

Faculty Recommendation Form
American Revolution 250th Anniversary Student Seminar

Department of Economics – Fall 2026

The Economics Department is hosting a student seminar focused on the economic history and ideas leading up to and after the American Revolution. The program is organized and moderated by Darwynn Deyo (Associate Professor of Economics) and Justin Rietz (Associate Professor of Economics). The program is open to current junior, senior, and graduate students from San José State University who can apply for a competitive student fellowship in the seminar program. The fellowship includes participation in the reading group, a scholarship award, and eligibility to present a student paper on this topic in the annual college student research competition. Participation in the seminar is extracurricular. Students need two faculty recommendations in order to apply for the seminar program. If you believe this student is a good fit for such a program, please sign your name below.

Student Name: _____

Student Department: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

First Faculty Recommender:

Faculty Name: _____

Faculty Department: _____

Faculty Signature: _____

Date: _____

Second Faculty Recommender:

Faculty Name: _____

Faculty Department: _____

Faculty Signature: _____

Date: _____

Program Information:

The seminar program will be a biweekly program with six meetings of students and faculty. The first two meetings will focus on readings and discussion from the period before the American Revolution (1763 – 1774) and will deal with the economic history around protectionism, immigration, and other economic issues listed in the Declaration of Independence. The middle two meetings will focus on readings and discussion from the period of the American Revolution (1775 – 1783) and will deal with the economic history and policy of the Continental Congress in contrast to pre-Revolutionary economic policy. The last two meetings will focus on readings and discussion from the post-Revolutionary period (1783 – 1787) and will deal with the economic issues arising from the Articles of Confederation and the economic reasons for the transition to the U.S. Constitution.

Students will prepare for each seminar by reading three to four articles or other readings on the topic for that week. Reading groups will follow a seminar discussion setting, beginning with students sharing their thoughts on the readings and responding to a specific prompt before the group opens up to general discussion on the topic. Deyo and Rietz will moderate and guide the discussion.