

THE ECONOMICS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR
ECONOMICS EC3390G-001
Department of Economics
Western University

January 2019

General Information:

Instructor: Lance Lochner
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Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30pm, Wednesday 1:30-2:30pm
Classroom meeting times: Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm, Thursday 12:30-2:30pm
Classroom location: SSC 2024
Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note:

The prerequisite(s) for this course is (are) **Economics 2220A/2221B, 2222A/2223B, 2260A/2261B**. Some familiarity with calculus will be expected in addition to the prerequisites.

Prerequisite(s) for your course can be found in the Western Calendar at:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ECONOMIC&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Objectives:

This course will examine economic theories of human behavior and how those theories can be used to understand major economic/social problems in developed economies. First, we will examine the rise in earnings inequality by education and ability. What drives this inequality and its evolution over time? What roles do the family, schools, and labour markets play? How do different policies across countries and provinces result in different levels of inequality and productivity? Second, we will discuss differences in earnings by race/ethnicity and gender. What role does labour market discrimination play? What is the nature of discrimination, and does it matter? Third, we will discuss the enormous social costs of crime and policy alternatives aimed at reducing crime. What explains the high rates of crime among some subpopulations or enormous the differences across countries? To best fight crime, should we increase the number of police on the street and raise incarceration rates, or should we spend more on schools and training or jobs programs?

Throughout the course, we will discuss basic economic theories that can be used to help understand these and related issues. After evaluating the empirical evidence, we will discuss appropriate policy responses informed by both that evidence and economic theory. Classes will tend to be discussion-oriented. Students are expected to read the material before each lecture, so that they can actively participate in the discussion.

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to understand and apply economic reasoning and rigorous empirical methods to study human capital development, discrimination and crime
- Students will be able to read and critically evaluate the arguments made in popular media on issues related to human capital development, discrimination and crime
- Students will be able to write short critical essays and op-eds on issues related to human capital development, discrimination and crime

Readings/Media:

Required reading includes numerous articles and book chapters (see below). The course will also require students to watch season 4 of HBO's "The Wire". A few copies will be available at the library for short-term check out.

Students will also be asked to find related recent blog posts, op-ed articles, podcasts, etc. from popular media to discuss in class.

Grading:

The course entails six homework assignments (mostly short writing assignments on topics covered in the class given out every 2-3 weeks); you may drop your assignment with the lowest score. The course also requires a 5-7 page paper that will be due on April 4, 2019. You should attend class regularly, since class discussion is a key component of the course and will factor into your course grade. There will also be a final exam (date TBA). In determining your course grade, the following weights will be used:

Homework: 50%
Final Paper: 20%
Final Exam: 25%
Participation: 5%

Course Outline and Reading List:

Note: Not all of the papers below will be covered in depth, but many will be. You should always read the assigned material before class in order to participate in the discussion. Published journal articles should be available online through the Western Libraries Shared Library Catalogue. Searching through Google Scholar is often an easy way to find most articles/papers.

1. Introduction and Review Materials

G. Becker, "Nobel Lecture: The Economic Way of Looking at Behavior," *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(3), 385-409, 1993.

2. Human Capital and Inequality

F. Guvenen, G. Kaplan, J. Song, and J. Weidner, "Lifetime Incomes in the United States over Six Decades," Working Paper, 2018. ([available here](#))

N. Fortin, D. Green, T. Lemieux, K. Milligan and W. C. Riddell, "Canadian Inequality: Recent Developments and Policy Options," *Canadian Public Policy*, 38(2), 121-145, 2012.

G. Becker, "Investment in Human Capital: Effects on Earnings", Chapter 3 of G. Becker, *Human Capital*, 3rd Edition, University of Chicago Press: Chicago, 1993. ([available here](#))

J. Heckman, L. Lochner and P. Todd, "Earnings Functions and Rates of Return," *Journal of Human Capital*, 2(1), 1-38, 2008.

