

## ECON 26b Writing in Economics Practicum

### Contact Details

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### Communication

Email, phone, text communication is encouraged outside of Zoom class hours.

### Continuity

Class cancellations or scheduling conflicts will be communicated via email if necessary. Students will also be required to notify via email ahead of time for any class absence.

### Meeting Times/Locations

#### Classes

Summer Session 1: June 5<sup>th</sup> – July 7<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday/Thursday, 7:00-9:00AM  
Zoom class link:

### Accommodations

Brandeis seeks to create a learning environment that is welcoming and inclusive of all students, and I want to support you in your learning. Live auto transcription is available for all meetings or classes hosted on Zoom and you can turn it on or off to support your learning. Please [check for Zoom updates](#) to take advantage of this new feature. To learn more, visit the [Zoom Live Transcription webpage](#). For questions, contact [help@brandeis.edu](mailto:help@brandeis.edu)

If you think you may require disability accommodations, you will need to work with Student Accessibility Support (SAS) (781-736-3470, [access@brandeis.edu](mailto:access@brandeis.edu)). You can find helpful student FAQs and other resources on the [SAS website](#), including guidance on how to know whether you might be eligible for support from SAS. If you already have an accommodation letter from SAS, please provide me with a copy as soon as you can so that I can ensure effective implementation of accommodations for this class. In order to coordinate exam accommodations, ideally you should provide the accommodation letter at least 48 hours before an exam.

### Course Description

#### Course Prerequisite(s):

ECON 82b. Course may be taken as a corequisite. Yields half-course credit.

#### Learning Goals:

This course is designed to enhance each student's ability to use writing in the practice of economics. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to produce a 10-15 page paper on a key economic issue. The practice of writing while gaining an understanding of economic jargon throughout the course will

teach students how to best engage with an educated non-specialist audience. This is a writing-intensive practicum that fulfills the Writing Intensive foundational literacies requirement for Economics majors.

### **Credit Hours:**

Success in this four-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of six hours of studytime per week in preparation for class (readings, assignments, research, preparation for the final paper, etc.)

## **Course Requirements**

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory (excused absences will be accepted with notification) and is the foundation for a strong participation grade for the course.

### **Assignments**

Assignments will be due weekly by midnight before class. Please submit via LATTE. Late submissions will result in point deductions. See grading and evaluation below for specific assignments.

### **Participation**

Students are expected to participate in the course through weekly discussions in our Zoom sessions as well as one-on-one and peer-review meetings. Please come to each session prepared to discuss and ask questions based on the week's readings and assignments. This course is most beneficial when all participants are listening actively and attentively, responding thoughtfully and constructively to the comments made by myself and other class members.

## **Course Plan**

### **June 6, 2023**

Introduction. Course expectations and discussion of economic indicators.

**Assignment: Economic Indicators GUIDES template**

### **June 8, 2023**

Review of GUIDES template.

Discussion of business/economic writing style.

Introduce macroeconomic brief writing style.

**Assignment: Pick an economic indicator and write a 1-page brief**

**ALSO: Think about topic of choice for final paper**

### **June 13, 2023**

Discuss short economic briefs.

Review use of graphs/charts to supplement writing.

**Assignment: Prepare two charts to support your topic of choice**

### **June 15, 2023**

Discuss charts and techniques for interpreting data.

Develop tools to put the pieces together to form an economic outlook.

**Assignment: Pick an economic indicator and write a 1-page brief**

### **June 20, 2023**

Present short economic briefs in subgroups.

Discuss research strategies.

Introduce Article Report.

Prep for final paper outline.

**Assignment: Prepare Article Report**

**June 22, 2023**

Discuss essay outline.

**Assignment: Final paper outline**

**June 27, 2023**

No class - individual meetings to discuss essay drafts.

**Assignment: Prepare first section of essay**

**Assignment: Continue working on full draft of essay**

**June 29, 2023**

No class - individual meetings to discuss essay drafts.

**Assignment: Continue working on full draft of essay**

**July 4, 2023**

No class - individual meetings to discuss essay drafts.

**Assignment: Continue working on full draft of essay**

**July 6, 2023 (LAST CLASS)**

Class presentations on final paper topics.

**Assignment: Final draft of essay due by midnight on July 7th**

## **Evaluation and Grading**

Course grades will be based on participation and on-time delivery of assignments/final paper. Points will be deducted for late assignments. The assignments will be introduced and discussed in class to allow ample time for student questions and clarification.

Class Element	Grade Percentage
In-class participation	50%
Assignments	
1. GUIDESTemplate	5%
2. Short economic brief #1	5%
3. Economic charts	5%
4. Article Report	5%
5. Short economic brief #2	5%
Final Paper	25%

## **Important Policies and Resources**

### **Academic Integrity**

Every member of the University community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. A student shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of the student's own effort. Infringement of academic integrity by a student subjects that student to serious penalties, which may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University or other sanctions. Please consult [Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities](#) for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work via TurnItIn.com or similar software to verify originality. A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic integrity as they

apply to a specific course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Student Rights and Community Standards. Citation and research assistance can be found at [Brandeis Library Guides - Citing Sources](#).

### **Breaks**

Class meetings of 90 minutes include a 10-minute break, while class meetings of 180 minutes include two breaks, at the instructor's discretion.

### **Classroom Health and Safety**

- Register for the [Brandeis Emergency Notification System](#). Students who receive an emergency notification while attending class should notify their instructor immediately. In the case of a life-threatening emergency, call 911. As a precaution, review [this active shooter information sheet](#).
- Brandeis provides [this shuttle service](#) for traveling across campus or to downtown Waltham, Cambridge and Boston.
- On the Brandeis campus, all students, faculty, staff and guests are required to observe the university's policies on physical distancing and mask-wearing to support the health and safety of all classroom participants. Review up to date [COVID-related health and safety policies](#) regularly.

### **Course Materials/Books/Apps/Equipment**

If you are having difficulty purchasing course materials, please make an appointment with your Student Financial Services or Academic Services advisor to discuss possible funding options, including vouchers for purchases made at the Brandeis Bookstore.

### **LATTE**

[LATTE](#) is the Brandeis learning management system. Login using your UNET ID and password. For LATTE help, contact [Library@brandeis.edu](mailto:Library@brandeis.edu).

### **Library**

[The Brandeis Library](#) collections and staff offer resources and services to support Brandeis students, faculty and staff. Librarians and Specialists from Research & Instructional Services, Public Services, Archives & Special Collections, Sound & Image Media Studios, MakerLab, AutomationLab, and Digital Scholarship Lab are available to help you through consultations and workshops.

### **Privacy**

To protect your privacy in any case where this course involves online student work outside of Brandeis password-protected spaces, you may choose to use a pseudonym/alias. You must share the pseudonym/alias with me and any teaching assistants as needed. Alternatively, with prior consultation, you may submit such work directly to me.

### **Student Support**

Brandeis University is committed to supporting all our students so they can thrive. If a student, faculty, or staff member wants to learn more about support resources, the [Support at Brandeis](#) webpage offers a comprehensive list that includes these staff colleagues you can consult, along with other support resources:

- The [Care Team](#)
- [Academic Services](#) (undergraduate)
- [Graduate Student Affairs](#)
- Directors of Graduate Studies in each department, School of Arts & Sciences
- Program Administrators for the Heller School and International Business School
- [University Ombuds](#)



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- [Office of Equal Opportunity.](#)