

Department of Economics
ECON 3111: Writing in Economics
Fall 2021 Course Syllabus

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.

Thursdays 11:35-13:55, Studley MCCAIN ARTS&SS 2116

Instructor: Prof. Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel, Dalhousie University, Department of Economics

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Lectures: Thursdays 11:35-13:55, Studley MCCAIN ARTS&SS 2116

Course delivery: In-person, lectures won't be recorded.

Office hours: Tuesdays 15:00-16:00 (on Brightspace for the month of September and in-person in the rest of the term, no appointment needed during this time). Meetings at any other time should be arranged in advance via e-mail and will take place in Zoom or in-person.

Course Description: This course provides instruction in principles and practice of good writing in 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, policy writing, economics blogs, and journal articles).

Course Prerequisites: ECON 2200.03, ECON 2201.03, a Dalhousie Writing Course (all Economics courses, unless stated otherwise, have a minimum grade requirement of C for their prerequisite courses)

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

- The main objective of the course is 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 research to recognize and assess policy and journal articles in economic journals, blogs, videos, books, and magazine (e.g., NY times, The Economist, World Bank, IMF, etc.).
- During the class, you will have assignments based on readings (research articles, various online materials, and chapters from assigned books). You will be graded both on form and content of your work. It is crucial that you complete the assignment as a portion of the ensuing class based on what you learned then.
- At the end of the semester, you will have to complete a final project. You will write a research proposal (10-15 pages) 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). You will also present your proposal orally via 20 minutes presentation.