



University  
of Victoria

Economics

**Winter Session Second Term January 9 – April 6 2023**

**ECONOMICS 225**

**Writing for Economics**

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

**In-person instructional method**

**Instructor: Stephen Hume**

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

A01 CRN 21048 Clearihue A208 11:30-12:20 TWF

A02 CRN 21049 Hickman 116 2:30-3:20 MWTh

A03 CRN 21050 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](mailto:keeganlawrence@uvic.ca)

**IMPORTANT:** The department may cancel the registration of a student who fails to attend the course within the first 7 (seven) 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, January 18. The purpose is to evaluate your writing. Attendance will be taken every day for the first two weeks and at intervals during the term. Other important dates: Reading break Feb. 20-24. Last day of classes April 6.

### **Course Protocol**

The course outline may be modified to accommodate changing circumstances. 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 do not 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](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 20%. The components of an argument essay. Ten questions based on lectures, the Writing Well in Economics doc, and the Editing Well doc.
2. Writing, grammar, and punctuation test 20%. Ten questions. Based on lectures and OWL Purdue.
3. Argument Essay 30%. A paper of 800 words (min. 790 words to 810 words max.) on a selected topic. Drafts will be handwritten in class, and research will be conducted under my supervision in class. Your drafts will have your name at the top of each page, the name of your topic, and the date. Your essay will have a vivid personal anecdote, a strong position, strong supporting examples, a strong counter-argument, a refutation, and a call to action. **The paper must contain only one academic source in the references, no more and no less. Use material from this academic source to support your arguments and opinions.** You will use in-text citations, as necessary, to help build your argument. Times New Roman 12-point font only. You have a 24-hour window in which to submit the paper as a Word doc on Brightspace. Only Word docs accepted. PDFs are not accepted and receive a zero.

There are potential deductions and you should know them:

- a. Essays exceeding 810 words of text will have a grade deduction of 5 points.
  - b. The essay is a required component of the course, and an essay with no bona fide drafts will be considered incomplete with a potential grade of zero. Keep your dated drafts in a folder—they show how your paper evolved. Drafts will be handwritten in class. After you submit your paper, I may ask to see all your drafts.
  - c. Papers without a word count at the end will have a grade deduction of 5 points.
  - d. Papers without this signed plagiarism statement at the end will have a grade deduction of 10 points. You must include this statement: **"I have not plagiarized any material in this paper. This paper was not bought or copied. This paper was not edited or written by a generation system, i.e., prompts were not entered into an AI tool with the output used as my paper, in part or in full. I did not receive any help from an unauthorized tutor, and all the work is my own."**  
Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software including software used to detect AI generated text.
  - e. All citations in Econ 225, whether quotes or paraphrases, must include page numbers. If you borrow material from a website or source without page numbers, you must include the appropriate paragraph number(s) instead. **Failure to include page or paragraph numbers in a citation will be considered inadequate attribution, a form of plagiarism.**
4. Presentation 10%. Starting in March, students will deliver a five-minute presentation of their argument essay to the class, without notes, PowerPoint, or other external aids. 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 20%. Twenty writing, grammar, and punctuation questions.

The **diagnostic test**, the **research essay**, 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 is to re-read your work, assess it, and change it if necessary. The emphasis in economics writing is 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.**

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.

The university will be closed on the following days:

