

Faculty of Science Course Syllabus**Department of Economics**

*ECON 2200- Section 02
Intermediate Microeconomics
Fall 2020*

Instructor(s): *Mrittika Shamsuddin* *Email: Mrittika.Shamsuddin@dal.ca*

Office location: *B22, 6214 University Ave*

Office Hour: *Will be available in Brightspace every Tuesdays and Wednesday from 3 to 4 pm through Collaborate Ultra. Links will be posted on the announcement board in Brightspace. You can also use the chat function or make appointment with me to meet virtually through Collaborate Ultra.*

Lectures: *Distance Learning. The course will be available on Dalhousie's Brightspace. It is an online, asynchronous class and access to computer and high-speed internet is essential.*

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of the basic economic concepts underlying microeconomic analysis. In this course, we will explore the foundations of microeconomic theory, focusing on the behavior of individuals and firms, and the interaction of these agents in the market. This course covers consumer behaviour, the theory of the firm, factor markets, and general equilibrium welfare analysis.

Course Prerequisites

Prerequisites: ECON 1101.03 (Minimum grade of C)

Exclusions: ECON 2220, ECON 2210

Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand consumer behavior
- Solve a consumer's utility maximization problem mathematically and graphically
- Understand firm behavior
- Solve a firm's cost minimization and profit maximization problems mathematically and graphically
- Analyze different types of market structures
- Explain the welfare effect of the different economic agent under different market structures
- Apply economic principles to a range of real-life problems and policy questions.

Course Materials

*Course website: Brightspace. All lecture recordings/videos, case studies and assignments will be in Brightspace. You are also required to submit your work through Brightspace. Note that all assignments, practice problems and midterms have **fixed** deadlines.*

Recommended Text: Microeconomics, David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam, 5th edition or any edition. You can also use any intermediate microeconomics book.

Course Assessment

Component	Weight (% of final grade)	Date
Assignments	9*5 =45%	Every week except week 5 and 9 (Due each Monday, 5 pm)
Midterms	2*17=34%	Oct 7 & Nov 4
Final Exam	21%	TBA

Assignments: There will be 10 assignments containing multiple choice and problem-solving short answer questions. Each will have a deadline for submission and will be 5% of your grade. They are to test your understanding of the content of the class. Your best 9 performances will be counted towards your grade. They will be available every Monday and will be due by consequent Monday, 5 pm. Once started, you need to finish them in 2 hours, and you will have 2 trials. I will take the best attempt while calculating the grade.

Midterms: There will be 2 Midterms for the course, each counting for 17% of your grade. Midterm 1 will cover consumer theory and midterm 2 will cover producer theory. Midterm 1 will become available on the morning of Oct 7 and you will have till 11:59 pm (Atlantic time) to attempt it. Similarly, midterm 2 will be available in the morning of Nov 4 and you will have till 11:59 pm (Atlantic Time) to attempt it. You will have 60 minutes and one attempt to complete the midterms. It will have multiple choices and problem-solving exercises

Practice/Study Problems: After every topic, there will a short practice problem set for you to test your understanding of the materials in that lecture. There will be 10 practice problem sets and it becomes available after you have gone through the lecture. The due date of these practice problem sets will be the last day of the semester. These problem sets are not timed and you will have 2 trials. They are not graded. There will also be extra tutorial problems and their solutions to study.

Final Exam: The final exam will be **cumulative** and will be during the final exam week. It will have multiple choice and problem solving and will be for two hours, online and you will have one attempt.

If you miss a midterm for any reasons, the weight will be added to your final exam.

If you miss the final exam for a valid medical reason, you must notify the instructor immediately, provide appropriate medical documentation, and make arrangements to write-up exam as soon as health permits.

Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D	(50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F	(<50)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)		

Course Policies

- All communications for the course will be through Brightspace. So, please turn on your notification in Brightspace.



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- *You will not be able to attempt the practice problem set before looking at the lecture and the assignment before doing the practice problem set.*
- If a student misses a midterm for a valid reason, as defined in Section 16.8 of the University calendar, then the weight will be added to his/her final exam.
- *I will take your 9 best assignments, so you can miss 1 assignment without penalty. There will be no extension of assignments since you have 6-7 days to do them.*
- The only calculator which is allowed is a **Sharp EL-243SB**; no other model will be permitted. This model is available at the University bookstore.
- *All submitted work needs to be your own work. If you are caught using someone else's work (readings or my lectures), it will be dealt according to Dalhousie's Academic Integrity policy.*
- *Please read instructions carefully and make sure that the spelling is right. Points will be deducted for not reading the instruction and incorrect spelling.*
- *I will be holding virtual office hours every Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3-4pm through collaborate Ultra. You can drop by to ask me questions. Or you can send me a chat in the chat option in Brightspace and I will try to answer you as soon as I can. You can also email me at Mrittika.Shamsuddin@dal.ca to set up an alternate face-to face virtual meeting.*
- Please note the Department of Economics Statement on Academic Integrity posted on the course website. As part of an academic community it is your responsibility to be aware of appropriate conduct. Any academic offence will be reported and acted upon immediately by Dalhousie administration.

