



**DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY**

**MBA(FS/L) Program
Dalhousie University
School of Business Administration
Faculty of Management**

BUSI 5703 – Business Economics

Winter 2020

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Course Description:

Domestic and international markets, government policy and central bank decisions present opportunities, challenges, and threats to the operating and competitive decisions of business owners, managers, and investors. This class provides a framework for the economic analysis of these issues.

Learning Objectives:

The main objective of this course is to provide a concise treatment of the fundamentals of economics, as the study of how economic agents allocate scarce resources to satisfy their unlimited wants in a modern market economy such as Canada. To accomplish this task, we will follow the usual practice of employing both microeconomic and macroeconomic analysis.

Microeconomics studies the behaviour of individual households, firms, and industries, so we will focus on determining how households decide how much to consume, and on how firms decide how much to produce, of various goods and services. We will pay particular attention to the central role of prices.

Macroeconomics is concerned with the behaviour of the entire economy. We will consider the important issues of the standard of living, inflation, output, and international trade flows, with a focus on the ways in which governments can use fiscal and monetary policy to influence the economy.

Learning Materials:

1. Christopher T.S. Ragan, *Microeconomics*, 16th Edition, Pearson, 2020.
2. Christopher T.S. Ragan, *Macroeconomics*, 16th Edition, Pearson, 2020.
3. MyEconLab to accompany *Microeconomics*.
4. MyEconLab to accompany *Macroeconomics*.

Ground Rules:

Students are required to attend the entire length of the intensive.

Grading Scale for Graduate Students:

Grading Scale as per Dalhousie Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar Regulation 6.6.2 Grading Policy	
<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Numerical % Equivalent</i>
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
F	0-69

Method of Evaluation/ Marking Scheme:

Assignments (4)	32%
Participation	18%
Final examination	<u>50%</u>
	100%

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
1	Lessons 1-3	February 3, 2020
2	Lessons 4-6	February 24, 2020
3	Lessons 7-9	March 16, 2020
4	Lessons 10-12	April 6, 2020
Participation	entire term	April 13, 2020

Note: All assignments are due by 23:00 Atlantic Time and must be submitted via the Brightspace Learning System.

Class Participation:

The participation mark is earned from discussing relevant news articles during the distance portion of the course and during the intensive portion of the course.

- Distance portion (5%): Each student has been assigned a particular lesson. During the week in which that lesson is covered, the student must find a news article that is relevant to that lesson, post a link to the article on the discussion board, and write a short (two-paragraph) summary of the article and explanation of its relevance to the material, ending with a discussion question posed to the rest of the class.
 - Due: End of assigned week, i.e., Sunday at 23:00 Atlantic time; for example, Sunday, January 19 for Lesson 1. (Late penalty: 20% per day.)
- Distance portion (8%): Each student must respond to at least four of the other students' discussion questions, at least two from the micro lessons (1-6) and at least two from the macro lessons (7-12).
 - Due: End of week following initial post, i.e., Sunday at 23:00 Atlantic time in following week; for example, Sunday, January 26 for responses to Lesson 1 posts. On April 13, each student must submit the Participation Assignment with their four best responses for grading.
- Intensive portion (5%): As we get closer to the intensive, each student will be assigned a particular lesson (a different lesson from the distance portion) and must choose a relevant news article. When the lesson is presented during the intensive, the student must summarize and discuss the relevance of the article.
 - Due: During intensive.

Intensive and Final Exam:

The intensive dates are as follows:

April 18 – 22, 2020	Halifax
April 24 – 28, 2020	Toronto
April 29 – May 3, 2020	Vancouver

The final exam will be written on the morning of the final day of the intensive (8:30-11:30 a.m.). Students must pass the final exam in order to pass the course.

Certificates of Illness:

Medical notes must be submitted to the MBA Program office or Professor, whichever you prefer. Please note that it is a university regulation that medical notes will not normally be accepted after a lapse of more than one week from the examination date.

Students with Disabilities:

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to

obtain the Request for Accommodation – Form A.

Rowe School of Business Accreditation:

As an AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accredited university, Dalhousie University's business programs are subject to Assurance of Learning (AOL) standards. During the semester anonymous data may be collected to assess if AOL goals and objectives are being met. The data collected will be used for program improvement purposes only and will not impact nor be associated with student grades.

