ECON 225 A04  
Writing for Economics  
CRN 21003  

Spring Session: Second Term 2020 01  

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Acknowledgement  

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen 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.  

Course Content  

Economics 225 includes practice in composition and basic grammar with an emphasis on clear, concise writing. You will learn to think and write like an economist, and you will be exposed to the correct style of the various documents you are likely to encounter as an economist. You will sharpen your skills with quizzes, tests, in-class compositions, an empirical research essay, and a final exam.  

Economics 225 is all about writing, research, and communication. The course was developed nine years ago in response to the need for English composition and comprehension skills in the undergraduate Economics program. Economics 225 is geared to a type of writing that combines clear, concise prose with theoretical analysis and the use of economics models. The course content includes the study of basic grammar as well as the writing of summaries, argumentative essays, opinions, and empirical research papers. Students who complete the course will have learned to communicate clearly, give a presentation, and write with precision.  

Textbook  


Students must buy the Writing by Economists textbook from the university bookstore. Students are not allowed to purchase used copies from the secondary market. This is because a) it is a workbook that is sometimes used for tests, and b) profits from the book go to UVic student scholarships. There will be no exceptions.
Grading
The final grade is determined as follows

25% Five Short Quizzes
- These unannounced quizzes will be based on selected text readings. The quizzes will ask you to answer factual comprehension questions or to write summaries or short response essays. The readings will be announced in advance of the quizzes.
- There may be factual questions about plagiarism on ANY of the five quizzes.

10% Grammar Test
- In-class grammar test based on lectures and the OWL website. There may be bonus questions on the abbreviations and symbols for editing and proofreading.

10% Argument Essay I
- Students will be asked to write, in class, a classical essay of argument of approximately 400 words.

10% Summary Test
- You will be asked to summarize one of the essays in the textbook.

30% Research Paper
- Write, and properly edit, a 1000 word empirical research essay in APA style. Papers must have a minimum of one scholarly peer-refereed source, and must be based on topics that are taken from one of the Economics websites or blogs on the course outline page.
- Students will need to indicate in advance, on paper, the website/blog/date the topic is from, and are required to submit a 100 word summary of the original source, with citation, stapled to the front of their essay. Papers without an attached summary will have 2 points deducted from the paper's grade.
- Students must hand in all drafts with their final essay. Papers that are submitted without all attached drafts will be considered incomplete, and will be penalized 10 points. A "draft" of a paper is defined as a printed copy of the paper that has been edited and marked up with a pencil, pen, crayon, or coloured pencil, showing where it has been changed.
- Please note: At least two drafts will be peer edited in class. If you don't participate in a peer-editing session, 10 marks will be deducted from your research paper grade unless you have a documented excuse. This means that a research paper receiving 10/30 would become 0/30. Students who arrive at a peer-editing session without three copies of their full draft will have 5 marks deducted.
- Your final paper MUST have at least one peer-reviewed journal article in its reference list. Ten marks will be deducted from your paper for a missing peer-reviewed article.
- Students must put a word count at the bottom of the last page of their essay, before the References section. Papers without a word count will have 2 points deducted from the research paper grade.
- Penalties on the research paper are cumulative. If you miss the library class AND the peer editing, you will receive a zero on the paper.
- This course takes violations of Academic Integrity very seriously. If a paper is found to contain plagiarism, it will receive a 0. Students in ECON 225 are required to tear out the perforated page on plagiarism: Appendix J, pp. 235-236. Students print and sign their name, and write the date. They must staple this section to the front of their final paper before handing it in. Final papers handed in without this document will be considered incomplete and will be penalized 10 points.

5% Presentation
- Dates will be announced. Giving a presentation to the class is required to complete the course. Part of your presentation will be fielding questions from your colleagues. Read Appendix H (pp. 223-225) in Writing by Economists for a guideline.
- Everyone is required to attend the presentations. Students will lose two marks from their presentation grade for every presentation they miss. A minus grade is possible.

