

**Economics 3111 Fall 2024**  
**Writing in Economics**

**Instructor**

Catherine Boulatoff

Section 01

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Econ B25

**Office Hours:**

By appointment.

**Section:**

W 17:35 – 20:25 Mac Cain 2162

**Tutorials:**

NA

**Course Description:**

ECON 3111 Writing in Economics

CREDIT HOURS: 3

This course provides instruction in principles and practice of good writing about economics. Students read and examine writing samples and practice writing for various venues (such as government, firms, and news media) in various formats (such as opinion editorials, government policy papers, economics blogs, and journal articles).

NOTES: All Economics courses, unless stated otherwise, have a minimum grade requirement of C for their prerequisite courses.

**Course Prerequisites:**

[ECON 2200.03](#), [ECON 2201.03](#), a Dalhousie Writing Course

**Course Objectives/ Learning Outcomes:**

This is a reading and writing intensive course. Our goal in this class is for you to improve communication skills in conducting economic research. This includes writing, public speaking, teaching, informal conversation, and collaboration. This will be achieved using a scaffolding approach. You will first learn from already existing economic articles to recognize and assess journal articles in economic journals, videos, books, and magazine (e.g., NY times, The Economist). Please note that form and content have approximately equal weight in writing assignments.

Your responsibilities in this class include the following:

- **During each class**, you will have an in-class **assignment** based on readings (research articles, various online materials, or videos). You will be graded both on form and content of your work. It is crucial that you complete the assignment at the required time as the ensuing class is based on what you learned then.
- **Each class** will require your **active participation** in class discussion;
- **Each class** will require some of you to lecture a particular chapter (assigned ahead of time, individually); your presentation will include up to 5 slides (PPT file) + title and your name on the first page.
- **At the end of the semester**, you will have to complete a **final project**. In pairs, you will write a research proposal (5 pages max, tables and figures included, APA style, font 12, 1.5 line spacing) on the topic of your choice. This work will require that you perform an extensive and thorough literature review, then outline a research question, and the means by which this project would be undertaken (methodology, timeline, budget, personnel). Here again, the grade you will receive will be based on both form and content. You will also **present** your proposal orally (15 mn presentation).

**Course Materials:**

**Required:**

*Student's guide to Writing College Papers*, by Turabian Kate L. (2019) Fifth edition, University of Chicago Press – available at Dal Killam.

**Suggested readings:**

*Writing by Economists*, by S.E. Hume & B. Ahmadi (Eds.) (2013) Victoria: Open Leaf Press

*A Guide to Writing in Economics*, by P. Dudenhefer (2009), Duke University

*Writing Economics*, by R. Neugeboren and M. Jacobson (2001), Harvard University - Available at Dal Killam both in print and as an e-book.

*Economical Writing, 2/E*, by Deirdre N. McCloskey (1999) – Available at Dal Killam -  
**Writing for Social Scientists**, by Howard S. Becker (2020) Third edition, University of Chicago Press Chicago and London  
**Proposal Planning & Writing: fifth Edition**, by Jeremy T. Miner and Lynn E. Miner (2013) - Available at Dal Killam Novanet Electronic Resource

**Course Assessment:**

In-class assignments (best 5/7) - 30% of final grade	See Tentative Schedule
Draft 1 of proposal - 10% of final grade	Oct 16
Class participation – 10% of final grade	Troughout term
Presentations of chapters - 10% of final grade	As scheduled
Proposal presentation - 15% of final grade	Nov 20
Final draft of proposal - 25% of final grade	(T) Dec 3 (by 4 pm)

**Brightspace Information:**

This course has a Brightspace page for all registered students; see <https://dal.brightspace.com> for details. **Marks, and announcements will all be posted to Brightspace.** It is essential that you familiarise yourself with how to use the Brightspace system.

**Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades following the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale:**

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D	(50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F	(<50)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)		

**Course Policies:**

Assignments are to be your own work. If you are caught using anyone else’s work, both parties to the plagiarism will be dealt with severely. Please read the Department statement on academic integrity.

Three absences can be excused in the semester. This means that your participation will not be penalized as a result. However, you will receive a zero on in-class assignments assigned that day. If you miss your presentation, you will receive a zero as well, unless you are able to “trade in” presentations times with someone else in the class. For example, if you have prepared the slides already, someone could present for you, and in return you would present for them when it is their presentation day.

