being consistent in posting comments on each paper presented ensures that you obtain participation points. These are easy points.

Important Information

Policies

Before starting this course, please review the following pages:

- [Policies \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/policies\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/policies)
- [Netiquette ↗ \(https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/\)](https://online.fiu.edu/html/canvas/policies/)
- [Technical Requirements and Skills \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/technical-requirements-and-skills\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/technical-requirements-and-skills)
- [Accessibility and Accommodation \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/accessibility-and-accommodation\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/accessibility-and-accommodation)
- [Panthers Care & Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\) \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/panthers-care-and-counseling-and-psychological-\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/panthers-care-and-counseling-and-psychological-services)

[services-caps](#))

- [Academic Misconduct Statement \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/academic-misconduct-statement\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/academic-misconduct-statement)
- [Inclusivity Statement \(https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/inclusivity-statement\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/pages/inclusivity-statement)

Per University policy number 300.010, Instructors retain the right to modify the course syllabus for any reason throughout the semester provided that:

- Fair and adequate notice is given to enrolled students either by e-mail, in writing, or through online publishing.
- Modifications to the syllabus are not arbitrary or capricious.
- Students are not unfairly disadvantaged by mid-semester changes to grading standards, attendance standards, or performance measures,

Course Prerequisites

ECO 3101 and ECO 3203.

Textbook and Course Materials

All required readings for this course are listed in the Course Calendar below.

Expectations of this Course

This is an online course, which means most (if not all) of the course work will be conducted online. Expectations for performance in an online course are the same for a traditional course. In fact, online courses require a degree of self-motivation, self-discipline, and technology skills which can make these courses more demanding for some students.

Students are expected to:

- **review the getting started page** located in the course modules;
- **introduce yourself to the class** during the first week by posting a self-introduction in the appropriate discussion;
- **interact** online with instructor and peers;
- **review** and follow the course calendar and weekly outlines;
- **log in** to the course 3 times per week;
- **respond** to discussions by the due date specified. No late work will be accepted;
- **respond** to emails within 2 days;

submit assignments by the corresponding deadline.

The instructor will:

- log in to the course 3 times per week;
- respond to emails within 2 days;
- grade assignments within 7 days of the assignment deadline.

Course Communication

Communication in this course will take place via the Canvas Inbox. Check out the [Canvas Conversations Tutorial \(https://vimeo.com/canvaslms/212en\)](#) or [Canvas Guide \(https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10574-4212710325\)](#) to learn how to communicate with your instructor and peers using Announcements, Discussions, and the Inbox.

Course Detail

Course Requirements

Grading is based on the following: **(Failure to complete any of these may prevent you from passing the course.)**

Literature Review (25%)

The completion of a **literature review** summarizing the readings for one of the suggested topics. Each literature review should critically analyze the body of work covered throughout the course. It should thoroughly summarize, classify, and compare the articles covered in the module. You should focus on a theme or themes these papers have and how the papers fit together. It's recommended that you address an issue (or issues) the legal system handles well and/or areas for improvement. You may focus on one or several issues. This is intended to be more of a synthesis and explanation of ideas. It should not read like a "book report." There is no set length on these, but typically 7 or 8 pages would be a minimum length to explain the relevant points of the topic and the themes in the papers.

All papers discussed, referenced, or drawn upon must be cited. Any direct quoting from a paper must be properly represented as such. The ten suggested papers for each topic were selected to provide some of the important insights for that topic. Naturally, there have been many more than ten papers written on each topic. So, you are welcome to find additional/other papers to include. Naturally, these should be scholarly research papers. There are shorter writing assignments for the papers

throughout the semester. These are aimed at “scaffolding” to help you in completing your literature review and focus on you understanding each paper (as opposed to exploring common themes). The literature review will be submitted on Canvas and will be analyzed by Turnitin.

Short summaries of papers read (25%)

These are aimed at encouraging you to read the papers throughout the semester. In economics writing about analysis, whether one’s own or that of others, has a large learning component. Organizing one’s thoughts and ideas about how the analysis speaks to a particular practical problem helps one to better understand the ideas. So, I ask you to write short summaries of what you’ve learned and ways it can be applied to practical issues. Each will be analyzed by Turnitin.