10% Argument Essay II
- On the last day of class, students will be asked to write an essay of argument. Students will be offered a list of questions to choose from. The exam date is for everyone in the class. No exceptions will be made. Do not make any travel plans or other plans that conflict with that time and date.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-64</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>F or N</td>
<td>0-49</td>
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</table>

Students should review the University’s more detailed summary of grading.
Learning Outcomes
At the end of this course, a successful learner will demonstrate the ability to:

- prepare outlines and drafts of essays, and incorporate standard organizational styles and methods of citation in economics
- edit essays for correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence construction
- write essays that incorporate the presentation of information concisely, clearly, and correctly
- extract the key economic argument(s) from an article or body of literature, and write a summary of an article, movie, or body of literature
- write a correct abstract, paraphrase, and literature review
- write an empirical research essay in economics and organize numerical information in tables and figures to support written arguments simply, briefly, and clearly

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 do not show up in the first seven 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.

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

**Electronic devices**
Electronic devices may be used in class to take notes; however, students may not make or receive phone calls or text messages in the classroom. Students who violate this rule will be dismissed from class, and possibly the course.
### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Welcome and Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Course assumptions: A sentence is a structure of logical relationships. The engine that produces meaning in a sentence is form, not content.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Read Appendix D: &quot;Basic Sentence Patterns&quot; (pp. 189-190).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Writing a summary. Read Appendix A: “The Summary,” including the sample summary by Fu Yijing (pp. 189-190) to prepare.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Diagnostic Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Diagnostic Summary. The summary will be based on an article in the Writing by Economists textbook.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Grammar lecture on common writing problems. Students are encouraged to browse Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL) to prepare for the grammar lectures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Quiz #1: The quiz will be on selected readings from Section 1: Resources and Food.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Quiz 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Common problems with grammar, punctuation, and mechanics.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Abbreviations and symbols for editing and proofreading. Read Appendix D: &quot;Editing Symbols&quot; (pp. 187-188).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Topic selection for research papers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Discussion: building and writing an argument. Read Appendix B, including the sample article by Huang Ruiqing (pp. 175-181) to prepare for this lecture.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Quiz #2: The quiz will be on selected readings to be announced from Section 2: Sports.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Quiz 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Library class on economics research. Read Appendix G (pp. 197-204) to prepare for the class.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Article Summary</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Students will submit a 100 word summary of the source their research paper will be based on. Ultimately, this page will be stapled to the front of your final research paper. If you fail to hand this summary in by the due date you will be docked 3 marks on your research paper.</td>
<td></td>
<td>due</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In-class practice: writing an essay of argument.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Appendix F: &quot;Writing a Research Paper in Economics&quot; (pp. 191-196).</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>First Argument Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Research papers: organization: introduction, research methods, results, graphs, charts, integrating quotations</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Grammar lecture including research writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In-class essay of argument</td>
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<tr>
<td>• First peer-editing research paper in class. Peer editing is mandatory. Note the section on peer editing in this course outline under “Research Paper.” You must bring 3 typed copies of your full draft, including title page, body (including lit review), and academic references in APA style. You should not write an abstract this early in the draft stage. Students who do not bring three copies of their full draft to the peer editing session will have up to five marks deducted from their research paper grade. You also have to bring your Writing by Economists text, so that you can use the APA style guide and sample paper as references when you peer edit.</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Quiz 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Quiz #3: The quiz will be on selected readings to be announced from Section 3: Movies and Games</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading break: No classes 17-21 February</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Grammar Test</strong> 10 marks. The test will be based on information from the grammar lectures, and the OWL website.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• In class summary assignment, and discussion of the essay of argument.</td>
<td><strong>Grammar Quiz</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Lecture on how to include tables and figures, citing from the web and other non-print sources, and properly attributing your sources. Read Appendix H &quot;Tables and Figures&quot; (pp. 205-210) to prepare</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Revising your paper to course standards.</td>
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<th>9</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Summary Writing Exam</strong>, 10 marks, topic TBA.</td>
<td><strong>Summary Quiz</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Quiz #4</strong>: The quiz will be on selected readings to be announced from Section 4: Money &amp; Power</td>
<td>Quiz 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Read Appendix I &quot;In-class Presentations&quot; in Writing by Economists (pp. 211-214).</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Revising your paper to course standards.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Quiz #5</strong>: The quiz will be on selected readings to be announced from Section 5: Equity.</td>
<td><strong>Quiz 5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Second peer-editing research paper in class. Peer editing is mandatory. <strong>You must bring 3 typed copies of your full draft, including title page, abstract, body (including lit review) and academic references.</strong> Students who do not bring three copies of their full draft to the peer editing session will have up to five marks deducted from their research paper grade. You also have to bring your <em>Writing by Economists</em> text, so that you can use the APA style guide and sample paper as references when you peer edit.</td>
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<th>11</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Your Research paper is due at</strong> the start of class on Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>Final Paper Due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>o Papers received after the start of class but before 4:30 p.m. on the next day will be considered late, and will be docked 6 of 30 points.</td>
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<td>o Papers will not be accepted more than 24 hours late, and will automatically receive a 0.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <strong>Presentations</strong></td>
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<th>12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Presentations</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Review for argument essay II</td>
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<th>13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <strong>Argument essay II</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Argument Essay</strong></td>
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</table>
Expectations for the course