## Tentative Schedule

### Week 1. (Sept 4)

- Introduction : syllabus and overall organization of class.
- In-class Presentations (Ahmadi and Hume, Appendix H, p219+)

### Week 2. (Sept 11)

- Write a summary. Appendix A Hume & Ahmadi (1 individual)
- Introduction to Grantseeking - Chapter 1 (Part1. Proposal Planning and Writing) Miner and Miner (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- [Assignment 1](#)

### Week 3. (Sept 18)

- Imagining your project - Chapter 1 --- Turabian (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Letter Proposal Template - Chapter 5 (part 2. Proposal Planning and Writing) Miner and Miner (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Letter Proposal Example – Chapter 6 (part 2. Proposal Planning and Writing) Miner and Miner (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- [Assignment 2.](#)

### Week 4. (Sept 25)

- Chapters 2&3. Defining a Research Question & Working toward an Answer (Turabian) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Part 3: Writing Government Proposals (Overview and Ch7 problem statement) Miner and Miner (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Part 3: Writing Government Proposals (Ch8 Goals, Objectives, Outcomes) Miner and Miner (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- [Assignment 3](#)

### Week 5. (Oct 2)

- Part 3: Writing Government Proposals (Overview and Ch9 Methods) Miner and Miner (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Chapter 5 Engaging Sources (Turabian) (1 individua: \_\_\_\_\_)
- [Chapter 8 terrorized by the Literature, Becker](#) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- [Assignment 4](#)

### Week 6. (Oct 9)

- Chapters 6&7 Constructing Your Argument & Planning a First Draft ) (Turabian) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Chapters 8&9 Drafting your Paper & incorporating your Sources (Turabian) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Part 3: Writing Government Proposals (Overview and Ch12 Budget) Miner and Miner(1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- [Assignment 5](#)

### Week7. (Oct 16)

- Chapters 10&11 Avoiding Plagiarism & using Tables and Figures (Turabian) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- [Chapter 9 Writing with computers, then and now, Becker](#) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Submit Draft 1 proposal (beginning of class – printed) and [present in pairs \(1 slide: Title, question, brief method\)](#)

### Week 8 (Oct 23)

- Chapter 16 Learning from Readers' comments (Turabian) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)

- Chapter 12 Organizing your paper & Writing you Introduction and Conclusion (Turabian) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)  
Assignment 6

### Week 9 (Oct 30)

- Chapter 17 Delivering your research as a Presentation (Turabian) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Chapter 19 Citing sources (Turabian) (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Part 3 Writing Government Proposals (Ch10 Evaluation) Miner and Miner (1 individual: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Assignment 7. Print and bring a peer reviewed article (maybe related to your project?)

### Week 10 (Nov 6)

- **Group Meetings to discuss proposal (they should bring one page (title, research question, plan of action, timeline and budget) (about 10 min each group)**

### Week 11 (Nov 13)      **Fall reading week**

### Week 12 (Nov 20)

- Proposal Presentation (i.e. PPT presentation, 3-5 slides each: (1) Title and name, (2) question, how it adds to lit., (3) method, (4) budget) – 10 min each.

### Week 13 (Nov 27)

- **Bring computer and your proposal.**
- **Submit final draft of proposal (printed 5 pages max, tables and figures included + sources) – on last day of classes (Tuesday, December 3 By 4pm)**

### Week 14 (Dec 4)      **Monday classes held**

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## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity, with its embodied values, is seen as a foundation of Dalhousie University. It is the responsibility of all students to be familiar with behaviours and practices associated with academic integrity. Instructors are required to forward any suspected cases of plagiarism or other forms of academic cheating to the Academic Integrity Officer for their Faculty.

The Academic Integrity website (<http://academicintegrity.dal.ca>) provides students and faculty with information on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, and has resources to help students succeed honestly. The full text of Dalhousie's *Policy on Intellectual Honesty* and *Faculty Discipline Procedures* is available here:

[http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity/academic-policies.html)

## STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Dalhousie University has a student code of conduct, and it is expected that students will adhere to the code during their participation in lectures and other activities associated with this course. In general:

“The University treats students as adults free to organize their own personal lives, behaviour and associations subject only to the law, and to University regulation that are necessary to protect

- the integrity and proper functioning of the academic and non – academic programs and activities of the University or its faculties, schools or departments;

- the peaceful and safe enjoyment of University facilities by other members of the University and the public;
- the freedom of members of the University to participate reasonably in the programs of the University and in activities on the University's premises;
- the property of the University or its members.”

The full text of the code can be found here:

[http://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html](http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html)

## **DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

At Dalhousie University, we respect the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, adherence to the values of academic integrity and related policies is a requirement of being part of the academic community at Dalhousie University.

### **What does academic integrity mean?**

Academic integrity means being honest in the fulfillment of your academic responsibilities, thus establishing mutual trust. Fairness is essential to the interactions of the academic community and is achieved through respect for the opinions and ideas of others. “Violations of intellectual honesty are offensive to the entire academic community, not just to the individual faculty member and students in whose class an offence occurs.”

