



# ECON 225 A02

## Writing for Economists

Spring Session: 2025 02 – CRN (20990), 1.5, 3-0-0, January 6-April 4, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 3:30-4:20, Cornett Building B108

### UVic Land Acknowledgement

*We acknowledge and respect the Lək'wəŋən (Songhees and Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Lək'wəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.*

**Instructor Name:** Gregory Harder

**Office:** BEC 314

**E-Mail:** gregoryharder@uvic.ca

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 4:30-5:15pm in person or by appointment in person or zoom

**TA Name:** Megan Brink

**Office:** TBA

**Email:** meganbrink@uvic.ca

**Office Hours:** TBA

### Course Content

*Extensive practice in written technical and non-technical composition. Basic grammar is reviewed, including sentence syntax, punctuation and paragraph construction. Students are exposed to the correct style for the various documents they are likely to encounter.*

*The goal of Economics 225 is to stimulate critical thinking and practice writing in economics. By analyzing and writing about newspaper articles and summarizing long essays, students will develop skills in research and academic writing. The major assignment is a term paper that will be completed in steps as the term proceeds. Successful completion of this assignment will prepare students for most writing assignments in their academic and professional careers.*

*Much of the course will be delivered through discussions and in-class practice assignments. Essays will be assigned as homework and written as exams during class. Students will also participate in speaking assignments and delivering oral presentations.*

*Ultimately, students will be guided through numerous examples and practice assignments in order to help master research, writing, and speaking in economics.*

## Learning Outcomes

*Students will be able to:*

- *write an APA style paper.*
- *critically examine news articles using theories and concepts learned in Principles of Economics courses.*
- *write essays that present information concisely, clearly, and cohesively.*
- *write a well constructed abstract, summary, and academic paper*
- *prepare and deliver a well designed economic presentation.*

## Course prerequisites/corequisites

*Complete all of the following*

*Complete 1 of:*

*ECON103 - Principles of Microeconomics (1.5)*

*ECON103C - Introduction to Principles of Microeconomics and Financial Project Evaluation (1.5)*

*ECON180 - Introduction to Economics and Financial Project Evaluation (1.5)*

*Complete all of:*

*ECON104 - Principles of Macroeconomics (1.5)*

*Academic Writing Requirement satisfied*

*declared Honours, Major, General, or Minor in Economics.*

## Repeating Courses

Be aware of the policy regarding the repeating of courses; see [University Calendar](#).

In order to request permission to attempt this course for the third time, you must follow the instructions provided under the [Repeating Courses](#) policy on the Economics website.

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

## Textbook

*None required*

## Brightspace

*Brightspace* is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture notes will be posted in *Brightspace*. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.

All announcements will be posted in *Brightspace*. Students are advised to check it frequently.

## Minimum Grade Requirements

*Students pursuing an Honours degree should consult the academic calendar.*

## Grading

### Grading Scheme

The course grade is determined as follows:

1. *Assignment 1 - Analytical Questions for News Article (5 percent)*
  - Submit answers to some economic questions using a newspaper article as data.
2. *Assignment 2 - Written Analysis of News Article (15 percent)*
  - Verify the information in the news article and write a critical analysis. The essay must follow APA formatting rules.

#### **Milestones**

##### *Library Research Class*

- There will be a mandatory library research class. This is worth 2.5 points.

##### *Peer Review Session*

- There will be a mandatory peer review class. Bring three copies of your double spaced draft. This is worth 2.5 points.

3. *Assignment 3 - Write a Summary about the Inspiration for Your Topic (10 points)*
  - Complete a summary of the original source behind your topic selection using proper APA formatting.

#### **Milestone**

##### *Peer Review Session*

- There will be a mandatory peer review class. Bring three copies of your double spaced draft. Missing the peer review session will result in a 2 point deduction from your paper.

4. *Exam 1 - News Article Summary and Analysis. (10 percent)*
  - Summarize a short newspaper article, write an APA reference, and answer some economic questions.

5. *Exam 2 - Summary of an Essay (10 percent)*
  - Summarize an essay similar in format to your term paper.

6. *Presentations (15 percent)*
  - Deliver to the class, a presentation about your research paper. Be prepared to answer questions from your classmates and instructors. Individual dates will be announced.
  - Everyone is required to attend the presentations. You will lose 2 points from your term paper or presentation score for each class of presentations missed. Attendance will be taken.

#### **Milestones**

##### *Present Your Topic*

- Present your topic to the class twice. These will help you practice for your full presentation. Each is worth 2.5 points.

### 7. Term Paper (35 percent)

- Write and properly edit a 1,500 - 1,800 word essay in APA style.
- The paper will be developed throughout the course and includes milestones to keep students on track.
- Papers should be based on current topics. You may use one of the websites or blogs on the course outline page. You may also choose movies or songs as your original source.
- Your final paper must have at least three peer-reviewed journal articles in its reference list.
- Put a word count at the bottom of the last page of the essay, before the “References.”

### Milestones

#### Peer Review Sessions

- There will be three mandatory peer review classes. Bring three copies of your double spaced draft. Each of these are worth 3 points.

