"The motor of meaning production is form, not content. . . . Basically, there is only one thing to be learned, that a sentence is a structure of logical relationships; everything else follows." -- Stanley Fish, 2009.

“Not a wasted word. This has been a main point to my literary thinking all my life.” -- Hunter S. Thompson.

Bijan Ahmadi
Email: ahmadi@uvic.ca
Office: BEC 375

Office Hours:
Tuesday 5:30 – 6:20 p.m.
or by appointment

COURSE PREREQUISITES: Econ 103, 104, satisfaction of the Academic Writing Requirement

One of the prerequisites for ECON 225 is declaration of a program major in Economics. To remain registered in ECON 225, you must declare a program major in Economics. You can do this on your My Page. Select Student Services / Grades then Records and Request for record of degree program (RDP). You will receive an automatic email response noting receipt of your application.

Students satisfy the ECON 225 course requirement if they have:

1. received a minimum grade of B+ in ENGL 135, 146 or 147; or
2. passed ENGR 240.

Students completing a Major in a writing intensive field (e.g., English, History, Political Science, Philosophy, Sociology) may apply to the Economics advisor at ecadvice@uvic.ca to have the ECON 225 program requirement waived.

COURSE RATIONALE

Economics 225 is all about writing, research, and communication. The course was developed nine years ago in response to the need for English composition and comprehension skills in the undergraduate Economics program. Economics 225 is geared to a type of writing that combines clear, concise prose with theoretical analysis and the use of economics models. The course content includes the study of basic grammar as well as the writing of summaries, argumentative essays, opinions, and empirical research papers. Students who complete the course will have learned to communicate clearly, give a presentation, and write with precision.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Economics 225 includes practice in composition and basic grammar with an emphasis on clear, concise writing. You will learn to think and write like an economist, and you will be exposed to the correct style of the various documents you are likely to encounter as an economist. You will sharpen your skills with quizzes, tests, in-class compositions, an empirical research essay, and a final exam.
DIAGNOSTIC TEST

At the start of the course, all students in Economics 225 will be required to write a summary that will serve as a diagnostic writing test. Based on the results, students who need remedial work will be strongly encouraged to see the ECON 225 academic assistant.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

You will demonstrate the ability to:

- prepare outlines and drafts of essays, and incorporate standard organizational styles and methods of citation in economics
- edit essays for correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence construction
- write essays and opinion pieces that incorporate the presentation of information concisely, clearly, and correctly
- extract the key economic argument(s) from an article or body of literature, and write a summary of an article, movie, or body of literature
- write a correct abstract, paraphrase, and literature review
- write an empirical research essay in economics and organize numerical information in tables and figures to support written arguments simply, briefly, and clearly

REQUIRED TEXTS


Students must buy the Writing for Economics textbook from the bookstore. Students are not allowed to purchase used copies from the secondary market. This is because a) it is a workbook that is sometimes used for tests, and b) profits from the book go to UVic student scholarships. There will be no exceptions.

RESOURCES

I recommend that you explore some of these resources for your own research and entertainment: To find these sites use the following search terms, or go to the ECON 225 website for direct links.

- The New York Times
- The Globe and Mail
- The Guardian
- The BBC
- Freakonomics Blog
- FT Asia Pacific
- Tim Harford's blog
- The Economists' Voice
- A&L Daily
- Worthwhile Canadian Initiative
- Dollars and Sex
- NPR's Planet Money
- China Daily
- Bloomberg
- The National Review
- Al Jazeera English
- Deutsche Welle
- Der Spiegel online
- The Huffington Post
- The New Yorker Podcast
- Freakonomics Podcast
- Economics for Public Policy

Read widely: Newspapers, blogs, novels, movie reviews, video game reviews, or magazines.

- Democracy Now! blog
- Nation of Change
- Adbusters Culturejammers HQ
- Slate
- xkcd.com
- Econbrowser.com
- Malcolm Gladwell's Blog
- Internet Movie Database
- Four Word Film Reviews
- Movies for Economists
- Rotten Tomatoes
- Meta Critic
MARKING SCHEME

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Students have a right to transparent course expectations and marking practices. Please see the Calendar provisions on Evaluation of Student Achievement at [http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARe/EoStA.html](http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARe/EoStA.html).

EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Diagnostic Summary**
   - Provide a 200- to 250-word summary, in class, of a reading to be announced. The reading will be from one of the essays in the *Writing for Economics* text. **Note: The summaries that you write in Econ 225 must not contain any quoted material. They must not contain any exact language from the source except, if needed, keywords, technical terms, numbers, or proper nouns.** The summary serves as a diagnostic indicator and will be graded Pass or Fail. Students who fail the summary writing test because of problems with grammar, sentence construction, or overall clarity will be asked to go over their papers with the EAL specialist. **Students with marginal performance on the first summary test should revise the summary with the TA in preparation for the mid-term summary test.**

2. **Argument Essay I (10 marks)**
   - Topic to be announced. Students will be asked to write, in class, a classical essay of argument of approximately 400 words.

