

Course: Econ 220W (D100)

Title: Communication in Economics

Semester: Spring 2020

Instructor: S. Easton

Description: The goal of this course is to improve student communication skills in the context of economic analysis and reasoning. Students will learn how to write a summary briefing paper, an editorial essay, and a research paper. Students will learn how to deliver oral presentations of their work.

Grading: In-Class assigned Essays and Quizzes 25%; Research Paper 25%; Presentations 25%; Tutorial Participation: 25%

Required Text: None

Recommended text: Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association American Psychological Association. any edition. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association ©2010

Notes: Students are expected to bring paper and pen to every class. No computers, tablets or cell phones are to be used in class unless indicated by the instructor. Class and tutorial attendance is required.

Outline and Reading List

January 8: Introduction and outline: Economics Review

No Tutorials

January 10: Economics Review

No Tutorials

Sources for topics

January 15: Writing a Briefing Document:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=3&ved=2ahUKEwj11L6irsLmAhVzGDQIHTjhD4kQFjACegQIDBAG&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edu.gov.mb.ca%2Fk12%2Fcur%2Fsocstud%2Fframe_found_sr2%2Ftns%2Ftn-21.pdf&usg=AOvVaw2S3UvmBgsIy8iszT9xenFX

<https://www.wordtemplatesonline.net/briefing-note-templates-examples/#briefing-note-template-pdf>

Quiz 1: write a briefing paper due January 29

Tutorial: Discuss what to choose as a topic for a briefing paper. Discuss your interests. Confirm your choice of topics with the instructor or TA

January 17: Public speaking

Tutorial: Give a diagnostic extemporaneous 2/3 minute talk in tutorial
Get used to public speaking. Limited or No notes.

January 22: How to summarize/patchwriting

Tutorial: **Quiz 2: Write a short essay in class on an economics topic that will be handed out in the tutorial**

January 24: How to Peer Review of Oral Presentations: Criteria

Students will receive a copy of the evaluation sheet (by email) and are expected to bring a physical copy for every presentation. These will be turned in to the instructor at the end of every presentation.

Tutorial: Discussion of the criteria

January 29: Writing an Editorial:

Quiz 1: Hand in Briefing Document

Quiz 3/homework: group assignment is to write an editorial - Due February 5

Tutorial: Discuss various topics for editorials/what interests you/go over examples.

Organize the groups for writing the editorial.

January 31: Written presentation of a research paper: Introduction to APA and other styles

<https://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/cite-write/citation-style-guides/apa>

<http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx>

“Quick References to APA Style”

Greg Harder, “The Basics of APA Writing” (May 28, 2017)

Tutorial: Set up the style sheet and discuss

February 5: Class and tutorial oral Presentation and discussion of group editorial

Quiz 3: Hand in editorials

Tutorial: oral presentation of your group editorial

February 7: What goes into a research paper?

“Writing in Social Science”

Tutorial: Discuss possible topics

February 12: Presenting Economics material 1

Jonathan Schwabish, “An Economist’s Guide to Visualizing Data” Journal of Economic Perspectives, Volume 28, Number 1, Winter 2014: 201-234. Available at:

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/jep.28.1.209>

Tutorial: Discuss what is expected.

February 14: Quiz 4 on APA Style

No Tutorial

February 19: Reading Week

February 21: Reading Week

February 26: Presenting Economics material 2

Tutorial: Discuss what is expected with some examples

February 28: A paper of interest

March 4: LIBRARIAN PRESENTATION

Tutorial: No Tutorials

PRESENTATIONS BEGIN

March 6: Presentations begin 15-20 minutes per presentation: 2 per session

March 11: Presentations 2

Tutorial: 1/tutorial and evaluation

March 13: Presentations 2

Tutorial: 1/tutorial and evaluation

March 18: Presentations: 2

Tutorial: 1/tutorial and evaluation

March 20: Presentations 2

Tutorial: 1/tutorial and evaluation

March 25: Presentations 2

Tutorial: 1/tutorial and evaluation

March 27: Presentations 2

Tutorial: 1/tutorial and evaluation

April 1: Presentations 2

Tutorial: 1/tutorial and evaluation

April 3: Presentations 2

Tutorial: 1/tutorial and evaluation

April 8: Presentations 2

Tutorial: 1/tutorial and evaluation

Final Written Paper Due April 9

Sources for topics and ideas for essays

ECONLIT

NBER Digest

The Economist

FD: Finance and Development (International Monetary Fund) and blog

Freakonomics Blog

The Fraser Institute

CD Howe Institute