



ECON 225 Writing for Economists

Winter Session: September-December 2025

A01 M, Th 8.30-9.50am

A02 M, Th 11.30am-12.50pm

UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the lək̓ʷəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Instructor Information:

Name: Dr. Muthoni Nganga

Office: BEC 340

E-Mail: muthoni@uvic.ca

Office Hours: Thursday 2-3pm. All online but you may book an appointment for in-person office hours. You may also email to book an appointment outside office hours.

Office hours zoom link: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uvic.zoom.us/j/89922719335?pwd=kpOGa9gnwp4xzG6awWTe0G7qgJwgE0.1>

Meeting ID: 899 2271 9335

Password: 981026

E-mail correspondence

Always include the course code and name in the subject line.

Emails should be limited to critical matters only such as booking appointments outside office hours, or prolonged illness. It is not advisable to ask class questions that require me long answers or discussion on email. They are both time consuming and often unclear especially when the student requires further clarification. You are encouraged to ask questions during class or office hours. I will not respond to emails that require long responses or those that can be answered using the course syllabus or textbook.

Kindly use a professional tone in your emails.

I check and respond to emails on Monday- Friday (apart from holidays) between 2-4pm

TA name: Jerry Yang

E-mail: jerryyang@uvic.ca

Course Content

Extensive practice in written technical and non-technical composition. Basic grammar is reviewed, including sentence syntax, punctuation, and paragraph construction. Students will be exposed to the correct style for the various documents they are likely to encounter. Students will learn how to write clearly and concisely. The course will conclude with student presentations.

Learning Outcomes

Students will learn how to write clearly and concisely. They will view writing as a constrained optimization problem. They will learn how to give a clear presentation by engaging the audience without the aid of PowerPoint, charts, or other props, as well as respond to questions arising from their presentation.

Class attendance

I will take attendance the first three weeks of the term. Students who cannot attend 85% of those classes but wish to remain in the course should file a request for academic concession with the instructor. I have the discretion to instruct the department to drop a student who fails to attend less than 85% of those classes.

Delivery

This course will be offered in person following UVic's guidelines. Students may be required to wear masks during lectures, labs, office hours, and exams (subject to public health guidelines). Online (Zoom) office hours may be offered by appointment.

Course Schedule and Assessments

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Due Item/ to be submitted or assessed</u>	<u>Due date- Note- In class & handwritten</u>
1	Introductory Lectures		
2	Writing including class exercises	Mandatory diagnostic test	Sept 11
3	Writing including class exercises	Writing test 1	Sept 18
4	Writing including class exercises		
5	Writing	Writing test 2	Oct 9
6	Writing including class exercises		
7	Writing including class exercises		
8	Writing including	Writing test 3	Oct 21
9	Writing including	Presentations	
10	Presentations	Writing Test 4	Nov 4
11	Presentations	Presentations	
12	Presentations	Presentations	
13	Presentations	Presentations	

Textbooks

There is no main textbook for the course. We will however often refer to Kilcrease, B. (2021). *Falsehood and Fallacy: How to Think, Read, and Write in the Twenty-First Century*. University of Toronto Press- (free online library book)

The research and grammar website for the course is the OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/>

You will also be directed to other reading materials – all freely available online.

Grading Scheme

Minimum Grade Requirements: A grade of 50 (D) is required to pass Econ 225.

The tests in the course will primarily have short-answers, discussions and presentations. The course grade is determined as follows:

<u>Component & Date</u>	<u>Content</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Writing test 1 September 18	Grammar and the How to Write Well in Economics document	20%
Writing test 2 October 2	How to Write Well in Economics, How to Present Well, grammar,	20%
Writing test 3 October 21	Active-passive voice, APA style, How to Present Well in Economics, How to Write Well	20%
Writing test 4 October 28	Review of material we have covered in class	20%
Presentation Book date by Sept 30	Your 15-minute presentation to the class will be on the economic elements in a paper, book or movie. You will be evaluated on the content of the presentation and the clarity of your delivery.	20%
Presentation practice	Optional, book (via email) at least 7 days before practice date Practice presentations deadline- October 30 th <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Takes a maximum of 5 minutes per practice presentation• A maximum of 3 practice presentations per class- book early if you need practice before your main presentation	0%

Grading Scale:

Passing Grades	Percentage
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	65-69
C	60-64
D	50-59
Failing Grades	
F	0-49
N	0-49

Course Policies

This course adheres to the [Department Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

Late Assignments and Missed Examinations

Consideration for missed tests will be given only on the basis of documented illness (or in-line with the University's policies at the time), accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In the event of a missed examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the University Calendar: [University Examination Policies](#)

If a student misses test 1, 2 or 3 due to one of the above reasons, the weight of that test will be shifted to the final test – test 4. Note- only one exam weight can be shifted. If you miss more than one, you will automatically get a zero grade in the one(s) whose weight cannot be shifted. If a student misses test 4, there may be a makeup exam offered during the Economics department's makeup exam sessions. More than one makeup exam is not regularly given, and students should follow University's guidelines on formal deferrals.

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans during lectures or exam dates to be able to attend all classes and examinations. There will be no special accommodation (and no makeup exams) if travel plans conflict with examinations held during class hours or the examination period.

The final test and the presentation are required components of the course. Failure to complete the final test or the presentation will result in a grade of "N" regardless of the cumulative percentage on the course. N is a failing grade and factors into GPA as a value of 0."]

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not show up in the first seven calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course, and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.

- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists. Students are responsible for being aware of this deadline and will not be eligible for credit in the course despite continuing to complete coursework.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. Review “[What is Plagiarism](#)” for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software as well as selected for plagiarism audits. This applies to all exams and submitted work, including problem sets, the research project, and forecasting competition entry.

Students must abide by UVic academic regulations and observe standards of ‘scholarly integrity,’ (no plagiarism or cheating). This applies to all assignments and exams (take-home or otherwise). Any online exams must be taken individually and not with a friend, classmate, or group. All alleged violations of academic integrity will be investigated and a student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): The use of AI (e.g. large language models) for problem sets, labs, research project (and proposal), forecasting competition, or exams is not permitted in this course. Should you violate this rule, you will have violated UVic’s academic integrity policy and a complaint against you under this policy will be filed accordingly.

Student Code of Conduct

The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this [Student code of conduct](#). Please, review.

University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness

The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. See [General University Policies](#)

Accessibility & Health Resources

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Counselling Services](#) - Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[Elders' Voices](#) - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

Brightspace

Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture material, problem sets, and labs will be posted in Brightspace. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures, and additional material may be covered during the lectures. All announcements will be posted in Brightspace. Students are advised to check it frequently.

Course Experience Survey (CES)

Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) regarding your learning experience. 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.

When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the [CES log-in](#). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. . I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

- What strengths did your **instructor** demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
- Please provide specific ideas as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

Repeating Courses

According to the University of Victoria Calendar <http://web.uvic.ca/calendar>

“A student may not attempt a course a third time without the prior approval of the Dean of the Faculty and the Chair of the Department in which the course is offered unless the calendar course entry states that the course may be repeated for additional credit. A student who has not received this approval may be deregistered from the course at any point and may be asked to withdraw from his or her declared or intended program.”

In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the link **Repeating Courses** at

<http://www.uvic.ca/socialsciences/economics/undergraduate/home/course%20policies/index.php>

Failure to obtain permission will result in deregistration from the course.