Writing for Economists

CRN 31170

Summer Session May 15-June 30 2023

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

Instructor: Stephen Hume, sehume@uvic.ca
Teaching Assistant: Keegan Lawrence, keeganlawrence@uvic.ca
Office Hours: Friday 2-3 p.m. on Zoom or by appointment
Office hour link: https://uvic.zoom.us/j/89171884325
Meeting ID: 891 7188 4325
Class timetable TWF 10:30-12:20
MacLaurin Building D116

Course content
Students will learn to think of writing as a constrained optimization problem. They will practice writing strong, clear sentences, and they will learn about summaries, citation styles, and plagiarism. There will be a diagnostic test, two writing tests, a mid-term essay, a presentation, and a final writing test. Details about the presentation will be announced later in class. There is no take-home work.

Course material
There is no textbook for the course. Course material is on Brightspace. The online grammar/writing site is at OWL Purdue. The following documents will be posted on Brightspace for your study: Writing Well in Economics, Presenting Well in Economics, and Editing Well in Economics.

Electronic devices & Course protocol
Cell phones must be turned off, put on silent mode, and put away during class. Notes will be taken by hand on paper. Laptop or tablet use is not permitted in class. Chatting during class is not permitted unless it is part of an in-class writing assignment.

You must get at least a D in ECON 225 to pass the course.

Grading
The diagnostic test, the mid-term essay, the presentation, and the final test are mandatory course components; the diagnostic has no grade, but it is a requirement for completing the course.

Mandatory Course Components
Failure to complete all the mandatory course 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.

1. Registered students who do not attend class within the first 2 class meetings of the course may be dropped from the course. A mandatory diagnostic test will be given in class on Friday, May 19. Students must take this test to complete the course.
2. Registered students who decide not to take Econ 225 are responsible for dropping the course and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
3. Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.
4. Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
5. Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.

**Attendance and other important things**
Times in the course outline are PST (Victoria time). The university encourages everyone to wear a mask in indoor public places, particularly if people are close to each other. All documents and announcements are posted on Brightspace. Students should be fully functional with the learning system and check it often.

There is absolutely no cheating or looking around during tests. Cheating results in a zero on the test. Only pens may be used in tests and essays. Tests or essays written in pencil or erasable ink will not be accepted and will receive an automatic grade of zero.

Attendance will be taken often. Students who miss more than three classes during the term will receive an N (incomplete) grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Writing Test 1</th>
<th>20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Test 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Test</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Midterm(s):** The midterm essay is scheduled for Friday, June 2.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A+</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F or N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>65-69</td>
<td>60-64</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Students should review the University’s more detailed summary of grading.

**E-mail correspondence:**
Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as a prolonged illness, or inability to attend class or a test, and they 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 should be used in your email. This means the email should begin with a salutation (e.g., Dear….), include full sentences, and conclude with your full name and V#. Don’t be lazy; practice writing—write your own emails. I don’t respond to robot-made or AI-generated emails. Don’t use text message lingo. If you are going to miss a class or test, notify me before or during the class or test. There are no retroactive excuses in this course, medical or otherwise.

**Course Schedule**
Tests will be held on Fridays: May 19 (diagnostic), May 26, June 2, June 9, and June 30.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Due Dates and Exam Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Define Econ writing/Diagnostic test</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>May 15-May 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing test 1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>May 22-May 26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm argument essay</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>May 29-June 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing test 2/Presentations</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>June 5-June 9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>June 12-June 16</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>June 19-June 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review/Final test</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>June 26-June 30</td>
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**Learning Outcomes**
You will be expected to learn how to write clearly and concisely. You will learn to see writing as a constrained optimization problem. You will try to read often. You will learn how to give a presentation without the aid of props.
**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.

**Examinations and tests**

Students who wish to finalize their travel plans should book flights that depart after the end of the final test. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans, family wedding plans, and so on, conflict with the final test. Missed midterms: Make-up exams for midterms will not be given. In the event that you miss one midterm due to illness or family affliction, the weight of the missed exam will be shifted to the final exam. In the event that you miss a second exam due to illness or family affliction, please consult the Academic Concessions portion of the Registrar’s website to determine whether you qualify for a late drop or a withdrawal under extenuating circumstances.

**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 or, if necessary, an AI detection app.

**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**

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.

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.

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)
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 regarding the course 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. Please be thinking about this important activity.

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.

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.

This course outline may change depending on the needs of the course.
Last modified on May 3 2023