3. **Five short quizzes (25 marks)**
   - These **unannounced** quizzes will be based on selected text readings. The quizzes will ask you to answer factual comprehension questions or to write summaries or short response essays. The readings will be announced in advance of the quizzes.
   - There may be factual questions about plagiarism on ANY of the five quizzes.

4. **Grammar Test (10 marks)**
   - In-class grammar test based on lectures and the OWL website. There may be bonus questions on the abbreviations and symbols for editing and proofreading.

5. **Summary Exam : Summary Writing (10 marks)**
   - You will be asked to summarize one of the essays in the textbook.

6. **Library Class for Research Paper**
   - Students will be asked to submit by the end of class, a citation in APA style from at least one peer-refereed journal article relating to their topic. The library class in week 3 is also **mandatory.** Students who miss the library class will have five marks deducted from their research paper. This means that a paper that receives 10/30 would become 5/30.
7. **Presentations (5 marks)**

- Dates will be announced. Giving a presentation to the class is required to complete the course. Part of your presentation will be fielding questions from your colleagues. Read Appendix I (pp. 211-214) in *Writing for Economics* for a guideline.

- Everyone is required to attend the presentations. Students will lose two marks from their presentation grade for every presentation they miss. A minus grade is possible.

8. **Research Paper (30 marks)**

- Write, and properly edit, a 1000 word empirical research essay in APA style. Papers must have a minimum of one scholarly peer-reviewed source, and must be based on topics that are taken from one of the Economics websites or blogs on the course outline page. Students will need to indicate in advance, on paper, the website/blog/date the topic is from, and are required to submit a 100 word summary of the original source, with citation, stapled to the front of their essay. Students must put a word count at the bottom of their research paper before submission.
  - Students must hand in all drafts with their final essay. Papers that are submitted without all attached final drafts will be considered **incomplete**, and may receive a zero.
  - Students who do not attach their research paper package with an alligator clip will lose 2 marks from their final paper grade.
  - **Please note:** At least two drafts will be peer edited in class. If you don't participate in a peer-editing session, 10 marks will be deducted from your research paper grade unless you have a documented excuse. This means that a research paper receiving 10/30 would become 0/30. Students who arrive at a peer-editing session without three copies of their full draft will have 5 marks deducted from the research paper grade.
  - Your final paper **MUST** have at least one peer-reviewed journal article in its reference list. Ten marks will be deducted from your paper for a missing peer-reviewed article.
  - Students must put a word count at the bottom of the last page of their essay, before the References section. Papers missing a word count will have 2 marks deducted.
  - **Penalties on the research paper are cumulative. If you miss the library class AND the peer editing, you will receive a zero on the paper.**
  - **This course takes violations of Academic Integrity very seriously. If a paper is found to contain plagiarism, it will receive a 0.** Students in ECON 225 are required to tear out the page on plagiarism: Appendix K, pp. 223-224. Students print and sign their name, and write the date. They must staple this section to the front of their final paper before handing it in. Final papers handed in without this document will be considered incomplete and will be penalized 10 points.

9. **Argument Essay II (10 marks)**

- On the last day of class, students will be asked to write an essay of argument. The exam date is for everyone in the class. No exceptions will be made. Do not make any travel plans or other plans that conflict with that time and date.