## Mandatory/Essential Course Components

*A comprehension and writing test will be given in the first seven calendar days of the course. Students who fail the test will be required to see the Economics ECON 225 TA during the term to upgrade their writing skills. Students satisfy the ECON 225 course requirement if they have passed ENGR 240.*

## Dates of Assessments, Due Dates of Assignments

### Assignment(s):

**Analysis of News Article (Produce Prices) - January 20**

**APA Paper Critically Analysing News Article (Produce Prices) - February 10**

**APA Paper Summarizing the Inspiration for Your Term Paper - February 27**

**Exam 1 - News Summary and Analysis - February 27**

**Exam 2 - Summary of Research Paper - March 19**

**Presentations - March 24 - April 3 (Specific presentation dates selected at random)**

**Term Paper - April 3**

## Grading Scale

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

Students should review the University's more detailed [summary of grading](#).

## Missing Assessments

Should students encounter a situation where they miss an exam or cannot submit an assignment at its due date, they may qualify for an academic concession. Students are required to indicate the specific grounds on which they are requesting an academic concession and to provide a justification outlining the impact of the circumstances on their ability to complete course requirements. For in-course extensions, please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#) [or specify alternative means of communicating a request such as filling in a request on Brightspace]. I will not respond to informal requests of academic concessions. [Note any automatic academic concessions such as putting the weight

*of a missed midterm for a legitimate reason on the final, dropping the two worst grades of quizzes etc.]. In case you miss the final exam, fill in a [request for a deferral](#).*

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. Students do not qualify for an academic concession if travel plans conflict with the examination.

## Course Policies

This course adheres to the [Undergraduate 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
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance:

## 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 participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 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.

## 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. 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.

Review [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

## Student Code of Conduct

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

## University Policies

- University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Non-academic Student Misconduct](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Diversity / EDI](#)
- [Equity statement](#)
- Discrimination and Harassment [Policy](#)
- [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.

## Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [www.uvic.ca/svp](http://www.uvic.ca/svp) . If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact [svpcoordinator@uvic.ca](mailto:svpcoordinator@uvic.ca).

## Resources for Students

[UVic Learn Anywhere](#) - UVic Learn Anywhere is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.

[Centre for Accessible Learning](#) - 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.

[Centre for Academic Communication](#) - Offers coaching on [academic integrity](#), including preventing accidental plagiarism. Provides support to students with time management, reading, writing, speaking, understanding academic expectations, and other aspects of academic communication as well as creating academic posters, blogposts, PowerPoint slides, and e-portfolios.

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

[Support Connect](#) - a 24/7 mental health support service for students

- Toll-free (calls from North America): 1-844-773-1427
- International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

[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.

[Indigenous Student Services](#) - Indigenous UVic students have access to many sources of support on campus. Before, during and after your time at UVic, you are encouraged to explore programs and services available to you, such as [Indigenous counselling services](#) and the [Elders in Residence](#), as well as non-academic programs that may be of interest to you.

[International Student Support](#) - The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program.

For academic advising-related questions, students in the Economics Department are also encouraged to meet with the Economics Undergraduate Advisor (Brooklynn Comish-Trimble, [ecadvice@uvic.ca](mailto:ecadvice@uvic.ca)) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#).

The International Student Liason in the Economics Department is Dr. Paul Schure who can help you connect with other international and domestic students in the Department. His email address is [schure@uvic.ca](mailto:schure@uvic.ca). Please, reach out if you are interested.

## Course Experience Survey (CES)

I value your feedback on this course. 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 suggestions as to how the **instructor** could have helped you learn more effectively.

Please provide specific suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

## Course Structure

Course activities subject to change

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Jan 6	Introduction
Jan 8	Diagnostic Summary
Jan 9	Principles of Economics Review
Jan 13	Elements of a News Report Newspaper Analysis Using Economic Principles ("Peas and Beans")
Jan 15	Newspaper Article Practice ("Food Sales", "BC Car Sales")
Jan 16	Newspaper Article Practice ("Tennis Fees")
Jan 20	Writing a Summary and Paraphrasing
Jan 22	Writing Review ("Credit for Volunteering")
Jan 23	Economic Writing
Jan 27	APA - Formatting
Jan 29	APA - Reference List Trustworthy Sources
Jan 30	Library Research
Feb 3	Practice Summary (TBA)
Feb 5	Peer Review and Editing
Feb 6	Peer Review Day ("Produce Prices")
Feb 10	Present Term Paper Topic (1 minute)
Feb 12	Practice Exam ("Seabus Ridership")
Feb 13	Practice Summary (TBA)
Feb 24	Peer Review of Inspiration Story
Feb 26	Peer Review of Term Papers (First Round)



Feb 27	Exam 1 - News Analysis and Summary
Mar 3	Delivering Presentations (Delivery)
Mar 5	Delivering Presentations (Multimedia)
Mar 6	Peer Review of Term Papers (Second Round)
Mar 10	Present Term Paper Topic - Abstract, Motivation, Primary Research Question (3 minutes)
Mar 12	Present Term Paper Topic - Abstract, Motivation, Primary Research Question (3 minutes)
Mar 13	Present Term Paper Topic - Abstract, Motivation, Primary Research Question (3 minutes)
Mar 17	Peer Review of Term Papers (Third Round)
Mar 19	Exam 2 - Summary
Mar 20	Presentations
Mar 24	Presentations
Mar 26	Presentations
Mar 27	Presentations
Mar 31	Presentations
Apr 2	Presentations
Apr 3	Presentations

## E-mail Correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear....), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo should not be used.

## Electronic Devices

Electronic devices are allowed on lectures for the classroom activities. Cell phones must be turned off. Electronic devices are not allowed during exams.

## Use of AI

*Use of AI must be cited for all work completed in this course.*