



University
of Victoria

Economics

Winter Session 7 Sept. – 5 Dec. 2022

ECON 225

Writing for Economics

In-person instructional method

Instructor: Stephen Hume

Email: sehume@uvic.ca

A01 CRN 11144 Clearihue C110 11:30-12:20 TWF

A02 CRN 11145 Hickman 116 2:30-3:20 MWTh

A03 CRN 11146 Hickman 116 3:30-4:20 MWTh

Times in the course outline are PST (Victoria time)

Please wear protective masks in the classroom as a courtesy to the instructor. At this time, the university encourages everyone to wear a mask in indoor public places, particularly if people are close to each other or feel more comfortable doing so.

Zoom Office Hours by appointment or on Friday 2 to 3 p.m.

Office hour link: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/89171884325>

Meeting ID: 891 7188 4325

Teaching Assistant: Keegan Lawrence, keeganlawrence@uvic.ca

IMPORTANT: The department may cancel the registration of a student who fails to attend the course within the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course. Please bring your UVic photo ID to class. A mandatory in-class diagnostic test for all sections will be held on **Wednesday, September 14**. Attendance will be taken every day for the first two weeks and at intervals during the term.

Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect the original people on whose traditional territory the university stands. We are visitors here, the ancestral homeland of the L'kwungen, WSÁNEĆ, and Wyomilth people. We appreciate their stewardship of this beautiful place and feel privileged every day to experience the bounty of the land and sea.

Course Protocol

The course outline may be modified to accommodate changing circumstances. The Brightspace learning platform is used for all tests and assignments, except for the in-class diagnostic test on Sept. 14. I encourage questions, but no chatting while I lecture. During class, your phones must be off, on silent mode, and put away in a pocket or bag. You may not check your phone, glance at your phone, or place it on your desk during class. If you need to make a call or check your phone, you may go outdoors or into the hall. On test days, I never answer questions relating to test content.

Writing Website

There is no textbook for the course. Our grammar and writing tests are based on the OWL Purdue website [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html], especially the section on General Writing. Do not use other grammar books or writing websites. The OWL site has grammar, punctuation, and writing exercises with answer keys.

Minimum Grade Requirement for the Course

You must get at least a passing grade (D, or 50).

Assignments

There are three tests, a paper, and a presentation:

1. Argument test on the components of an argument essay. Ten questions on Brightspace (20%). You will have a 24-hour window in which to take the test but the test will time out after 60 minutes;
2. Writing, grammar, and punctuation test. Ten questions on Brightspace. The format of the test will generally follow the format of the examples in the OWL Purdue writing site, our online textbook. You will have a 24-hour window in which to take the test but the test will time out after 40 minutes (20%); multiple choice;
3. Op-Ed. A paper of 800 words (min. 790 words to 810 words max) on a topic from the posted topics. The op-ed is an opinion piece that is clear, concise, and persuasive. It starts with a vivid personal anecdote and ends with a counter-argument, refutation, and call to action; this assignment will not contain citations or references, unless they are necessary, and the work must be of publishable quality. You must use Times New Roman 12-point font. You have a 24-hour window in which to submit the paper as a Word doc on Brightspace (30%); only Word docs are accepted; PDFs are not accepted and receive a zero.

There are potential deductions and you should know them:

- a. Papers exceeding 810 words of text will have a grade deduction of 5 points.
 - b. Papers that have no bona-fide paper drafts will be considered incomplete and will have a grade deduction of 10 points. Keep your drafts—they show how your paper evolved. After you submit your paper, I may ask to see your drafts. See lecture notes for what constitutes a bona-fide draft.
 - c. Papers without a word count at the end will have a grade deduction of 5 points.
 - d. Papers without a plagiarism statement at the end will have a grade deduction of 10 points. (See this course outline for the wording of the plagiarism statement.)
4. Presentation. Starting Nov. 14 and 15, students will deliver a five-minute presentation of their op-ed to the class, without notes, PowerPoint, or other external aids (10%). **The presentation will be graded on content (are the facts presented clearly and does the presentation move in a logical progression?) and expression (is the presentation delivered in plain language, in a conversational, understandable manner, and not memorized?)**
 5. Final Test on grammar and writing on Brightspace, 20%. Ten writing, grammar, and punctuation questions. The format of the test will generally follow the format of the examples in the OWL Purdue writing site, our online textbook. You will have a 24-hour window in which to complete the test, but the test will time out after 60 minutes.

