



## ECON 225 Writing for Economists

**Winter Session: 202409 – CRN 11087, 11088, and 11089.**

**A01 TWF 10:30-11:20 am in Cornett Building A120**

**A02 MWTh 2:30-3:20 pm in MacLaurin Building D110**

**A03 MWTh 3:30-4:20 pm in MacLaurin Building D016**

**Units 1.5**

## UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and 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: Stephen Hume**

**Office:** BEC 386

**Email:** sehume@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

**TA Name: Fengyi Zhang**

**Email:** fengyizhang@uvic.ca

## Course Content

Extensive practice in written technical and non-technical composition. Basic grammar is reviewed, including sentence syntax, punctuation, and paragraph construction. Students will be exposed to the correct style for the various documents they are likely to encounter. Students will learn how to write clearly and concisely. The course will conclude with student presentations.

**Important Note:** I may instruct the department to drop any student who fails to attend the course within the **first 7** calendar days from the start of the course. I will be taking attendance in those classes. Students who cannot attend those first few classes but wish to remain in the course should file a request for academic concession with the instructor.

## Learning Outcomes

**Students will learn how to write clearly and concisely. They will view writing as a constrained optimization problem. They will learn how to give a clear presentation by engaging the audience without the aid of PowerPoint, charts, or other props.**

## Course prerequisites/corequisites

Note: A comprehension and writing test will be given in the first seven calendar days of the course (**on Wednesday, September 11.**) Students who need extra work on basic grammar and sentence structure may be asked to see the Economics ECON 225 TA during the term to upgrade their writing skills. Students satisfy the ECON 225 course requirement if they have passed ENGR 240.

### Prerequisites

- 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 [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.

## Message to Waitlisted Students

Any students who are still waitlisted in a course after the course add deadline, should stop attending/completing coursework. Students are responsible for being aware of this deadline and will not be eligible for credit in the course despite continuing to complete coursework.

## Textbook

There is no textbook for the course. The research and grammar website for the course is the OWL Purdue Online Writing Lab: <https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/>

## Brightspace

Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture notes will be posted in Brightspace. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures. All announcements will be posted in Brightspace. Students are advised to check it frequently.

## Grading Scheme

**Minimum Grade Requirements: A grade of 50 (D) is required to pass Econ 225.**

The tests in the course will primarily have short-answer and multiple-choice questions. The course grade is determined as follows:

| Component      | Content  | Weight |
|----------------|--|--------|
| Writing Test 1 | Grammar and the How to Write Well in Economics document  | 20%    |
| Writing Test 2 | APA style and the How to Write Well in Economics document  | 20%    |
| Writing Test 3 | Active-passive voice and the How to Present Well in Economics document   | 20%    |
| Writing Test 4 | Review the material we have covered in class   | 20%    |
| Presentation   | Your 15-minute presentation to the class will be on the economic elements in a book or movie. You will be evaluated on the content of the presentation and the clarity of your delivery. | 20%    |

## Mandatory/Essential Course Components

### Examinations

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 tests will not be given.** In the event that you miss one midterm due to illness or family affliction, the weight of the missed test will be shifted to the final test. **In the event that you miss a second test 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.** All exams are essential course requirements, meaning, they must be attempted in order to pass the course.

The final test and the presentation are required components of the course. Failure to complete the final test or the presentation 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.”]

### 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](#).

### Missing Assessments

Should students encounter a situation where they miss an exam or cannot submit an assignment at its due date, they may qualify for an academic concession. Students are required to indicate the specific grounds on which they are requesting an academic concession and to provide a justification outlining the impact of the circumstances on their ability to complete course requirements. For in-course extensions, please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#) [or specify alternative means of communicating a request such as filling in a request on Brightspace]. I will not respond to informal requests of academic concessions. [Note any automatic academic concessions such as putting the weight of a missed midterm for a legitimate reason on the final, dropping the two worst grades of quizzes etc.] In case you miss the final exam, fill in a [request for a deferral](#).