Family Day Monday Feb. 20

Good Friday April 7

Easter Monday April 10

### Course Schedule

Topic	Week	Due Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Introduction, What you need to know. How to write well in Economics. You want to maximize the knowledge retained by your reader, subject to a page-limit constraint. The reader's patience also imposes a constraint. Use short, simple sentences. The components of an argument essay. In-class exercises on writing an argument essay.</li> <li><b>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></b></li> </ul>	Week 1  9-13 Jan	<b>Introduction</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Attendance. There will be a mandatory in-class writing test on January 18.</b> This is an essential component of the course; you must take this test to complete the course. The test will ask you to provide a hand-written response to a question.</li> <li>Writing an argument essay. The purpose. The components.</li> <li>Practice writing clear, concise sentences. Grammar and writing in OWL Purdue. Know the parts of the argument essay.</li> <li>Choose topic from list of topics posted on Brightspace and begin researching. <b>PUT YOUR TOPIC IN THE DISCUSSION FORUM ON BRIGHTSPACE BY 11:59 PM Jan 20.</b></li> </ul>	Week 2  16-20 Jan	<b>Diagnostic Test Jan. 18 Wednesday</b>  <b>Choose essay Topics.</b> <b>Topics due on the BRIGHTSPACE DISCUSSION FORUM BY 11:59 PM Friday JAN 20</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Argument test <b>Jan 26 &amp; Jan 27.</b></li> <li>The basis of the standard opinion piece or news op-ed is the argument essay.</li> <li><b>Exercise #1.</b> This is a Saunders exercise on constraint and selection in writing. We may do this exercise in class. We may work in groups to compose a 100-word story using only 50 words. This in-class exercise may help you to learn how to write concisely. It may also help you to learn that the meaning of a sentence comes from its form (the arrangement of words) not its content (the words themselves.)</li> <li>Working on research paper in class.</li> </ul>	Week 3  23-27 Jan	<b>Argument Test on components of argument essay Jan 26 (A02, A03) &amp; Jan 27 (A01), Multiple choice and short written answers based on the Writing Well in Economics doc, the Editing Well in Economics doc, and the argument essay lectures.</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Exercise #2. Write a 100-word story using limited punctuation.</b> 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. Working on research paper in class; bring laptop or tablet to class for research on paper.</li> </ul>	Week 4 Jan 30- Feb 4	<b>Work on paper drafts in class</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on research paper in class, writing drafts. We may divide the classes into sections to allow for efficient feedback. Lectures on how to write, rewrite, and edit well. Lectures on writing in the workplace, e.g., briefing notes. Lectures on APA citation style, on in-text citations, and references. Note: All citations in Econ 225, whether quotes or paraphrases, must include page numbers.</li> </ul>	Weeks 5 and 6  6-10 Feb and 13- 17 Feb	<b>Work on paper drafts in class</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading Break</b></li> </ul>	Week 7  Feb 20- 24 READING BREAK	<b>Reading Break</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing and grammar test, March 2 &amp; 3 details TBA. Editing and revising the essay. Discussion on writing and editing methods. Sample grammar tests in class.</li> </ul>	Week 8  Feb 27- March 3	<b>Writing, punctuation, grammar test March 2 (A02, A03) and March 3 (A01)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Essay due on Brightspace by 11:59 p.m. Friday, March 10. Make sure you keep your drafts in a folder (multiple handwritten copies with edits.) An essay that does not have bona-fide paper drafts will be considered incomplete with a possible grade of zero.</b></li> </ul>	Week 9  March 6- March 10	<b>Argument essay due on Brightspace March 10</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations</li> </ul>	Weeks 10, 11, 12 March 13-31	<b>Presentations</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Final Test April 5, all sections, Wednesday, details TBA. The test will be based on the lectures, the Writing Well in Economics doc, and the Editing Well doc.</b></li> </ul>	Week 13 Review and final test on April 5	<b>Final grammar-writing test April 5 (A01, A02, A03)</b>

### **Delivery**

You are responsible for all readings and assignments each week ahead of class. Take notes in class. You may want to check the UVic Library tutorials on study methods and taking notes.

**If you are unable to take a test or submit a paper because of illness or other affliction, you may not be required to show a signed excuse or 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*, Ananyo Bhattacharya's *The Man from the Future: The Visionary Life of John von Neumann*, or John Hersey's *Hiroshima*.

**Plagiarism: The course has zero tolerance for plagiarism or cheating. See plagiarism statement on this outline.**

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.**

## **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.

**Note:** Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software including software used to detect AI generated text.

## **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](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)

Outline last revised on Jan. 17, 2023