Email Policy: I will do my best to respond to e-mail within 24 hours on a weekday, 48 hours on a weekend, according to the following policy:

- a. I will only respond to e-mails posing questions that can be answered in a sentence or two. For detailed questions, please see me in office hours.
- b. I will not reply to e-mails that request information that can be found on BLS or the syllabus, so you should check those places first.
- c. I will not reply to e-mails regarding the results of graded material– for that, please see me in office hours.
- d. I will not respond to email sent from any other accounts other than DAL.

Detailed Course Content and Outline -Weekly:

Week 1: (Sep 8-Sep13)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Introduction: What is a model in economics?
 - Review : Supply, Demand, and Market Equilibrium
 - Elasticity
- (from the book)
 - 2.1 Demand and Supply analysis
 - 2.2; 2.3 Elasticity
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 1



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- Assignment 1 -Due time: Sep 14-Monday 5pm

Week 2: (Sep 14-Sep20)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Consumer preferences
 - Utility, Marginal Utility
 - Types of utility functions
- (from the book)
 - 3.1-3.3 Preferences and Utility
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 2
- Assignment 2 -Due time: Sep 21-Monday 5pm

Week 3: (Sep21-Sep27)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Budget Curve
 - Demand Curve
 - Utility Maximization
- (from the book)
 - 4.1 Consumer Choice
 - 4.2; 4.3 Optimal Choice
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 3
- Assignment 3 -Due time: Sep 28-Monday 5pm

Week 4: (Sep28-Oct4)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Market Demand
 - Substitution and Income effect
- (from the book)
 - 5.1-5.4 Substitution and Income effect, Consumer surplus, Market demand
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 4
- Assignment 4 -Due time: Oct 5-Monday 5pm

Week 5: (Oct5-Oct11) **MIDTERM 1- OCTOBER 7th**

Midterm 1 will become available on the morning of Oct 7 and you will have till 11:59 pm (Atlantic time) to attempt it. You will have 80 minutes and one attempt to complete the midterms. It will have multiple choices and problem-solving exercises.

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Production with one input
- (from the book)

- 6.1- 6.2 Production function

Week 6: (Oct12-Oct18)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Production with many inputs, MRTS
 - Elasticity of Substitution, Returns to Scale
 - Technological Progress
- (from the book)
 - 6.1- 6.6 Production
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 5
- Assignment 5 -Due time: Oct 19-Monday 5pm

Week 7: (Oct 19-Oct25)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Cost function, Cost minimization problem
 - Demand input functions
- (from the book)
 - 7.1- 8.2 Cost
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 6
- Assignment 6 -Due time: Oct 26-Monday 5pm

Week 8: (Oct26-Nov1)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Short run cost function
 - Long run cost function
 - Relationship between Different Cost Curves
- (from the book)
 - 7.1- 8.2 Cost
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 7
- Assignment 7 -Due time: Nov 2-Monday 5pm

Week 9: (Nov2-Nov8) **MIDTERM 2- NOVEMBER 4th**

Midterm 2 will be available in the morning of Nov 4 and you will have till 11:59 pm (Atlantic Time) to attempt it. You will have 80 minutes and one attempt to complete the midterms. It will have multiple choices and problem-solving exercises.

Nov9-Nov15: STUDY BREAK**Week 10:** (Nov16-Nov22)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Perfectly Competitive market
 - Profit Maximization



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- Supply Curve – Short Run
- (from the book)
 - 9.1-9.4 Perfect Competition
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 8
- Assignment 8 -Due time: Nov 23-Monday 5pm

Week 11: (Nov23-Nov29)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Supply Curve – Long Run
 - Partial Equilibrium, Economic Efficiency
 - Excise Taxes
- (from the book)
 - 10.1 Taxation
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 9
- Assignment 9 -Due time: Nov 30-Monday 5pm

Week 12: (Nov30-Dec6)

- (Lecture notes, presentations(ppt), and Videos)
 - Monopoly
 - Cartel
 - Monopsony
 - Price Discrimination
- (from the book)
 - 11.1-11.6 Monopoly
 - 12.1-12.4 Price Discrimination
- Extra Questions and Solutions
- Practice Problems 10
- Assignment 10 -Due time: Dec 7-Monday 5pm

Final Exam: TBA

Faculty of Science Course Syllabus University Policies and Statements

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by Senate

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

Information: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (Canada and Nova Scotia).

Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

Code: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness

Statement: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre (1321 Edward St) (elders@dal.ca).

Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)

https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

University Grading Practices

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence (policy)

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html

Student Resources and Support

Advising

General Advising https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html

Science Program Advisors: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/academic-advising.html>

Indigenous Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Black Students Advising Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html

Academic supports

Library: <https://libraries.dal.ca/>

Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

Studying for Success: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

Copyright Office: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

Fair Dealing Guidelines <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html>

Other supports and services

Student Health & Wellness Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html

Student Advocacy: <https://dsu.ca/dsas>

Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html

Safety

Biosafety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

Chemical Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

Radiation Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

Scent-Free Program: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>