The **diagnostic test**, the **op-ed**, and the **final test** are essential components of the course. They must be completed and submitted on time. If they are not, the grade for the course will be N, or incomplete, regardless of the cumulative percentage of the course. N is a failing grade and factors into the GPA as a value of 0.

Writing that is not edited, or that is edited carelessly, will receive a failing grade. To edit means to re-read your work, assess it, and change it if necessary. The emphasis in economics writing should be on brevity and clarity. In economics, we want plain writing. Your goal is to communicate exactly what you are doing—and why—in a way that is easy for the reader to understand. The exercises we do in this course will help you learn to write clearly.

Economics 225 is not an English course. It is a writing course for economists. We define a sentence as a structure of logical relationships. We think of writing as a constrained optimization problem. The course was developed in response to the need for writing skills in the undergraduate Economics program. This is not a grammar course, but you will need to learn grammar essentials. Students who pass Econ 225 should be able to handle writing tasks in upper-level courses and the workplace.

The university is closed on the following days:

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: Friday, September 30

Thanksgiving Day: Monday, October 10

Remembrance Day: Friday, November 11

Course Schedule

Topic	Week	Due Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Introduction, What you need to know. How to write well in Economics. The mountain-climbing analogy. You want to maximize the knowledge retained by your reader, subject to a page-limit constraint. The reader's patience also imposes a constraint. Brevity. Clarity. Use short, simple sentences. Attendance. The department may cancel the registration of a student who fails to attend the course <u>within the first seven calendar days from the start of the course.</u> 	Week 1 7-9 Sept	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance. There will be a mandatory in-class writing test on September 14. This is an essential part of the course; if you fail to take this test, you won't be able to pass the course. The test will consist of a single response question. Writing an argument essay. The purpose. The components. Practice writing clear, concise sentences. Grammar and writing in OWL Purdue. Know the parts of the argument essay. Choose topic from list of topics posted on Brightspace and begin researching. PUT YOUR TOPIC IN THE DISCUSSION FORUM ON BRIGHTSPACE BY 11:59 PM SEPT 16. 	2 12-16 Sept	Choose op-ed Topics TOPIC DUE IN BRIGHTSPACE DISCUSSION FORUM BY 16 SEPT 11:59
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Argument test is due on Brightspace by 11:59 PM Friday Sept 23. You have a 24-hour window to take the test, from 12:01 A.M. to 11:59 P.M., but once you start the test, it times out after 60 minutes. The things you need to know include the following: The components of an argument essay; how to write a vivid anecdote and position; how to write a supporting example, counter-argument, and refutation; and how to write a call to action. The basis of the op-ed is the argument essay. Exercise #1. This is a Saunders exercise on constraint and selection in writing. Write a 100-word story using only 50 words. This in-class exercise will teach you to write concisely. We may perform this exercise later in the term as well. 	3 19-23 Sept	Argument Test on components of argument essay due Sept 23 on Brightspace
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exercise #2. Write a 100-word story using limited punctuation. This exercise will teach how to avoid comma splices and run-on sentences. Discussion of briefing notes, letters to the editor, and papers in scholarly journals. How to search for scholarly sources on the UVic Library site. Some of the material covered in these lectures may be included the final test. 	4 26-30 Sept	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on op-ed drafts. We may divide the classes into sections to allow for efficient feedback on op-ed drafts. Lectures on how to write, rewrite, and edit well. Lectures on writing in the workplace, e.g., briefing notes. Lectures on APA citation style, how to find sources on the Uvic library database, in-text citations for print and film sources. Preparation for writing, punctuation, and grammar test. Study OWL site. Sample grammar tests in class. 	5 and 6 3-7 Oct and 9-14 Oct	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing and grammar test on Brightspace Preparation for writing, punctuation, and grammar test. Study OWL site. Sample grammar tests in class. 	7 17-21 Oct	Writing, punctuation, and grammar test on Brightspace due by 11:59 p.m. Oct.21
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Editing and revising the op-ed. Discussion on writing and editing methods. 	8 24-28 Oct	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Op-ed due on Brightspace by 11:59 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4. Drafting begins in October. After I start grading the essays in early November, I may ask to see paper drafts. Make sure you keep your drafts (handwritten with edits or printed in Times New Roman 12 with edits.) An essay that does not have bona-fide paper drafts is incomplete. See lecture notes for more on what constitutes a bona-fide draft. 	9 Oct 31- Nov 4	Op-ed due on Brightspace Nov. 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Course review. Writing well in Economics. Reading break. 	10 7-11 Nov	Reading Break Nov. 9-11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-class presentations start Nov. 14 for A02 and A03 and Nov. 15 for A01. Note: The Monday, Dec. 5 class (Friday class schedule runs on this day) is cancelled. The final test is on December 5, all sections. Students, as usual, will have 24 hours to take the test on Brightspace. The test times out after 60 minutes. 	11, 12, 13 Nov 14-Dec 5	Final grammar-writing test due by 11:59 p.m. Monday December 5 on Brightspace