- All written work must be proofread and edited. Careless, unedited work will receive an automatic failing grade.
- To foster discussion, reading assignments for the week must be completed by the first day of class that week. For example, the reading and discussion assignments for Week 2 must be completed by the first class day of that week.
- All submitted work must be typed, single-sided and double-spaced. Handwritten assignments will not be accepted.
- When you take a writing test in Econ 225, you will triple space your work, and write on only one side of the page. This will help you to interrogate your sentences and pay attention to the words you use. Before you hand in your paper, you must carefully check over your work. A minimum time limit will be announced for all writing tests.
- Questions regarding class material should usually be posed during class or in person during office hours. It is not feasible to provide lengthy explanations of class material over email. Should you send email for whatever reason, please put ECON 225, and your section number in the subject line. Students are responsible for all material covered in lectures whether they miss a lecture or not.
- Students must bring their Writing by Economists text to every class, especially classes when there is a quiz or test. If you show up for class without your Writing by Economists text, you will be dismissed from class, and will receive a zero on any test given that day.
- Course assignments are mandatory. You must write the final exam, and hand in at least 80 per cent of the course work, including the final paper. If you don’t, you will receive an incomplete (‘N’) for the course.
- Students who do not take the diagnostic test and give a presentation will automatically receive an N (incomplete) for the course. The diagnostic test is held during the first two weeks of class, and the presentations take place at the end of the term.
- This is a professional writing course and we will take a professional approach, just as if you were in a business, government, or professional organization. This means there will be no intrusive chatting in class, no playing with electronic devices, and reading assignments will be completed. Class discussions hopefully will be open and lively.
- Students may get help on a completed research paper draft by taking it to the Centre for Academic Communication. Tutors may provide direction, but ultimately the paper you hand in will be your own.
- The summaries that you write in Econ 225 must not contain any quoted material. They must not contain any exact language from the source except, if needed, keywords, technical terms, numbers, or proper nouns.
- Students who will miss a class for health or other reasons must notify me by email before the class or during the class that they will be absent. Retroactive excuses or notes will not be accepted.

RESOURCES

I recommend that you explore some of these resources for your own research and entertainment.

- The New York Times
- The Globe and Mail
- The Guardian
- The BBC
- Freakonomics Blog
- FT Asia Pacific
- Tim Harford’s blog
- The Economists’ Voice
- A&L Daily
- Worthwhile Canadian Initiative
- Dollars and Sex
- NPR’s Planet Money
- China Daily
- Bloomberg
- The National Review
- Al Jazeera English
- Deutsche Welle
- Der Spiegel online
- The Huffington Post
- The New Yorker Podcast
- Freakonomics Podcast
- Economics for Public Policy
- Democracy Now! blog
- Nation of Change
- Adbusters Culturejammers HQ
- Slate
- xkcd.com
- Econbrowser.com
- Malcolm Gladwell’s Blog
- Internet Movie Database
- Four Word Film Reviews
- Movies for Economists
- Rotten Tomatoes
- Meta Critic

Read widely: Newspapers, blogs, novels, movie reviews, video game reviews, or magazines.