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. Students do not qualify for an academic concession if travel plans conflict with the examination.

## 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:

## 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.
- 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.

## Course Schedule

| Topic                                     | Week               | Due Item                            | Due Dates     |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Introductory Lectures                     | 1 (Sep. 4-6)       | Introduction                        | September 4-6 |
| Writing                                   | 2 (Sep. 9-13)      | Mandatory diagnostic test           | September 11  |
| Writing                                   | 3 (Sep. 16-20)     | Writing test 1                      | September 18  |
| Writing                                   | 4 (Sep. 23-27)     | In-class writing exercises, lecture |               |
| Writing                                   | 5 (Sep.30-Aug.4)   | In-class writing exercises, lecture |               |
| Writing                                   | 6 (Oct.7-11)       | Writing test 2                      | October 9     |
| Writing                                   | 7 (Oct. 14-18)     | In-class writing exercises, lecture |               |
| Writing                                   | 8 (Oct. 21-25)     | Writing test 3                      | October 23    |
| Writing                                   | 9 (Oct. 28- Nov.1) | In-class writing exercises, lecture |               |
| Writing & Review                          | 10 (Nov. 4-8)      | Writing test 4                      | November 6    |
| Reading break (Nov. 11-13), Presentations | 11 (Nov. 11-15)    | Presentations                       |               |
| Presentations                             | 12 (Nov. 18-22)    | Presentations                       |               |
| Presentations                             | 13 (Nov. 25-29)    | Presentations                       |               |
| Presentations                             | 14 (Dec. 2-4)      | Presentations                       |               |

## 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.

## Student Code of Conduct

The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this [Student code of conduct](#). Please, review.

## University Policies

- University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Non-academic Student Misconduct](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Diversity / EDI](#)
- [Equity statement](#)
- Discrimination and Harassment [Policy](#)
- [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.

## 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).

## Resources for Students

[UVic Learn Anywhere](#) - UVic Learn Anywhere is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.

[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.

[Centre for Academic Communication](#) - Offers coaching on **academic integrity**, including preventing accidental plagiarism. Provides support to students with time management, reading, writing, speaking, understanding academic expectations, and other aspects of academic communication as well as creating academic posters, blogposts, PowerPoint slides, and e-portfolios.

[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.

[Indigenous Student Services](#) - Indigenous UVic students have access to many sources of support on campus. Before, during and after your time at UVic, you are encouraged to explore programs and services available to you, such as [Indigenous counselling services](#) and the [Elders in Residence](#), as well as non-academic programs that may be of interest to you.

[International Student Support](#) - The University of Victoria offers a number of resources to support international students as they pursue their studies. UVic's [International Centre for Students](#) is the primary office supporting international students on campus at the university-wide level and provides various supportive program through the [UVic Global Community Initiative](#), including a Mentorship Program and Conversation Partner Program.

For academic advising-related questions, students in the Economics Department are also encouraged to meet with the Economics Undergraduate Advisor (Brooklynn Comish-Trimble, [ecadvice@uvic.ca](mailto:ecadvice@uvic.ca)) as well as an academic advisor in the [Academic Advising Centre](#) early in their studies to help map out a plan to declare a major and complete university program requirements. Other resources include the [Centre for Academic Communication](#) and the [Math and Stats Assistance Centre](#).

The International Student Liason in the Economics Department is Dr. Paul Schure who can help you connect with other international and domestic students in the Department. His email address is [schure@uvic.ca](mailto:schure@uvic.ca). Please, reach out if you are interested.

## 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.

## 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 conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo and generative AI should not be used in emails.

## Electronic Devices

Phones must be put on silent mode during class and put away. Phones may not be used or checked during class. If you need to text or make a call, you can go outside the classroom. Computers or tablets may not be used in class and must be closed. All notes will be taken by hand.

## Use of AI

The use of AI in Econ 225 is not necessary since all graded coursework is completed in class. Every so often we may informally discuss the implications for humans of AI—for example, we may discuss information capitalism in the work of social philosopher Byung-Chul Han.