



# ECON 225 A01

## Writing for Economists

Summer Session: May 11, 2026- June 26, 2026 – Term 2

CRN 31212 (1.5 UVic units)

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

### UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

**Instructor Name: Dr. Maliha Nazir**

**Office: BEC 306**

**Zoom Office Hours: Wednesdays (1 – 2 pm) or by appointment**

**Zoom Link: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/84553677763>**

**Class Location: MacLaurin Building**

**Classroom: D116**

**Class time: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays (10:30 am – 12:20 pm)**

### Method of contact and availability:

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend 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 the class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear Dr. Nazir...), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your full name and V#. Text message lingo should not be used.

I usually respond to the emails within 2 business days. You must include the specific question so that I can respond to your question. To maintain work/life balance, I do not usually respond to emails or other inquiries after 4 pm on weekdays and I might be unavailable on weekends and statutory holidays. Your

emails must be concise. If you miss a class, please do not send me an email requesting the content and class exercises.

**Instructor's Email address:** [malihanazir@uvic.ca](mailto:malihanazir@uvic.ca)

**TA Name:** Matthew Glenn

**Email:** [matthewglenn@uvic.ca](mailto:matthewglenn@uvic.ca)

**Office Hours:** TBA

## Teaching and assessment modality statement

This course is face-to-face, and all exams are held in person. The student must bring a tablet or laptop to submit the class participation activities during the class session. If the instructor is not well and the class is cancelled, then the content for that missed lecture will be uploaded on Brightspace. The students should enable their notifications settings on Brightspace for all announcements

## 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 newspaper articles, journal articles and summarizing long essays, students will develop skills in research and academic writing. Much of the course will be delivered through discussions and in-class assessments. Students will also participate in delivering oral presentations.

## 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 [course policy](#). 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.

## Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. I will upload the content for reading on Brightspace on a weekly basis.

### Recommended Text:

Bernhardt, S. & Sommers, N. *A Guide to Writing in Economics*, 2021, Bedford/St. Martin's Macmillan Learning  
 Neugeboren, R. H., *The Student's Guide to Writing Economics*, 2005, Routledge

## Brightspace

*Brightspace* is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. 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.*

## Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, a successful learner will demonstrate the ability to:

- Write a well-constructed paragraph.
- Write a summary that presents information concisely, clearly, and accurately.
- Extract the key economic argument(s) from an article.
- Read and analyze an article to write an essay of argument.

## Course Structure, Assessments, and Grading

### Statement about learning components

The lectures will not be recorded and will be based on analyzing the articles and active class discussions followed by a writing exercise. Selected writing assessments will count towards the grade. The PowerPoint slides will be posted on Brightspace. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures, and additional material and discussions will be covered during the lectures.

### Use of AI

The use of AI is prohibited for the assignments, class exercises and exams. Unless the assessment mentions that you can use AI, do not use it in this course.

## Grading Scheme

The course grade is determined as follows:

- Assignments (10%): Two homework assignments, each carrying a weight of 5%.
- Midterm Exams (40%): Two in-person midterm exams, each carrying a weight of 20%.
- Class Exercises (30%): 12 Weekly class exercises followed by a written assessment, each carrying a weight of 2.5%.
- Presentation (written and oral) (20%): Topics and readings will be assigned by the instructor.

## Mandatory/Essential Course Components

There is no final exam but any one of the two midterm exams and presentations are mandatory course components. *Students who have completed **at least eight of the 12 class exercises, one midterm exam and a presentation(written and oral)** will be considered to have completed the course.* Failure to complete fewer than eight class exercises and the mandatory components 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.

Attendance: Attendance during the presentations is important. If you are absent, there will be a penalty of 2 % per missed presentation session.

## Dates of Assessments, Due Dates of Assignments

### Assignment(s):

*Assignment 1- Due date: May 22 on Brightspace by 11:59 pm*

*Assignment 2- Due date: June 12 on Brightspace by 11:59 pm*

*Assignment 1 - Analytical Questions for News Article (5 percent)*

- *Submit answers to some economic questions using a newspaper article*

*Assignment 2 - Written Analysis of an Article (5 percent)*

- *Verify the information in the article and write a critical analysis. The essay must follow APA formatting rules.*

**Midterm(s)**: The midterm exams are scheduled as follows:

Midterm 1- May 29<sup>th</sup> paper-based exam during the class session

Midterm 2-June 19<sup>th</sup> paper-based exam during the class session

Midterm Exam 1 - News Article Summary and Analysis. Summarize a short newspaper article, write an APA reference, and answer some economic questions.

Midterm Exam 2 - Summary of an Essay and/or answering questions based on a journal article

The exams will be based on readings/journal articles provided by the instructor at least one week prior to the exam. The students are required to read the articles prior to the exam. The students must bring the readings to the exam **without any written notes or cheat sheet**. If there is any content written on the

printout other than the student name and V-number, you will not be allowed to use it for the exam. The questions will be based on the articles so it is very important to read the articles thoroughly before the exam. The instructor will not provide the printout of the articles during the exam.

Presentation- Due date: June 22<sup>nd</sup> by 9 am on Brightspace

### **Class Exercises:**

The instructor will upload the article and exercises on Brightspace on a weekly basis. The students must read the article and come prepared for the in-class exercises. The instructions will be provided in the class. Only eight exercises will be counted towards the grade. Use of AI is prohibited for all exercises.

### **Presentations:**

The topics and readings for the presentation will be assigned by the instructor. Each student will be required to submit an MS PowerPoint presentation on the topic. The rubric will be uploaded on Brightspace. Questions will be asked by the instructor. Each presentation will be 10 minutes long. If you submit the presentation slides but do not give an oral presentation in the class, there will be a penalty of 10%.