Academic Integrity in the Faculty of Management:

The commitment of the Faculty of Management is to graduate future leaders of business, government and civil society who manage with integrity and get things done. This is non-negotiable in our community and it starts with your first class at Dalhousie University. So when you submit any work for evaluation in this course or any other, please ensure that you are familiar with your obligations under the Faculty of Management's Academic Integrity Policies and that you understand where to go for help and advice in living up to our standards. You should be familiar with the Faculty of Management Professor and Student Contract on Academic Integrity, and it is your responsibility to ask questions if there is anything you do not understand.

Dalhousie offers many ways to learn about academic writing and presentations so that all members of the University community may acknowledge the intellectual property of others. Knowing how to find, evaluate, select, synthesize and cite information for use in assignments is called being "information literate." Information literacy is taught by Dalhousie University Librarians in classes and through Dalhousie Libraries' online [Citing & Writing](#) tutorials.

Do not plagiarize any materials for this course. For further guidance on what constitutes plagiarism, how to avoid it, and proper methods for attributing sources, please consult the University Secretariat's [Academic Integrity](#) page.

Please note that Dalhousie now subscribes to SafeAssign.com, a computer based service that checks for originality in submitted papers. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a very serious academic offence that may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie, there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course; students should read the Policy on [Intellectual Dishonesty](#) contained in the Calendar.

Furthermore, the University's Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student assignments be submitted in both written and computer readable format, e.g.: a text file or as an email attachment, and to submit any paper to a check such as that performed by the SafeAssign anti-plagiarism software. As a student in this class, you are to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course instructor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand. Use of third-party originality checking software does not preclude

instructor use of alternate means to identify lapses in originality and attribution. The result of such assessment may be used as evidence in any disciplinary action taken by the Senate.

Finally: If you suspect cheating by colleagues or lapses in standards by a professor, you may use the confidential email: managementintegrity@dal.ca which is read only by the Assistant Academic Integrity Officer.

Faculty of Management clarification on plagiarism versus collaboration:

There are many forms of plagiarism, for instance, copying on exams and assignments. There is a clear line between group work on assignments when explicitly authorised by the professor and copying solutions from others. It is permissible to work on assignments with your colleagues but only when the professor gives you permission in the specific context of the assignment. University rules clearly stipulate that all assignments should be undertaken individually unless specifically authorised. Specific examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Copying a computer file from another student, and using it as a template for your own solution
- Copying text written by another student
- Submitting the work of someone else, including that of a tutor as your own

An example of acceptable collaboration includes the following:

- When authorized by the professor, discussing the issues and underlying factors of a case with fellow students, and then each of the students writing up their submissions individually, from start to finish.

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, and Assignments
1.	Jan. 13	Lesson 1: Scarcity, Demand, and Supply Read: <i>Microeconomics</i> , pages 1-10 and 49-68.
2.	Jan. 20	Lesson 2: Elasticity and Efficiency Read: <i>Microeconomics</i> , pages 74-91, 97-102, and 106-112.
3.	Jan. 27	Lesson 3: Perfect Competition Read: <i>Microeconomics</i> , pages 148-167 and 195-216. Live Classroom Session, Jan. 27, 9 p.m. Atlantic time
4.	Feb. 3	Lesson 4: Imperfect Competition Read: <i>Microeconomics</i> , pages 221-242 and 248-266. Submit: Assignment 1, due February 3
5.	Feb. 10	Lesson 5: Public Policy Read: <i>Microeconomics</i> , pages 272-294 and 377-402.

6. Feb. 17 Lesson 6: International Trade
Read: *Microeconomics*, pages 803-824 and 828-848.
7. Feb. 24 Lesson 7: Macroeconomic Issues
Read: *Macroeconomics*, pages 461-481 and 485-503.
Submit: Assignment 2, due February 24
8. Mar. 2 Lesson 8: Short-Run Output
Read: *Macroeconomics*, pages 507-531 and 535-550.
9. Mar. 9 Lesson 9: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply
Read: *Macroeconomics*, pages 558-574 and 579-603.
10. Mar. 16 Lesson 10: Economic Growth
Read: *Macroeconomics*, pages 608-636.
Submit: Assignment 3, due March 16
11. Mar. 23 Lesson 11: Money and Monetary Policy
Read: *Macroeconomics*, pages 641-665, 669-693, and 698-706.
Live Classroom Session, Mar. 23, 9 p.m. Atlantic time
12. Mar. 30 Lesson 12: Exchange Rates
Read: *Macroeconomics*, pages 852-884.
13. Apr. 6 Submit: Assignment 4, due April 6
14. Apr. 13 Independent study and review
Submit: Participation Assignment, due April 13
Halifax Intensive April 18 – 22
15. Apr. 20 Toronto Intensive April 24 – 28
16. Apr. 27 Vancouver Intensive April 29 – May 3