There are 5 of these. Each is over two papers and is worth 5% of your grade (for a total of 25%). These are due throughout the semester. If you are using additional/other papers, these can be included.

The summary of each paper will be graded based on how well it answers the following questions:

What is the main issue? Why is it interesting?

What new does this paper attempt to bring to the topic? Is it a new method? Or is it a new data set? Or is it a new way to examine the question?

What are the main results? What is the key intuition for the main result? Is there a simple example that provides the insights of the main result? What are the key assumptions necessary for the results? Are these assumptions testable? Do you have issues with these assumptions?

What are the implications of the results?

Do you have any critical comments about the paper?

Presentation of your literature review (20%)

The individual **presentation of your literature review**. Your presentation should be recorded and made available in the assignment, which allows for file uploads (a link to a YouTube video, etc. is also fine). These should use slides and are to be presented in a professional manner. Your recorded presentation will be 30 minutes or less. Regardless of the length, it should thoroughly cover the ideas in your literature review. In particular, it should motivate the practical problem considered and provide clear intuition for the main ideas.

You have several options for how to record your presentation. Two are the following. Zoom has a nice

recording feature that will allow you to record your slides and yourself. The recording can then be shared or uploaded in the presentation assignment. Another is to do an audio recording for each slide in Powerpoint. It may be convenient to upload your presentation to YouTube or Google Docs to share it, but the technological issues of how to share it (and any security concerns) are for you to consider.

Collaborative Online International Learning Team Project (15%)

This is an opportunity to apply your economics training to a practical problem while working in a team with other students from a foreign university. This is excellent preparation for many career paths. You are asked to develop strategy for an international business. Each team's submission will be analyzed by Turnitin. After completion of the project, you will be asked to do a short reflection writing.

Active Participation in Discussion Forums (5%)

You are asked to complete three discussion posts. For the readings in week 1, you are asked to post the following: 2 things you learned, and 1 way you can apply it to the real world. I'll also ask that you respond to the posts of at least two of your classmates. You should post your responses within one week of the due date for the "2-1" post.

Additionally, you are asked to introduce yourself in the appropriate discussion during the first week of the course and to also respond to two of your classmates. In the second week, you will be asked to do a similar "2-1" post regarding the readings for that week.

Keep in mind that your discussion forum postings will likely be seen by other members of the course. Care should be taken when determining what to post.

Writing in the Discipline Micro-Credential (10%)

Micro-credentials highlight specific 21st century knowledge and skills that a person has acquired during their college career. Many employers today are looking to hire people not just for their diploma, but also for their skills, and so micro-credentials are becoming increasingly common on resumes, LinkedIn profiles, and digital portfolios. FIU offers a wide range of micro-credentials, and as a student enrolled in this course, you have the opportunity to earn a micro-credential called "Writing in the Disciplines."

This micro-credential will equip you to be a more effective and professional writer and communicator in your discipline and future workplace. Earning this micro-credential will build your professional resume and communicate to others that you possess in-demand 21st century skills related to communication, writing, and professionalization.

This micro-credential is offered through the [FIU Office of Micro-Credentials](https://wac.fiu.edu) [↗](https://wac.fiu.edu), in collaboration with the FIU Writing Across the Curriculum Program. Please note that earning this micro-credential is voluntary and separate from passing this course. However, completing the assigned five modules that are part of earning the badge count for 10% of your course grade. This is because, whether you choose to complete the badge, the material covered in those modules is helpful for you. Note that to earn the badge, you must score at least 80% on each.

Zoom meetings can be accessed via the Zoom link in the course navigation menu. Once you click on the Zoom link, it will route you to join the meeting for the respective class session. You will also be able to view upcoming meetings, previous meetings that you have already joined, and meeting recordings. Before joining an actual class session:

- Reference the [Zoom Student Tutorials](https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/article/Zoom-students) [↗](https://fiuhelp.force.com/canvas/s/article/Zoom-students) to learn about the tool, how to access your meeting room, and share your screen.
- Access the [Zoom Test Meeting Room](https://zoom.us/test) [↗](https://zoom.us/test) to test out the software before joining an actual session.