**COURSE EVALUATION SURVEYS**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.
COURSE POLICIES

- Students are expected to familiarize themselves with all Department of Economics course policies at http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/courses/course-policies.php
- The course outline is regularly updated for clarity, and may change to adapt to the needs of the class. The online version is considered current, and in effect.
- **Please note: All written work must be proofread and edited. Careless, unedited work will receive an automatic failing grade.**
- To foster discussion, reading assignments for the week must be completed by the first day of class that week. For example, the reading and discussion assignments for Week 2 must be completed by the first class day of that week.
- All submitted work must be typed, single-sided and double-spaced. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.
- When you take a writing test in ECON 225, you will triple space your work, and write on only one side of the page. This will help you to interrogate your sentences and pay attention to the words you use. Before you hand in your paper, you must carefully check over your work. A minimum time limit will be announced for all writing tests.
- **Regular and prompt attendance is expected. You must attend at least 80 per cent of your classes. If you don't, you will receive an incomplete ('N') for the course.**
- Questions regarding class material should usually be posed during class or in person during office hours. It is not feasible to provide lengthy explanations of class material over email.
- Emails should be limited to critical matters such as inability to attend a class or exam, or in the case of a prolonged illness. Should you send email for whatever reason, please put ECON 225, and your section number in the subject line. Get into the habit of writing well – when you correspond with me by email, please use correct grammar and wording. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should start off with a salutation (e.g., Dear . . . ), include full sentences, and conclude with a signature that includes your name (e.g., Sincerely, your full name). Text message lingo and facebook-ese should not be used.
- Students are responsible for all material covered in lectures whether they miss a lecture or not.
- If you fail to attend ECON 225 within the first seven calendar days from the start of the course, you will be automatically de-registered from the course. The University policy on attendance requirements is available at http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/info/registration/index.html. A student who for medical or compassionate reasons is unable to attend the first week of class should contact the department within that time.
- Students who email or phone that they will be late for the start of term, because of illness, accident, or family affliction, must provide their notification before the start of classes
- The UVic calendar states: Students are expected to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. A department may require a student to withdraw from a course if the student is registered in another course that conflicts with it in time.
- The UVic calendar's attendance policy http://web.uvic.ca/calendar/FACS/UnIn/UARE/Atte.html states that an instructor may refuse a student admission to a lecture or laboratory because of lateness, misconduct, inattention, or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course.
- Students must bring their *Writing for Economics* text to every class, especially classes when there is a quiz or test. If you show up for class without your *Writing for Economics* text you will be dismissed from class, and receive a zero on any test given that day.
- Course assignments are mandatory. You must hand in at least 80 per cent of the course work, including the final paper. If you don't, you will receive an incomplete ('N') for the course.
- Students who do not take the diagnostic test and give a presentation will automatically receive an N (incomplete) for the course. The diagnostic test is held during the first two weeks of class, and the presentations take place at the end of the term.
- Students with disabilities seeking academic accommodation are expected to contact the Resource Centre for Students with a Disability as early as possible.
• All submitted work must be typed and double-spaced. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.
• Accommodation for missed in-course tests and late assignments will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident, or family affliction. Students should immediately consult with a physician, a counsellor, or another health professional to obtain official documentation. This documentation must specifically cover the date of the missed examination or assignment deadline; it should normally be dated on or before this date and be submitted to the instructor within 10 days of this date.
• Students who do not stop writing or close their exam books when a test is over will automatically lose half the maximum possible mark - for example, a possible 10 will become a 5.
• If make-up tests are assigned, they will be scheduled by the Department on Friday afternoons at 2:30 p.m. Students must be registered for these tests by the instructor in order to be permitted to take them.
• In the event of a missed final examination, or submission of an assignment after grades are submitted by the instructor, students must submit a Request for Academic Concession (RAC) to Undergraduate Records with the required official documentation from a health professional within 10 working days of the end of the examination period. The RAC form is available on the Undergraduate Records website at http://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf
• This is a professional writing course and we will take a professional approach, just as if you were in a business, government, or professional organization. This means there will be no intrusive chatting in class, no playing with electronic devices, and reading assignments will be completed. Class discussions hopefully will be open and lively.
• Electronic devices may be used in class to take notes; however, students may not make or receive phone calls or text messages in the classroom. Students who violate this rule will be dismissed from class, and possibly the course.
• The final research paper must be typed in 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced throughout, with APA margins. For tables and figures, use a sans-serif font. Further instructions on the final paper will be given in class and can be found in the text on p. 195 – “Formatting check for research papers”. E-mailed assignments will not be accepted.
• Please keep a copy of all work – including material that you hand in or material that is returned – until final marks have been posted.
• Economics 225 has a Teaching Assistant who will tutor students needing remedial help with their writing. Students who need additional help can see me during office hours or by appointment. If you need remedial help, you are required to use the course TA.
• Students may get help on a completed research paper draft by taking it to the Centre for Academic Communication. Tutors may provide direction, but ultimately the paper you hand in will be your own.
• When booking an appointment with the TA, always provide 3 time-slot options that fit your schedule. Provide at least 12 hours notice if you can't make an appointment. If you haven't given notice, and don't show up for a scheduled appointment, you may lose access.
• Please note that students are not permitted to hire or let someone do their work for them, in whole or in part. The UVic Calendar has information on plagiarism under the Policy on Academic Integrity. See http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/index.php for information about plagiarism provided by the library.
• Students are required to read, study, and understand the sections on plagiarism on the library link and in the Calendar (see below.) Students in ECON 225 are required to tear out the page on plagiarism: Appendix K, pp. 223-224. Students must print and sign their name, and write the date. They must staple this section to the front of their final paper before handing it in. Final papers handed in without this document will be considered incomplete and will be penalized 10 points.
SCHEDULE

Week 1:
- No session (classes begin on Wednesday)

Week 2:
- Welcome and Introduction.
- Course assumptions: A sentence is a structure of logical relationships. The engine that produces meaning in a sentence is form, not content.
- Read Appendix E: "Basic Sentence Patterns" (pp. 189-190).
- Writing a summary. Read Appendix A: “The Summary,” including the sample summary by Yijing Fu (pp. 167-173) to prepare for this lecture.
- Grammar lecture on common writing problems. Students are encouraged to browse http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/5/ to prepare for the grammar lectures.