B. Boudarbat, T. Lemieux, and W. C. Ridell, "The Evolution of the Returns to Human Capital in Canada, 1980-2005", *Canadian Public Policy*, 36(1), 63-89, 2010.

A. Monge-Naranjo and L. Lochner, "Credit Constraints in Education: Theory and Evidence," *Annual Review of Economics*, 4, 225-256, 2012.

P. Belley, M. Frenette, and L. Lochner [“Post-Secondary Attendance, Parental Income, and Financial Aid: Comparing the U.S. and Canada,”](#) Policy Brief No. 1, CIBC Centre for Human Capital, 2011.

Lochner, Lance and Alexander Monge-Naranjo, “Student Loans and Repayment: Theory, Evidence and Policy”, in E. Hanushek, S. Machin, and L. Woessmann (eds.), *Handbook of the Economics of Education*, vol. 5, Chapter 8, Amsterdam: Elsevier Science, 2016. ([avail. here](#))

[“Room for Debate: Should College be Free?”](#), *The New York Times*, Jan. 20, 2016.

[“Room for Debate: Easing the Pain of Student Loans”](#), *The New York Times*, May 12, 2012.

[“NYU Medical Students are Getting Free Tuition. But Everyone will Reap Benefits”](#) *PBS News Hour*, Aug. 18, 2018.

[“Why do Poor Children Perform More Poorly than Rich Ones?”](#) *The Conversation*, April 23, 2015.

C.K. Jackson, “Does School Spending Matter? The New Literature on and Old Question,” [NBER Working Paper No. 25368](#), 2018.

R. Chetty, J. Friedman, N. Hilger, E. Saez, D. Schanzenbach, and D. Yagan, “How Does Your Kindergarten Classroom Affect your Earnings? Evidence from Project STAR,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126(4), 1593-1660, 2011.

E. Hanushek, “The Economic Value of Higher Teacher Quality,” *Economics of Education Review*, 30(3), 466-479, 2011.

[“Room for Debate: Can School Performance be Measured Fairly?”](#) *The New York Times*, July 29, 2012.

C. Arteaga, “The Effect of Human Capital on Earnings: Evidence from a Reform in Colombia’s Top University,” *Journal of Public Economics*, 157, 212-225, 218.

3. Discrimination and the Economy

Much of our discussion of discrimination will be based on the following two sources:

K. Lang and J-Y Lehmann, “Racial Discrimination in the labor Market: Theory and Empirics”, *Journal of Economic Literature*, 50(4), 959-1006, 2012.

a. Introduction and Basic Facts

Lang and Lehmann (2011), sections 1-3.

P. Bayer and K. Charles, “Divergent Paths: A New Perspective on Earnings Differences Between Black and White Men since 1940,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133(3), 1459-1501, 2018.

B. Boudarbat and M. Connolly, “The Gender Wage Gap among Recent Post-Secondary Graduates in Canada: A Distributional Approach,” *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 46(3), 1037-1065, 2013.

b. Taste-based Theories of Discrimination

Lang and Lehmann (2011), sections 4 and 5.

L. Flabbi and M. Tejada, “Gender Gaps in Wages and Employment: The Role of Employers’ Prejudice,” in T. Boeri, G. Peri and E. Patacchini (eds.), *Unexplored Dimensions of Discrimination*, Oxford University Press, 2015. ([available here](#) under “Other Publications”)

K. Charles and J. Guryan, “Prejudice and Wages: An Empirical Assessment of Becker’s *The Economics of Discrimination*,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 116(5), 773-809, 2008.

c. Statistical Discrimination

Lang and Lehmann (2011), section 6.

S. Lundberg and R. Startz, “Inequality and Race: Models and Policy,” Chapter 10, in K. Arrow, S. Bowles, and S. Durlauf (eds.), *Meritocracy and Economic Inequality*, Princeton University Press: Princeton, 2000.

