Economics students are expected to learn to effectively communicate economic theory and evidence relating to economic policy to audiences that do not have economics degrees. The skills to be learned are both written and oral communication. Students learn to present convincing policy arguments in position papers, executive summaries, and in oral presentation that may include charts and other means of communication. Students must have satisfied the Entry-Level Writing and Composition requirement, as well as either 100A, 100M, 100B, 100N, or 113, before enrolling.

Students of economics must satisfy the major’s upper-division Disciplinary Communication (DC) requirement. Economics 197 satisfies this requirement for Economics majors. It is intended to familiarize you with the demand and rewards of working and writing within the economic academic community.

Course Objectives

- Read, think, speak, and write with care and clarity
- Write a clear, concise, finished piece of work
- Prepare and deliver oral presentations effectively
- Support opinions with compelling data and visual aids

Course Texts and Reading

- Elements of Style by Strunk and White. If you type this title and author into google the first link will be to a pdf of the book. We will read and may take a brief quiz on this book. I would recommend reading it when the time comes.

- Assigned Readings on Piazza.com. I have linked many articles found in The Guardian, The New York Times, The Atlantic Magazine, The Economist, The Financial Times, Business Insider, etc. These articles are meant to inform you on topics such as income inequality, the minimum
wage, wealth inequality, trade agreements, budget deficits, taxes, etc. These are the topics you can write about if you choose. Many of these articles are examples of what you should be able to write as a graduate of Economics. We will use them as initial sources of more significant research that will form the basis of the largest writing and speaking assignment. I will specify a topical schedule and will let you know which articles are relevant. Most of them are titled in the link itself.

Course Requirements

- The class will work in the following way: we will meet the first two weeks on Monday and Wednesday at 1:00 to 2:15 (possibly longer) to discuss new writing topics. Hopefully you will find several topics of interest to write about. I will post videos of the relevant economics through a google drive linked through Canvas. Rather than spend hours meeting on zoom, I will provide detailed feedback and editing for each student on their first or second paper. You will also receive detailed feedback and editing on one of these papers by our TA, Ian Allen. Between paper #1 and paper #2 you should have received detailed feedback by both of us. Students have asked for this in the past, and given our online paradigm, I think this is the time to try it out. You will also have the option of free professional editing. More information will be provided our first day of zoom.

- You will write 3 short papers that are 2-3 pages in length. These will be focused on the topics covered in weekly discussion and/or in the articles posted to Piazza. You may also write about any economic topic that interests you. If you are not sure if it is appropriate to the course, please ask in advance. These papers need to be submitted to Canvas.

- You will write one long paper that is between 10-12 pages in length. This paper will be an in-depth presentation and argument on one of the topics covered in class, one of the linked articles, or one of your own ideas. If you have a topic that you would like to write about that is not mentioned, please ask because as long as it relates to your work as a student of Economics, I will approve the topic. This research will be presented in a 10-15-minute presentation that will need to be recorded on your own. There are several ways to do this that we can discuss.

- We will take two “midterms“ during the quarter. You should not need to spend any time “studying“ for these writing assignments. The purpose of these tests is to evaluate your ability to write, rewrite, and edit your own work over the course of 75 minutes. I will send out the exam and you will need to upload your work within 75-minutes. You will be given 5-6 questions to choose from. These topics will have been discussed in our Zoom meetings. You will select one question, write a 1-2-page essay, and spend the time perfecting the essay. At the end of the exam period you will submit the essay on Canvas. These exams will occur the Monday of the third and fourth week.
Topical Schedule

The topics you should be able to write about as a graduate of Economics are vast. We will discuss some of these topics on zoom together and I will attempt to record and post mini lectures reviewing the relevant economics that you have covered in some of your other courses. Subjects of public policy are an application of many of the things you should have already learned. We will spend this quarter writing about those topics. Effectively writing about such things as the minimum wage requires a basic review and understanding of the relevant theories you have covered in other courses. Many of the linked articles on Piazza could have been written by someone with a degree in Economics. We are going to learn how to perfect our writing on these subjects. As I mentioned previously, while the short papers will be somewhat specific, the long paper can be on a topic not covered as long as you provide a detailed description of how it relates specifically to the subject of economics. There are public policy areas not covered here. A few of the Piazza links cover subjects I will not address. These are included for your use if desired. Additionally, a few are about media bias, which I will briefly address in lecture. It is important for the sources of our information to be impeccable.