Week 3:
- Diagnostic Summary. The summary will be based on an article in the Writing for Economics textbook.
- Quiz #1: The quiz will be on selected readings from Section 1: Resources & Food.
- Fun lecture on common problems with grammar, punctuation, and mechanics.
- Abbreviations and symbols for editing and proofreading. Read Appendix D: "Editing Symbols" (pp. 187-188).
- Topic selection for research papers.
- Discussion: building and writing an argument. Read Appendix B, including the sample article by Ruiqing Huang (pp. 175-181) to prepare for this lecture.
- September 19: Last day for 100% reduction of tuition fees for dropped courses

Week 4:
- Quiz #2: The quiz will be on selected readings to be announced from Section 2: Sports.
- Library class on economics research. Read Appendix G (pp. 197-204) to prepare for the class.
- Students will submit a 100 word summary of the source their research paper will be based on. Ultimately, this page will be stapled to the front of your final research paper. If you fail to hand this summary in by the due date you will be penalized 3 marks on your research paper.
- In class practice: writing an essay of argument.

Week 5:
- Read Appendix F: "Writing a Research Paper in Economics" (pp. 191-196).
- Research papers: organization: introduction, research methods, results, graphs, charts, integrating quotations.
- In-class essay of argument, 10 marks, topic TBA.

Week 6:
- October 9: Thanksgiving Day. Classes are cancelled.
- First peer-editing research paper in class. Peer editing is mandatory. Note the section on peer editing in this course outline under “Research Paper.” You must bring 3 typed copies of your full draft, including title page, body (including lit review), and academic references. You should not write an abstract this early in the draft stage. Students who do not bring three copies of their full draft to the peer editing session will have up to six marks deducted from their research paper grade. You also have to bring your Writing for Economics text, so that you can use the APA style guide and sample paper as references when you peer edit.
- Quiz #3: The quiz will be on selected readings to be announced from Section 3: Movies & Games.
• **October 10:** Last day for 50% reduction of tuition fees for dropped courses

**Week 7:**
- **Grammar Test** 10 marks. The test will be based on information from the grammar lectures, and the OWL website.
- Grammar lecture including research writing.
- In class summary assignment, and discussion of the essay of argument.

**Week 8:**
- Read Appendix I "In-class Presentations" in *Writing for Economics* (pp. 211-214).
- Second peer-editing research paper in class. Peer editing is mandatory. **You must bring 3 typed copies of your full draft, including title page, abstract, body (including lit review) and academic references. Students who do not bring three copies of their full draft to the peer editing session will have up to six marks deducted from their research paper grade.** You also have to bring your *Writing for Economics* text so that you can use the APA style guide and sample paper as references when you peer edit.
- **Quiz #4:** The quiz will be on selected readings to be announced from **Section 4: Money & Power**
- Lecture on how to include tables and figures, citing from the web and other non-print sources, and properly attributing your sources. Read Appendix H: "Tables and Figures" (pp. 205-210) to prepare.

**Week 9:**
- **Quiz #5:** The quiz will be on selected readings to be announced from **Section 5: Equity**
- Read Appendix C: “The Briefing Note” (pp. 183-186).
- Revising your paper to course standards.
- **October 31:** Last day for withdrawing from first-term courses without penalty of failure

**Week 10:**
- Revising your paper to course standards.
- Review for the summary exam.
- **Research paper is due at the start of class on Wednesday November 8**
  - Papers received after the start of class but before 4:30 p.m. on Thursday November 9 will be considered late, and will be docked 6 of 30 points.
  - Papers will not be accepted after 4:30 p.m. on Thursday November 9 and will receive a 0.
- **Summary Writing Exam,** 10 marks, topic TBA.
- Presentations

**Week 11:**
- **November 13-15:** Reading Break. Classes are cancelled

**Week 12:**
- Presentations
- Review for the final exam

**Week 13:**
- **Final Exam is on the last day of class.** Thursday, November 30 (A01, A03) or Friday, December 1 (A02)

*The University of Victoria is committed to promoting, providing, and protecting a positive, supportive, and safe learning and working environment for all its members.*

Questions and Comments to sehume@uvic.ca or ahmadi@uvic.ca.

See [http://econ225.openleaf.ca](http://econ225.openleaf.ca) for the most current version of this document.