D. Autor and D. Scarborough, “Does Job Testing Harm Minority Workers? Evidence from Retail Establishments,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123, 219-277, 2008.

[“Room for Debate: Is Segregation Back in U.S. Public Schools?”](#) *The New York Times*, May 20, 2012.

[“Room for Debate: Can Discrimination Exist Without Clear Intent?”](#) *The New York Times*, April 27, 2015.

d. Other Issues and Evidence

Lang and Lehmann (2011), sections 7 and 8.

K. Charles and J. Guryan, “Studying Discrimination: Fundamental Challenges and Recent Progress,” *Annual Reviews in Economics*, 3, 479-511, 2011.

C. Goldin, “A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter,” *American Economic Review*, 104(4), 1091-1119, 2014.

[“Room for Debate: How to Reduce the Pay Gap Between Men and Women”](#) *The New York Times*, August 15, 2016.

[“Room for Debate: Nobel-Winning Sexism in the Lab”](#) *The New York Times*, June 11, 2015.

4. Economics of Crime

G. Becker, "Crime and Punishment: An Economic Approach", *Journal of Political Economy*, 76(2), 169-217, 1968.

D. Nagin, "Deterrence in the Twenty-First Century," *Crime and Justice*, 42(1), 199-263, 2013. (can skip sections II and III)

M. Bhuller, G. Dahl, K. Loken and M. Mogstad, "[Incarceration, Recidivism and Employment](#)," Research Briefs in Economic Policy, Cato Institute, No. 85, 2017.

["Room for Debate: Will Crime Rise if More People are Kept Out of Prison?"](#) *The New York Times*, Nov. 18, 2015.

["Room for Debate: When to Punish, and When to Rehabilitate?"](#) *The New York Times*, June 5, 2012.

P. Todd, "Racial Profiling", in S. Durlauf and L. Blume (eds.), *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2nd Ed., Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. ([available here](#))

R. Fryer, "An Empirical Analysis of Racial Differences in Police Use of Force", *Journal of Political Economy*, forthcoming. ([available here](#))

["Room for Debate: Can Predictive Policing be Ethical and Effective?"](#) *The New York Times*, Nov. 18, 2015.

R. Freeman, "Why do so Many Young American Men Commit Crimes and What Might We Do About It?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 10(1), 25-42, 1996.

L. Lochner, "Education and Crime" in S. Bradley and C. Green (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Economics of Education*, 2nd Ed., forthcoming. ([available here](#))

B. Western, "The Impact of Incarceration on Wage Mobility and Inequality", *American Sociological Review*, 67(4), 526-547, 2002.

A. Semuels, "[When Banning One Kind of Discrimination Results in Another](#)", *The Atlantic*, Aug 4, 2016.

M. Ouimet, "Crime in Canada and in the United States: A Comparative Analysis," *The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, 36(3), 389-408, 1999.

S. Levitt and S. Venkatesh, "An Economic Analysis of a Drug-Selling Gang's Finances," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 115(3), 755-789, 2000.

Please Note
Department Policies for 2018-2019

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. Guidelines and policies for the Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at:
<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Conduct for Examinations”
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat”. The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as a notation on an official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.
6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at:
http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14
Please note the relevant deadlines.

The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. A checklist is provided at:
http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals.

7. Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.

8. Note the following add and drop deadlines:

Deadline to add a second term half course:

Tuesday January 15, 2019

Deadline to drop a second term half course:

Thursday March 7, 2019

9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

*Academic accommodation will **not** be granted automatically on request. Students **must** demonstrate by documentation that there are **compelling** medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered.*

Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having their value reweighted on a retroactive basis, is **not** permitted. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.

Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **24 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

Students who seek a makeup exam must also provide supporting medical or other relevant documentation that their absence from a scheduled test or exam is beyond their control. Documentation should be submitted to the Academic Counselling Office of the student's *home* Faculty **as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the scheduled test)**. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. If the documentation submitted is not acceptable, students will receive a zero for the missed test.