If you encounter any technical difficulties, please contact the [FIU Canvas Help Team](https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/) [↗](https://canvas.fiu.edu/support/). Please ensure you contact support immediately upon the issue occurring.

Grading

Course Grades Distribution Table

Course Requirements	Weight
Literature Review	25%
Short Summaries of Papers Read (5 in total)	25%
Presentation of Literature Review	20%

Active Participation in Discussion Forums	5%
Writing in the Discipline Micro-Credential Modules	10%
Collaborative Online International Learning Project and Reflection	15%
Total	100%

Letter Grade Distribution Table

Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%	Letter	Range%
A	93 or above	B	83 - 86	C	70 - 76
A-	90 - 92	B-	80 - 82	D	60 - 69
B+	87 - 89	C+	77 - 79	F	59 or less

Course Calendar

This (and perhaps the course requirements) will be modified depending on the number of students enrolled in the class. In particular, if enrollment turns out to be higher than it currently is (when I put together the syllabus), there will be more papers added.

Module 1: Introduction

Module Learning Objectives

Upon completing this module you will be able to:

- M1LO1. Discuss methods of analysis of law (supports CLO1)
- M1LO2. Evaluate journal articles explaining the evolution of law and economics (supports CLO1 and 2)
- M1LO3. Summarize the Coase Theorem (supports CLO1, 2, and 3)

Week 1 (week of 1/9): Introduction

- Go over the course syllabus.
- Note your assigned presentation paper and due date, and begin reading the paper.
- Post in the introduce yourself discussion.
- Read Talley, E. "Theory of Law and Economics." and Posner, R. (1987) "The Decline of Law as an Autonomous Discipline: 1962{1987." Discuss these in the relevant discussion

Weeks 2 (weeks of 1/15): Introduction

- Read Coase, R.H. (1960), "The Problem of Social Cost," Journal of Law and Economics 3: 1-44. Discuss in the relevant discussion.

Module 2: Law and Economics**(Weeks 3-14)****Module Learning Objectives**

Upon completing this module you will be able to:

- M2LO1. Discuss the economics of law (supports CLO1)
- M2LO2. Evaluate journal articles on the economics of law (supports CLOs 1 and 2)
- M2LO3. Summarize recent work on the economics of law (supports CLOs 1, 2, and 3)
- M2LO4. Present primary research on the economics of law (supports CLOs 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Activities and Assignments:

- Short summary 1 (on papers 1 and 2) due 1/26.
- Short summary 2 (on papers 3 and 4) due 2/9.
- Short summary 3 (on papers 5 and 6) due 2/23.
- Short summary 4 (on papers 7 and 8) due 3/16.
- Short summary 5 (on papers 9 and 10) due 3/23.
- Literature review due 4/6
- Presentation of literature review due 4/15

Module 3: Collaborative Online International Learning

(Weeks 3-15)

Module Learning Objectives

Upon completing this module you will be able to:

- M3LO1. Discuss the economics of a practical economics problem (supports CLO1)
- M3LO2. Evaluate a practical economics problem (supports CLOs 1 and 2)
- M3LO3. Develop a team project to advise an entrepreneur (supports CLOs 1, 2, and 5)

Activities and Assignments:

- COIL project due 3/28
 - COIL reflection due 4/22
-

Module 4: Writing in the Discipline

(Weeks 1-16)

See WID Badging Modules for MLOs

Activities and Assignments:

- Complete WID Module 1 by 1/21.
 - Complete WID Module 2 by 1/28
 - Complete WID Module 3 by 2/11 (this is to be used to help you with Short Summary 2 so the self-editing assignment is due on 2/9).
 - Complete WID Module 4 by 4/6. The Writing in the Disciplines Student Project is your Literature Review.
 - WID Module 5 due by 4/24
-

Course Schedule

Week 1 (1/9): Introduction. Read Talley, E. "Theory of Law and Economics." and Posner, R. (1987) "The Decline of Law as an Autonomous Discipline: 1962-1987." Discuss these in the relevant discussion. Introduction post. All due 1/18

Week 2 (1/15): Read Coase, R.H. (1960), "The Problem of Social Cost," Journal of Law and Economics 3: 1-44.

