



**Language Institute, Thammasat University**  
**EL296 English for Academic Purposes 1 (BE Program)**  
**Semester 2/2024**

### Course Syllabus

The aim of this course is to familiarise and guide students through the academic writing process with a particular focus on the field economics. Students will learn the main features of academic writing and produce a selection of their own compositions within the APA format of citation and referencing. During the semester, students will connect with pressing issues within the global economy in the production of a range of economics texts, including definitions, descriptions of economic trends, summaries, argument essays, cause-effect relationships and comparing and contrasting data sets. The course will culminate in the produce of a group research project enabling students to utilize the skills they have acquired throughout the course.

### Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes (COLO)

<b>Objective 1:</b> Students will be able to understand and identify features of academic writing.
<b>Learning Outcome 1.1:</b> Explore the different genres and components of academic writing in economics. <b>Learning Outcome 1.2:</b> Learn how to develop an academic writing style. <b>Learning Outcome 1.3:</b> Critically evaluate different sources of information used for constructing essays and academic reports. <b>Learning Outcome 1.4:</b> Understand the dangers of plagiarism and how to avoid it.
<b>Objective 2:</b> Students will be able to effectively engage in the academic writing process to produce a range of authentic compositions.
<b>Learning Outcome 2.1:</b> Construct clear and well-balanced paragraphs, essays and reports using appropriate linking and clear sourcing of evidence and supporting points. <b>Learning Outcome 2.2:</b> Understand the core components of academic essays and how to enhance organization, structure, citing and referencing. <b>Learning Outcome 2.3:</b> Discover the features of different types of academic writing within the field of economics such as describing data trends, cause and effect patterns, and comparing and contrasting.
<b>Objective 3:</b> Students will explore current issues in the global economy and evaluate problems and solutions.
<b>Learning Outcome 3.1:</b> Research contemporary economic global issues. <b>Learning Outcome 3.2:</b> Understand the best sources to support different aspects of their work. <b>Learning Outcome 3.3:</b> Read and construct arguments based on credible sources of information and use these to construct thesis statements and research questions.
<b>Objective 4:</b> Students will be able to produce a comprehensive group research report.
<b>Learning Outcome 4.1:</b> Learn the components and format of academic research reports. <b>Learning Outcome 4.2:</b> Engage with relevant literature to explore a research topic and formulate research aims and objectives. <b>Learning Outcome 4.3:</b> Design & carry out a survey to collect data. <b>Learning Outcome 4.3:</b> Analyse data and discuss research findings

### Course Materials

*Articles from the Economists, international news media, economics journals, local newspapers and additional handouts.*

Bailey, S. (2018). *Academic writing: A handbook for international students* (5th ed). Routledge.

## Course Contents

1. Features of academic writing
2. Structure of paragraphs, essays, and reports
3. Text types and critical reading
4. Note-taking, paraphrasing and summary writing
5. Argument, cause-effect, and comparative writing
6. Research writing skills (including APA citation, quotations, and referencing)

## Course Evaluation

3 Assignments		Grading criteria
1) Academic summary	10%	A = 85%-100% B+ = 80 - 84% B = 75 - 79% C+ = 70 - 74% C = 65 - 69% D+ = 60 - 64% D = 55- 59% F = Below 55%
2) Economics definition paragraph	10%	
3). 500-word essay	20%	
3) A full economics group research report	30%	
4) Final Exam	30%	
TOTAL	100%	

## Details of assignments

Tasks	Details
<p><b>Assignment 1</b> (10%) Academic Summary &amp; Personal reflection</p> <p>Scoring: <i>content, paraphrasing, cohesion/coherence, clear link between article and personal opinion</i></p>	<p><b>COLO:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3</p> <p><u>What to do:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Choose a video to watch that interests you from the Economist's you tube channel (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/TheEconomist">https://www.youtube.com/c/TheEconomist</a>).</li> <li>2. Watch the video and take notes on the main points. Write an original summary based on the issues presented, which is <b>not plagiarised</b>.</li> <li>3. At the end, write a personal reflection on your own feelings about the issue.</li> </ol> <p><u>What to submit:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A 200-word summary of the economic issue</li> <li>2. A 150-word reflection on what you think about the issue</li> </ol>
<p><b>Assignment 2</b> (10%) Economics Term Definition (<i>In-class</i>)</p> <p>Scoring: <i>sentence construction, academic style, paragraph extension, cohesion/coherence.</i></p>	<p><b>COLO:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3</p> <p><u>What to do:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compose an extended economics definition paragraph based on the term given to you by your instructor.</li> <li>2. Extend you paragraph with explanations, classification, examples, contrasts etc.</li> <li>3. Complete you definition within <b>1 hour</b>.</li> <li>4. <b>Do not plagiarise</b> – it must be written in your own words.</li> </ol> <p><u>What to submit:</u></p> <p>A 100/150-word paragraph providing an extended definition of an economic term produce in-class within 1 hour (class attendance is essential).</p>