(<http://ug.cal.dal.ca/UREG.htm#12>)

### **How can you achieve academic integrity?**

- Make sure you understand Dalhousie’s policies on academic integrity.
- While discussion with your fellow students is valuable, do not submit an assignment or essay that is essentially identical to an assignment or essay submitted by another individual or group.
- In assignments or essays, use an approved method of citation for any material taken directly from an existing source or any material that is a paraphrase of an existing source.
- Do not download the work of another from the Internet and submit it as your own.
- Do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor.
- Do not have someone else write a test for you, or write a test for someone else.
- During a test, do not talk with other students and do not try to copy the work of another student.

### **What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?**

Instructors are required to report any suspected offence. The full process is outlined in the Discipline flow chart (found at <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca>) and includes the following:

- Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors.
- The AIO decides whether to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process.
- If the case proceeds, you will receive a PENDING grade until the matter is resolved.
- If you are found guilty of an academic offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning to suspension or expulsion from the University and can include a notation on your transcript, failure of the assignment, or failure of the course. All penalties are academic in nature.

### **Where can you turn for help?**

- If you are ever unsure about ANYTHING, contact your instructor.
- See <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca> for links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, and tips on citing and paraphrasing.
- See <http://writingcentre.dal.ca> for assistance with proofreading, writing styles, and citations.

- See <http://libraries.dal.ca/research.html> for a set of research tools including Subject Guides, Assignment Calculator, and RefWorks.
- See <http://studentservices.dal.ca> for assistance with appeals and discipline procedures.
- See <http://senate.dal.ca> for a list of Academic Integrity Officers, a discipline flow chart, and the Senate Discipline Committee.

The [Policy on Student Submission of Assignments & Use of Originality Checking Software](#) states that “any instructor may require student assignments to be submitted in both written and electronic (computer-readable) form, e.g., a text file or as an email attachment, as defined by the instructor. Use of third-party originality checking software does not preclude instructor use of alternate means to identify lapses in originality and attribution. The results of such assessment may be used as evidence in any disciplinary action taken by the Senate.”

## SERVICES AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS

The following campus services are available to help students develop skills in library research, scientific writing, and effective study habits. The services are available to all Dalhousie students and, unless noted otherwise, are free.

Service	Support Provided	Location	Contact
<b>General Academic Advising</b>	<p>Help with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- understanding degree requirements and academic regulations</li> <li>- choosing your major</li> <li>- achieving your educational or career goals</li> <li>- dealing with academic or other difficulties</li> </ul>	<p><b>Killam Library Ground floor</b> Rm G28 <i>Bissett Centre for Academic Success</i></p>	<p>In person: Killam Library Rm G28</p> <p>By appointment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- e-mail: <a href="mailto:advising@dal.ca">advising@dal.ca</a></li> <li>- Phone: (902) 494-3077</li> <li>- Book online through MyDal</li> </ul>
<b>Dalhousie Libraries</b>	<p>Help to find books and articles for assignments</p> <p>Help with citing sources in the text of your paper and preparation of bibliography</p>	<p><b>Killam Library Ground floor</b></p> <p>Librarian offices</p>	<p>In person: Service Point (Ground floor)</p> <p>By appointment:</p> <p>Identify your subject librarian (URL below) and contact by email or phone to arrange a time:</p> <p><a href="http://dal.beta.libguides.com/sb.php?subject_id=34328">http://dal.beta.libguides.com/sb.php?subject_id=34328</a></p>
<b>Studying for Success (SFS)</b>	<p>Help to develop essential study skills through small group workshops or one-on-one coaching sessions</p> <p>Match to a tutor for help in course-specific content (for a reasonable fee)</p>	<p><b>Killam Library 3<sup>rd</sup> floor</b></p> <p>Coordinator Rm 3104</p> <p>Study Coaches Rm 3103</p>	<p>To make an appointment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit main office (Killam Library main floor, Rm G28)</li> <li>- Call (902) 494-3077</li> <li>- email Coordinator at: <a href="mailto:sfs@dal.ca">sfs@dal.ca</a> or</li> <li>- Simply drop in to see us during posted office hours</li> </ul> <p><b>All information can be found on our website: <a href="http://www.dal.ca/sfs">www.dal.ca/sfs</a></b></p>
<b>Writing Centre</b>	<p>Meet with coach/tutor to discuss writing assignments (e.g., lab report, research paper, thesis, poster)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Learn to integrate source material into your own work appropriately</li> <li>- Learn about disciplinary writing from a peer or staff member in your field</li> </ul>	<p><b>Killam Library Ground floor</b> Learning Commons &amp; Rm G25</p>	<p>To make an appointment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Visit the Centre (Rm G25) and book an appointment</li> <li>- Call (902) 494-1963</li> <li>- email <a href="mailto:writingcentre@dal.ca">writingcentre@dal.ca</a></li> <li>- Book online through MyDal</li> </ul> <p>We are open six days a week</p> <p><b>See our website: <a href="http://writingcentre.dal.ca">writingcentre.dal.ca</a></b></p>