Delivery

You are responsible for all readings and assignments each week ahead of class. Take notes in class if necessary. You may want to check out UVic Library tutorials on study methods and taking notes. If you are unable to take a test or submit a paper, you aren't required to show a medical note, but you are required to let me know in advance of the test or the submission date. **THERE ARE NO RETROACTIVE MEDICAL EXCUSES OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF RETROACTIVE EXCUSES IN THIS COURSE.**

Recommended Books

Ahmadi, B., & Hume, S.E. (Eds.). (2017). *Writing for economics*. Victoria: Open Leaf Press.

The textbook is not available for purchase this term. A bilingual edition is expected in 2024. Students should read widely in non-fiction and fiction. To paraphrase John Stuart Mill, to be a good economist

you must be more than an economist. There is no recommended reading list in the course, but if you have time, I recommend you read Iris Chang's *The Rape of Nanking*, Salman Rushdie's *Languages of Truth*, or Ananyo Bhattacharya's *The Man from the Future: The Visionary Life of John von Neumann*.

Plagiarism: The course has zero tolerance for plagiarism or cheating. You must sign your name at the end of the op-ed stating, "I have not plagiarized any material and this paper was neither borrowed nor bought. I did not receive any help from an unauthorized tutor and all the work is my own." Failure to include this statement will result in a 10-point deduction from the paper's grade.

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](#).

Expectations for the course

- All written work must be proofread and edited. **Careless, unedited work will receive an automatic failing grade.** Zero tolerance for cheating and plagiarism.
- Questions on class material should usually be asked in class or office hour. It is not efficient to provide lengthy explanations of class material over email. Many of your questions can be answered by looking up material on OWL or reading the course outline. **Should you send an email for whatever reason, put ECON 225 and your section number in the subject line. Students are responsible for material covered in lectures whether they miss a lecture or not.**
- Your summaries in Econ 225 must not contain any exact language from the source except, if needed, keywords, technical terms, numbers, or proper nouns.
- I do not accept emailed or paper assignments, or late assignments.
- Note: When the course is over, you may want to submit your op-ed for publication to a periodical, a newspaper, or a website of your choice.

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
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

Examinations

Attendance at all scheduled examinations is mandatory. Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons. In

the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the [University Calendar](#).

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. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

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 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.

E-mail correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and MUST 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 conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo should never be used.

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.

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

[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.

[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.

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 and suggestions as to how this **course** could be improved.

Note: 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. 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

Outline last revised on Oct. 10, 2022