Grade Calculations

• 10% of your grade will come from attendance and participation. We will meet exactly 4-5 times that will “count”: every Monday at 1:00 for about an hour to 90 minutes. You will also need to attend one mandatory meeting with the TA where you will meet with a group of 5 students section with the TA. These 10 meetings will account for the 10%. I have not completed this requirement as I am still working on the logistics but be prepared to meet 5 other times for up to 30 minutes with the TA. (A total of 10 ‘meetings’ although it may be fewer)

• 30% of your grade will come from the two combined midterms. Each of the two midterm essays will be worth 15% of your grade. Content as well as quality of the writing will be considered. The exam will give you a choice between several questions that will be based on specific articles on Piazza that I ask you to read.

• 30% of your grade will come from the sum of three short essays. All three are of equal weight. These may have specific topics or directions that will be given out in class and posted to piazza. I will give you many subject options as we move through the course. If you choose a topic for this short paper, you may use the same topic for the longer research paper discussed below. This will allow you to invest in a minimal amount of research before deciding if you want to commit to the topic further. Each of these short-papers requires three references that do not need to be empirical papers but rather news or opinion pieces.

• 30% of your grade will come from the final paper (20%) and presentation of that paper (10%). You need to submit your video by the last day of class.
• Learning Support Services offers writing tutoring. Follow this link to register and see how it works remotely (through zoom I believe). I would recommend scheduling one of these sessions with a writing tutor. If you miss a lecture, you can recover the points by attending one of these sessions. You will need to have your tutor send me an email confirming that you have completed a session. Follow this link to schedule: https://lss.ucsc.edu/programs/writing-support/sign-up-for-writingtutoring.html

General Paper and Formatting Guidelines

• Please use 12-point font, double-space, and one-inch margins. Do not get fancy with the font you use. Your work should look professional.

• Documents must be uploaded to Canvas. The due date is listed with the assignment on Canvas.

• When an assignment asks for a certain number of pages, this does not include the reference pages or endnote pages. If the assignment requires these, as the final paper will, these pages are in addition to the page number requested. Also, do not try to format your paper in strange ways in order to accomplish the required length. In other words, do not choose a large font, right justify, etc.

• You will lose points if your assignments are late. Generally, I will accept papers on the day that they are due, by 11:59 p.m. (see Canvas)

Research/Policy Paper and Presentation Instructions

• There is a rubric posted on Piazza for both the long paper as well as for your presentation.

• While the shorter papers require reading the Piazza links and writing opinion pieces, the longer paper requires that you do your own research beyond the links already available. Many of these posts actually reference or are summaries of economic research. You are required to find empirical papers on your subject and use them to write your policy paper.

• You need at least 4 sources for this paper. At least two of them need to be empirical papers on the subject. The other sources can be from places like the New York Times, etc., or wherever you got your idea in the first place. A good source for these papers would be to look at the Journal of Economic Perspectives as it tends to cover many different subjects.

• You are required to write a 12-15-page research/position paper in which you must take and defend an economic policy position. You may make an economic argument in favor or opposed to one or another policy. You may also opt to illuminate an area of study relevant to the field of economics. This format would me more of an informative paper rather than persuasive. An example would be explaining Brexit (although this could also be a position paper), or explaining
the financial crisis of 2008. In the first case, you must take and defend a position with clear evidence and sound argument.