### **Tentative Course Schedule**

| <b>Week</b>   | <b>Topic</b>                                                                                              | <b>Due dates</b>                                                                         |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1: May 11-15  | Introduction<br>Thinking like an Economist<br>Writing Paragraphs<br>Paraphrasing                          |                                                                                          |
| 2: May 18-22  | Graph Analysis<br>Writing Essays<br>The Art of Summarising                                                | <b>Assignment 1 due on May 22</b>                                                        |
| 3: May 25-29  | Reading Economics<br>Literature<br>Reading Response                                                       | <b>Midterm 1 Exam on May 29</b><br><br>Presentation topics and schedule posted by May 25 |
| 4: June 1-5   | Op-Ed<br>Writing Conventions in Economics                                                                 |                                                                                          |
| 5: June 8-12  | Academic Writing<br>EconLit, NBER, StatsCAN,<br>RePEC, JSTOR, SSRN<br>APA format- 7 <sup>th</sup> edition | <b>Assignment 2 due on June 12</b>                                                       |
| 6: June 15-19 | Review presentation topics and content                                                                    | <b>Midterm 2 exam on June 19</b>                                                         |
| 7: June 22-26 | Presentations                                                                                             | <b>Presentations due on June 22</b>                                                      |

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the presentation 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.

## Grading Scale

|        |         |
|--------|---------|
| 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%  |
| F or N | 0-49%   |

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

## Missing Assessments

**Missed assignments:** I will not accept any excuses for missed or late assignment submissions. There will be neither an extension nor reopening of assignment unless you have an accommodation that clearly states so.

**Missed Class Exercises:** I will drop the lowest four scores for the class exercises out of 12. I will not accept any excuses for missed or late class participation submissions. There will be neither an extension nor retake, unless you have accommodations that clearly state so.

**Missed midterm exam:** One midterm exam is compulsory to pass the course. The weight will not be shifted to the second exam or any other assessments.

**Missed Presentation:** Presentation is mandatory to pass this course. If you are sick on the date of your presentation, it is your responsibility to make arrangements and swap it with another student with their consent. In such a case, you must write an email to me before your presentation. For in-course extensions, please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#)". I will not respond to informal requests of academic concessions.

**Plagiarism:** If you plagiarize, you will receive a zero for that assessment and if you cheat, your name will be reported and you will get an F grade in the course.

**Grading:** The grading questions must be discussed within a week of receiving your grade. Please reach out to the TA for grading questions and if the matter is unresolved then email me.

**Videos:** If class is cancelled due to a holiday, instructor illness, or a campus closure, or if a given week's course material cannot be completed during class time for any reason, the material will be presented in videos that will be uploaded to course page.

Email policy: I will respond to email within two business days according to the following policy:

- a. I will only respond to emails posing questions that can be answered in a sentence or two. For detailed questions, please make an appointment to see me in office hours.
- b. I will not reply to emails that request information that can be found on Course webpage, the syllabus, or in lectures, so you should check those places first.

## 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. *[Note: for short, two-month summer courses the policy is the first two class meetings.]*
- 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.

The University reserves the right to use a plagiarism software to detect violations of academic integrity.

## Appeals

Depending on the nature of your concern, the order in which you should normally try to resolve the matter is:

1. Me, the course instructor
2. the Associate Chair: [econassoc@uvic.ca](mailto:econassoc@uvic.ca)
3. the Associate Dean of Academic Advising
4. the Senate.

If you're seeking a formal review of an assigned grade, you should also consult the regulations in the academic calendar regarding [review of an assigned grade](#)."

*I only respond to grading inquiries in writing. You must file your question within 1 week of issuance of your grade and the release of the answer key. Do not approach me after class to discuss grading concerns.*

## University Policies and Statements

Please note that this course is executed in a manner consistent with these University statements and policies.

- a. University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- b. [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- c. [Academic Integrity](#)
- d. [Academic Concession Regulations, Academic Concession and Accommodation, Accommodation – Policy AC1205](#)
- e. [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- f. [Student Conduct](#)
- g. [Accessibility](#)
- h. [Diversity / EDI](#)
- i. [Equity statement](#)
- j. [Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response](#)
- k. [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#)

## Resources for students

- a. [Student wellness](#)
- b. [Centre for Accessible Learning](#)
- c. [UVic Learn](#). UVic Learn is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.
- d. [Library](#) resources
- e. Academic Skills Centre [ASC](#)
- f. Learning Assistance Program ([LAP](#))
- g. [Academic Advising](#)
- h. Economics Undergraduate Advising: [ecadvice@uvic.ca](mailto:ecadvice@uvic.ca)
- i. [Student Awards and Financial Aid](#)
- j. [International Student Advising](#)
- k. Indigenous student services ([ISS](#))
- l. [Student groups and resources](#) including UVic [Ombudsperson](#)

## Student Experience of Learning (SEL) Survey

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential SEL survey 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.



## Electronic Devices

You can bring a laptop or tablet in the class but use it only for ECON 225 course. No electronic devices, chatting, or web searching are allowed during the exams.

## Educational Technology involving storage outside Canada

I will be using Zoom for my online office hours. While Zoom is currently updating their service so that a user can select the data centre region (*i.e.*, Canada in our case) that their account can use for real-time meeting data in-transit, the data is currently stored on US servers. To set-up a Zoom account, personal information is required. Information on Zoom's privacy policy and the terms of use can be found at <https://zoom.us/docs/en-us/privacy-and-security.html>

If you are not comfortable with your personal information being stored outside of Canada, please speak to me within the first week of class about using an alternative (such as using an alias or nickname). Otherwise, by continuing in this course, you agree to the use of the educational technology in the course and the storage of personal information outside of Canada.