For personal illness, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit. The off-campus medical certificate form must also be used and can be found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For religious or compassionate circumstances, students should ask their Academic Counsellor what documentation to provide. If documentation is judged sufficient, the Academic Counsellor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple-color form for final exams). Once students have this form, they must contact their instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved by their Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that students will be allowed to write the makeup test/exam.

For final examinations, students need to seek permission from their *home* Faculty Counsellor, Instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in a grade of zero. Students must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the Instructor and Department Undergraduate Director and that the form is returned to the Academic Counselling Office for approval without delay. If approved, makeup examinations will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

The Faculty of Social Science's policies regarding academic accommodation is found at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html.

"Academic Rights and Responsibilities" are also outlined in the Western Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>. Claiming that "you didn't know what to do" is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance

If the instructor deems a student's class attendance as unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, the student will be notified in writing.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.

Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses¹

An essay course is a course in which the cumulative amount of written work, excluding written work in examinations, is at least 2,500 words for a half course.

To pass an essay course students must exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing in addition to comprehension of the course content.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades²

Written work that demonstrates a lack of English proficiency will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable level.

To foster competence in the English language, *all instructors will take English proficiency into account when marking*. This policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

Recycling of Assignments

Students are prohibited from handing in the same paper for two different courses. Doing so is considered a scholastic offence and will be subjected to academic penalties.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “the act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.”³

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:⁴

- Submitting someone else’s work as your own
- Buying a paper from a mill, website or other source and submitting it as your own
- Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without citing them
- Replacing selected words from a passage and using it as your own without citing them
- Copying multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without citing them
- Piecing together phrases and ideas from a variety of sources to without citing them
- Building on someone else’s ideas or phrases without citing them

Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the course, and expulsion from the university.

¹From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbering.pdf

²From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf

³Excerpted from HC Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, West Publishing Co., 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

⁴From the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/>

Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to <http://www.turnitin.com>. This is a service that assists instructors in detecting plagiarism.

Students seeking further guidance on avoiding plagiarism should consult their instructor. Claiming ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly cite reference sources.

Referencing and Citation Guidelines

The Economics Department has adopted the citation guidelines used in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. An online version is available from Western Libraries <http://www.lib.uwo.ca>. Search the catalogue by title “Chicago Manual of Style.” For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library’s homepage.

Economics papers often use the **author-date** style of references. Further details and examples of this style are available in chapter 15 of the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*. See also the handy “Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide” under Tools on the homepage.

In the body of an essay, in-text citations list the last names of the authors of the piece that are referenced, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. In-text citations refer the reader to a complete list of bibliographic references at the end of the essay. Papers that cite multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year should add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and References (e.g., 1993a and 1993b). In doing so, the in-text citation points the reader to the relevant work.

Examples of in-text citations:

Diamond (1981, 1982) and Mortensen (1982a, 1982b) find these externalities can cause an inefficient level of search activity...

The “new view of unemployment” which emerged during the 1970s emphasized the importance of turnover in the labour force and the brief duration of many employments spells (Hall 1970, 1972; Perry 1972; Marston 1976).

The primary objectives of the LMAS are “1. To provide measures of the dynamic...the Labour Force Survey” (Statistics Canada 1990, 5).

The list of references at the end of the essay should be titled References or Works Cited. It provides complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This should be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Below are examples of the author-date style. For sources with two or more authors, only the first author’s name is inverted and a comma appears before and after the first author’s given name or initial.

1. BOOKS:

Wonnacott, Thomas, and Ronald Wonnacott. 1984. *Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics*. 3rd edition. Toronto: John Wiley & Sons.

2. JOURNAL ARTICLES OR ARTICLES IN A BANK REVIEW:

Geweke, John F., and David E. Runkle. 1995. "A Fine Time for Monetary Policy." *Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Quarterly Review* 19: 18-31.

3. GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS:

Statistics Canada. 1983. *Logging: Annual Census of Forestry*. Catalogue No. 25-201.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1975. *Median Gross Rent by Counties of the United States, 1970*. Prepared by the Geography Division in cooperation with the Housing Division, Bureau of the Census. Washington, DC.

4. NEWSPAPERS:

Sicular, Terry, and Kathleen Hartford. 1989. "China's Looming Rural Crisis." *Asian Wall Street Weekly*. July 3.

5. CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS OR CONFERENCE VOLUMES:

Fafchamps, Marcel. 2001. "The Role of Business Network in Market Development in Sub-Saharan Africa." In *Communities and Markets in Economic Development*, edited by Masahiko Aoki and Yujiro Hayami, 186-214. New York: Oxford University Press.

6. ONLINE BOOKS:

Mäler, Karl-Göran, and Jeffrey R. Vincent, eds. 2005. *Handbook of Environmental Economics, Vol. 3: Economywide and International Environmental Issues*. Amsterdam: Elsevier. <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/handbooks/15740099> (July 23, 2007).

7. ONLINE JOURNAL ARTICLES: *please use DOI (digital object identifier) or URL*

Caucutt, Elizabeth M., and Krishna B. Kumar. 2008. "Africa: Is Aid an Answer?" *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics* 8(1): 1935-1690. doi: 10.2202/1935-1690.1761

Ruffle, Bradley J., and Richard Sosis. 2007. Does it Pay to Pray? Costly Ritual and Cooperation. *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* 7(1): Article 12. <http://www.bepress.com/bejeap/vol7/iss1/art18> (Aug. 7, 2007).

8. INTERNET SITES:

McDonald's Corporation. "Our History." Accessed July 19, 2016. <https://www.mcdonalds.com/us/en-us/about-us/our-history.html>

Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor's instructions and published work written by Economists. Examples are in the course outline, journals, working papers series, etc.

Two sources that provide information on writing for economics are:

McCloskey, Dierdre N. 2000. *Economical Writing, 2nd edition*. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.

Greenlaw, Steven A. 2006. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Doing Economic Research*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

The **Resources Link** on Western University's Department of Economics website (<http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html>) provides a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc.

DB Weldon Library has a collection of bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals in economics. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>. These can be accessed off-campus with the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

Students are encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about where sources of information are located both physically and online. Consult library staff for questions

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is the most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today. It is available online through the library catalogue, or in print in the Weldon's Reference section (call # HB 61.N49 2008 v. 1-8).

EconLit (Economic Literature) is an electronic bibliography of literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, collected articles, books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. It also provides citations, selected abstracts, and links to Western's full-text resources. Students can also print records by downloading marked records to a text file, sending marked records by email, or exporting them to a citation manager such as *Zotaro*. For a list of citation software, see <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/citationmanagementsoftware.html>.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's database of time series data covering a variety of economic aspects of Canadian society. Access the database by a Title Search on the Western Library's Catalogue, or from the Library's list of Databases under "Research Tools" on the Library's homepage.

Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER)

The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, a journal published annually by the Department that showcases student work in economics. For further information, please visit http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html

Essay Prize in Economics

The following criteria will be used:

1. Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once.
2. Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic term. One for a student registered in a 2100 level course and one for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at \$550.
3. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own paper award.
4. Instructors will nominate students for the prize. The paper should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner.
5. The Essay Prize Committee will consist of the Undergraduate Program Director, WUER Faculty Advisor and one other faculty member. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appeal.
6. Papers will be judged on content, originality, use of references, spelling and grammar.

The grade given to the paper will not influence the decision of the Essay Prize Committee as all comments by the original marker will be removed.

The deadlines for submissions are:

Fall courses: January 1st

Winter courses: May 1st

The winner of the essay prize is encouraged to submit their paper to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.