- As with all of your writing, it is fine to ask others to think with you, or to read and comment on your work. In fact, this is highly recommended. However, when it comes time to put your thoughts on paper, your work must be your own, with appropriate citation of source materials. This is an opportunity to practice using the skills you will need later in employment, graduate school, and life in general.

Other Information

Please see the Navigator for information concerning academic integrity. Do not copy someone else’s writing unless it is a direct quote, in which case it should be quoted and given proper citation. Do not copy other students writing either, for obvious reasons. Academic integrity will be taken very seriously in this course.

We have a Teaching Assistant assigned to this course, Ian Allen. He will be helping me grade as well as helping you with your writing if you choose to visit his office hours. I cannot proof your papers in office hours. For proof-reading, please take your paper to the writing lab. I would recommend meeting with the TA at least once as he is helping with the grading of the papers. His email address is iallen@ucsc.edu.

Dates
June 28th: Short Paper One Due
July 5th: Short Paper Two Due
July 6th: Midterm One
July 12th: Short Paper Three Due
July 13th: Final Paper Topic Idea Due
July 15th: Midterm Two
July 22nd: Final Paper Due
July 24th: Presentation Video Due

Important Summer Session Remote 2020 Deadlines:

Session 1:
Drop: Monday, June 29
Request for “W”: Friday, July 10

Session 2:
Drop: Monday, August 3
Request for “W”: Friday, August 14

8-Week:
Drop: Monday, July 6
Request for “W”: Friday, July 24

10-Week:
Drop: Monday, July 6
Request for “W”: Friday, July 24

Summer is unique. **You will not be dropped for non-attendance or non-payment.** You must drop yourself. Dropping before the deadline results in a full-tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including ’change of grade option’ (P/NP) and grades due, here is the summer academic calendar: [https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html](https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html)

For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email summer@ucsc.edu.

**DRC Remote Accommodations:**

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. Operations continue via remote appointments. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, email the DRC Schedulers at drc@ucsc.edu for an appointment.

**Small Group Tutoring**

Small Group Tutoring (SGT) supports students academically to advance educational equity by designing inclusive learning environments outside of the classroom. In SGT, you can expect the Tutor to facilitate cooperative group activities designed to have students work together on the course content and develop study skills for the course. SGT is offered at least three times each week for the entire quarter. The Tutor is an undergraduate student who took the class, did well, and is trained to facilitate group sessions to focus on students’ needs to succeed in the course. SGT is open to all students enrolled in the class and they must sign up on our online system: TutorTrac. When students sign up for SGT, they are committing to attend every week. For Summer 2020, students can begin signing up for tutoring on **Monday, June 22nd** and tutoring will begin **Wednesday, June 24th**. Students only have to sign up once for tutoring and their appointments will repeat weekly. Sign-ups will close on **Friday, August 14th** for all Summer Session Sign-Ups. This means that after **August 14th**, no new students can sign up for tutoring.

Want SGT to be successful for you? Bring your books, lecture notes, questions, and be open to working collaboratively with your peers. You can sign up using this link: [https://ucsc.go-redrock.com/tracweb40/NoAccess.4sp?errText=insufficient%20credentials%20to%20view%20content](https://ucsc.go-redrock.com/tracweb40/NoAccess.4sp?errText=insufficient%20credentials%20to%20view%20content)

You can also find the link on our website: [https://lss.ucsc.edu/index.html](https://lss.ucsc.edu/index.html)
**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree. All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student’s transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Integrity page](#) at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

**Title IX:**

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. Information about the Title IX Office, the [online reporting link](#), applicable campus resources, reporting responsibilities, the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#), and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at [titleix.ucsc.edu](http://titleix.ucsc.edu).

The Title IX Office is actively responding to reports and requests for consultation. If you are not currently working with someone in the office and want to make a report/request a consult, you can expect the fastest response by using our [online reporting link](#).

For more information please visit the [Title IX Operations under Covid-19](#) page.