<p><b>Assignment 3</b> (20%) 500-word essay</p> <p>Scoring: <i>Task completion &amp; content; organisation &amp; linking; supporting points &amp; referencing, use of counter argument &amp; rebuttal, grammar, punctuation, &amp; spelling.</i></p>	<p><b>COLO:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3</p> <p><u>What to do:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Investigate an economics topic or issue you are interested in (e.g. climate change, supply chains, trade policy, income inequality, poverty reduction etc).</li> <li>2. Try to link it to Thailand or highlight its global importance (i.e. it should be clear why you have chosen this topic) with a clear thesis statement.</li> <li>3. Read a range of different sources (including some economics journals) and make notes to support your writing following the academic summary writing process.</li> <li>4. Plan and compose a well-structured and supported essay, complete with APA style citation and referencing.</li> </ol> <p><u>What to submit:</u> An individual 500 words essay with citation and list of references.</p>
<p><b>Assignment 4</b> (30%) Economic research project</p> <p>Scoring: Academic writing style (10%); content (10%); presentation (-</p>	<p><b>COLO:</b> 3.1, 3.2, 1.3</p> <p><u>What to do:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. In groups of 4-5 members, design &amp; implement a research report on a specific economic interest relevant to Thailand or Thai students (e.g. The impact of the Covid pandemic on Thai students spending behaviour; "Attitudes to current government policy towards the agricultural society").</li> <li>6. Design a questionnaire and collect data from a sample of real people.</li> <li>7. Write a full group report to present your data.</li> <li>8. Write an individual reflection on how your study went, what you did to contribute to its completion, your feelings about its findings, and how you would do things differently next time.</li> </ol> <p><u>What to submit:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A 2000-word group report (20%)</li> <li>2. A 5-minute group presentation summarizing your report before submission (5%)</li> <li>3. A 200-word self-reflection (5%)</li> </ol>
<p><b>Final Exam</b> (30%)</p>	<p><b>COLO:</b> 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3</p> <p><u>Contents:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. economic terms &amp; definitions, critical reading of economics texts, features of academic writing, paragraph structure, citation &amp; referencing, cause &amp; effect writing describing data, comparing &amp; contrasting writing, summary writing.</li> </ol>

## Active Learning Activities

Each assignment denotes active learning experience for the students who take this course. In the first assignment, students need to listen and write a summary and make personal reflections. This helps develop students' critical and analytical skills. In the written assignments, students can progressively develop their academic writing skills through both group and pair activities. This not only helps students master their writing proficiency, but also promotes the effective use of academic written English. In the last assignment, interpersonal communication and academic research skills are promoted. This is for students to work collaboratively on a research project, thereby supporting advanced academic study in economics.

## Thammasat University Plagiarism Policy

Thammasat University students are required to refrain from any kind of plagiarism. This will result in a mark of zero for the assignment or even an F grade. Please refer to Thammasat University's regulations on students' disciplines [here](#) and examination [here](#).

## Tentative Teaching and Learning Schedule

Schedule	Contents + Assignments
1	<p><b>Course Introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ice-breaking</li> <li>- What is academic English?</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Characteristics of academic writing &amp; critical reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Basics of writing</li> <li>- Writer's purpose</li> <li>- Reading: Finding suitable sources</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>The Summary Writing Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Components of a good summary</li> <li>- Avoiding plagiarism</li> <li>- Finding Key Points &amp; Note-taking</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Summarising &amp; Paraphrasing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Techniques for paraphrasing</li> <li>- References &amp; Quotations</li> <li>- Summary writing practice activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignment 1:</b> Economist video summary + personal reflection (10%).</p>
5	<p><b>Writing definitions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sentence structure for simple definitions</li> <li>- In pairs, study and discuss how to write definitions on an economic issue (<a href="https://www.ukessays.com/essays/economics/definitions-concepts-economics-studies-7921.php">https://www.ukessays.com/essays/economics/definitions-concepts-economics-studies-7921.php</a>)</li> <li>- Extending definitions to full paragraphs</li> </ul> <p><b>Assignment 2:</b> In-class one hour extended definitions.</p>
6	<p><b>Argumentative Essay Writing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identifying arguments for and against</li> <li>- Paragraph cohesion &amp; unity</li> <li>- Essay organisation</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Understanding arguments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using supporting ideas with referencing</li> <li>- Combining ideas in paragraphs</li> <li>- Using counterargument</li> </ul>

	<b>Assignment 3:</b> Students choose their own topic with a focus on the economy and write a 500-word argumentative essay.
8	<b>Cause &amp; Effect Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The language of cause &amp; effect</li> <li>- Using conditionals to propose solutions</li> <li>- Hedging (caution) in academic writing</li> </ul>
<b>MIDTERM EXAM PERIOD</b> (No EL296 Midterm)	
9	<b>Research Report Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to the report writing process</li> <li>- Formulating a research idea: Aims, RQs, and objectives</li> <li>- Analysis of model research report</li> <li>- Students form research groups of no more than 4 students</li> </ul>
10	<b>Devising a research instrument</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revising research questions (RQs)</li> <li>- Writing questions for surveys &amp; questionnaires (<a href="https://www.uxbooth.com/articles/the-essential-guide-to-writing-effective-survey-questions">https://www.uxbooth.com/articles/the-essential-guide-to-writing-effective-survey-questions</a>)</li> <li>- In groups, design and pilot research instrument</li> </ul>
11	<b>Writing Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Structure of an appropriate introduction with example</li> <li>- Using core literature to position your own research with citation</li> <li>- Establishing clear a niche, research aim and questions</li> </ul>
12	<b>Literature Reviews</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Definition &amp; organizational structures</li> <li>- Language &amp; features of literature reviews</li> <li>- Paraphrasing, summarizing, quotation, and referencing activities.</li> </ul>
13	<b>Describing data and findings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporating data and illustrations into your report</li> <li>- Comparing &amp; contrasting numbers &amp; visual information</li> <li>- Describing trends &amp; practice activities</li> </ul>
14	<b>Concluding your report &amp; writing an abstract</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporating data and illustrations into your report</li> <li>- Comparing &amp; contrasting numbers &amp; visual information Describing trends &amp; practice activities</li> </ul>

15	<p><b>Research study presentations &amp; Exam Preparation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Groups present project backgrounds, methodologies and preliminary findings.</li><li>- Final exam outline &amp; preparation</li></ul> <p><b>Assignment 4:</b> Final group 2000-word research report.</p>
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