Discuss in the relevant discussion. Due 1/25.

Complete WID Module 1 by 1/21.

Week 3 (1/22): Short summary 1 (on papers 1 and 2) due 1/26.

Complete WID Module 2 by 1/28.

Week 4 (1/29): Meet with COIL team and entrepreneur on January 31st at 3:10pm. Entrepreneur will be recorded. Will also have a one-page description of what is looking for.

Week 5 (2/5): Short summary 2 (on papers 3 and 4) due 2/9.

Complete WID Module 3 by 2/11 (this is to be used to help you with Short Summary 2 so the self-editing assignment is due on 2/9).

Week 6 (2/12): Read papers.

Week 7 (2/19): Short summary 3 (on papers 5 and 6) due 2/23.

Week 8 (2/26): Spring Break

Week 9 (3/5): Read papers.

Week 10 (3/12): Short summary 4 (on papers 7 and 8) due 3/16.

Week 11 (3/19): Short summary 5 (on papers 9 and 10) due 3/23.

Week 12 (3/26): COIL project due 3/28

Week 13 (4/2): Literature Review due 4/6.







Complete WID Module 4 by 4/6. The Writing in the Disciplines Student Project is your Literature Review.

Week 14 (4/9): Presentations due 4/15.

Week 15 (4/16): COIL Reflection due 4/22.

Week 16 (4/23): WID Module 5 due by 4/24.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Jan 18, 2023	 Week 1: Discussion Posts on Talley, E. "Theory of Law and Economics." and Posner, R. (1987) The Decline of Law as an Autonomous Discipline: 1962 - 1987" https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2035210	due by 11:59pm
	 Week 1: Introduce Yourself https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2035211	due by 11:59pm
Sat Jan 21, 2023	 MC Quiz: Cultivating a Professional Persona https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095047	due by 11:59pm
	 MC Writing a Professional Email https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095050	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 25, 2023	 Week 2: Discussion Posts on Coase, R.H. (1960), "The Problem of Social Cost," Journal of Law and Economics 3: 1-44. https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2035209	due by 11:59pm
Thu Jan 26, 2023	 Short summary 1 (on papers 1 and 2) https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155432	due by 11:59pm


 [MC | Quiz: Understanding and Analyzing Genre](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095045)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095045>)

due by 11:59pm

Sat Jan 28, 2023

 [MC | Genre Analysis](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095048)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095048>)

due by 11:59pm

 [Zoom meeting with COIL teammates and entrepreneur](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2158188)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2158188>)

due by 3:10pm

Tue Jan 31, 2023

 [MC | Self-Editing Assignment](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095049)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095049>)


due by 11:59pm

Thu Feb 9, 2023

 [Short summary 2 \(on papers 3 and 4\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155437)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155437>)

due by 11:59pm

Sat Feb 11, 2023

 [MC | Quiz: Writing is Rewriting](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095046)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095046>)

due by 11:59pm

Thu Feb 23, 2023

 [Short summary 3 \(on papers 5 and 6\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155438)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155438>)

due by 11:59pm

Thu Mar 16, 2023

 [Short summary 4 \(on papers 7 and 8\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155439)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155439>)

due by 11:59pm

Thu Mar 23, 2023

 [Short summary 5 \(on papers 9 and 10\)](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155442)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155442>)

due by 11:59pm

Tue Mar 28, 2023

 [COIL Project](https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155381)
(<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155381>)

due by 11:59pm

 [MC | Writing in the](#)

Thu Apr 6, 2023

Disciplines Student Project

due by 11:59pm

<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095052>

Sat Apr 15, 2023

 **Presentation of Literature Review**

due by 11:59pm

<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2035214>

Sat Apr 22, 2023

 **COIL Reflection**

due by 11:59pm

<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2155382>

 **Literature Review**

<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2035212>

 **MC | Writing in the Disciplines Micro-Credential Final Reflection**

<https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/155328/assignments/2095051>
