

**Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Economics
ECON 4201
Honours Thesis I
Fall 2020**

Instructor Information:

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Office hours(via Dalhousie MS/Teams): Tuesday 11:30-13:00 (or by appointment)

Class Delivery

- Synchronous via Collaborate Ultra @Brightspace course page
 - Day/Time: Thursday 11:35-12:55 (ADT/AST)
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Course Description

This course is required for honours students, and helps students define, research, and write an original research project under the supervision of an economics faculty member. Students develop a topic, critique current literature, run statistical tests, and present their results in a public conference.

NOTES: Students must complete both ECON4201.03 and 4202.03. Students will be granted a common grade for both courses after both have been completed.

Course Prerequisites

ECON 2200.03, ECON 2201.03, ECON 3338.03, a grade of B or higher in at least one Dalhousie writing course, and permission of instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes

The approach taken in the delivery of this course is to value independent research both as a process and as an output. Any research process involves identifying a knowledge gap, specifying a research question, designing and applying an appropriate methodology to address this question, and reporting and disseminating the findings.

The best way to learn about how to do research is by doing research. While creativity is highly valued in research and different fields in economics have developed different methods for research, they nevertheless share common pathways for successful conclusion of a research project. A research paper synthesizes existing knowledge on a particular topic, identifies a significant knowledge gap within that topic, designs a novel analysis of the existing evidence or presents new evidence on the topic, and produces findings that substantially reduce the knowledge gap. Finally, these findings must be communicated effectively using a style appropriate for the intended audience.

The course will guide you through the research process with a sequence of assignments, but ultimately you are responsible for the outcome and the communication of your results.

Course Materials

Turabian, Kate L. 2010. *Student's Guide to Writing College Papers*. 4th edition. University of Chicago Press, Chicago. (Required)

Miller, Jane E. 2013. *The Chicago Guide to Writing about Multivariate Analysis*. 2nd edition. University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London. (Recommended)

Course Assessment

All assignments are posted on the course Brightspace page. The final thesis accounts for 20 percent of the grade; to pass the course, at least a C letter grade on the final thesis is required.

The marking of your assignments will be based on the expected outcomes as specified at a particular point in time. However, throughout the year, as your research progresses, you will be expected to revise and update the content of your earlier assignments: even if you had scored a perfect mark on an earlier assignment, the content of that assignment may become inadequate or irrelevant as you make progress.

Missing assignments:

It is required that you submit all assignments, as they are necessary steps towards writing your thesis.

Late assignments will be marked down by 20 percent per day. Any exception requires a legitimate reason listed in the Dalhousie University Calendar under section 16.8 of “Academic Regulations.”

Assignment Submission:

Assignments will need to be submitted electronically, in pdf format, in Brightspace. All assignments will be checked towards plagiarism using the *URKUND* software through Brightspace.

Assignment Weights (as % of Honours Thesis Weight) and Due Dates (Fall 2020):

1. Identifying topics (5%): 24 September 2020
2. Finalizing the topic (5%): 8 October 2020
3. Knowledge Gap & Related literature (10%): 29 October 2020
4. Planning the argument (15%): 12 November 2020
5. Sources of evidence (10%): 3 December 2020

Details about the remaining assignments towards the Honours Thesis are available in the course outline of Econ4202-Honours Thesis II.

Additional Requirements:

Academic Integrity Module: You are required to complete the Writing Centre's Academic Integrity Module by 21 September 2020.

Office hours: Use the office hours for best communication. In general, ask specific questions. Avoid questions such as "Can this be done?" or "Where can I find data?" You must be able defend your ideas in your own words: never make a claim that "Professor X told me to do this."

Critical thinking: Academic economics is not a monolithic discipline. Over the course of your research, you may receive slightly different or even outright conflicting suggestions from different faculty members and your peers. As part of your research, you will need to handle such differences in opinion using your own reasoning and critical thinking.

Style: You must follow Chicago Manual of Style- **Author/Date**, available at:
<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>.

A quick "overview of style guidelines" with additional requirements (attached to the assignments) forms part of this syllabus.

Conversion of Numerical Grades to Final Letter Grades:

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)	

Synchronous Lectures (Fall 2020):

1. Introduction (September 10th)
2. Academic integrity: an overview (Writing Centre) (September 17th)
2. Graduate school application process (October 15th)
3. Career paths (October 22nd)

- Dates are subject to changes depending on the availability of our guest speakers.
- All lectures will be recorded and become available at the course page in Brightspace.
- Although attendance is not required, it is strongly encouraged as it allows you to ask questions.

Asynchronous Material

The following material will also be provided asynchronously in the form of Panopto video recordings available at the course Brightspace page. Dates in the parentheses indicate approximate release dates:

1. Resources for research-Data (Library) (September 24th)
2. Resources for research-Literature (Library) (October 1st)
3. Programming Module (October 8th)

University Policies and Statements

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

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence

As per Senate decision instructors may not require medical notes of students who must miss an academic requirement, **including the final exam**, for courses offered during fall or winter 2020-21 (until April 30, 2021). Information on regular policy, including the use of the Student Declaration of Absence can be found here: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html.

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

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>

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

At Dalhousie University, we respect the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, adherence to the values of academic integrity and related policies is a requirement of being part of the academic community at Dalhousie University.

What does academic integrity mean?

Academic integrity means being honest in the fulfillment of your academic responsibilities, thus establishing mutual trust. Fairness is essential to the interactions of the academic community and is achieved through respect for the opinions and ideas of others. “Violations of intellectual honesty are offensive to the entire academic community, not just to the individual faculty member and students in whose class an offence occurs.”

(<http://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=1&chapterid=89&topicgroupid=381&loadusercredits=False>)

How can you achieve academic integrity?

- Make sure you understand Dalhousie’s policies on academic integrity.
- While discussion with your fellow students is valuable, do not submit an assignment or essay that is essentially identical to an assignment or essay submitted by another individual or group.
- In assignments or essays, use an approved method of citation for any material taken directly from an existing source or any material that is a paraphrase of an existing source.
- Do not download the work of another from the Internet and submit it as your own.
- Do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor.
- Do not have someone else write a test for you, or write a test for someone else.
- During a test, do not talk with other students and do not try to copy the work of another student.

What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?

Instructors are required to report any suspected offence. The full process is outlined in the Discipline flow chart (found at <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca>) and includes the following:

- Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors.
- The AIO decides whether to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process.
- If the case proceeds, you will receive a PENDING grade until the matter is resolved.
- If you are found guilty of an academic offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning to suspension or expulsion from the University and can include a notation on your transcript, failure of the assignment, or failure of the course. All penalties are academic in nature.

Where can you turn for help?

- If you are ever unsure about ANYTHING, contact your instructor.
- See <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca> for links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, and tips on citing and paraphrasing.
- See <http://writingcentre.dal.ca> for assistance with proofreading, writing styles, and citations.
- See <http://libraries.dal.ca/research.html> for a set of research tools including Subject Guides, Assignment Calculator, and RefWorks.
- See <http://studentservices.dal.ca> for assistance with appeals and discipline procedures.
- See <http://senate.dal.ca> for a list of Academic Integrity Officers, a discipline flow chart, and the Senate Discipline Committee.

The [Policy on Student Submission of Assignments & Use of Originality Checking Software](#) states that “any instructor may require student assignments to be submitted in both written and electronic (computer-readable) form, e.g., a text file or as an email attachment, as defined by the instructor. Use of third-party originality checking software does not preclude instructor use of alternate means to identify lapses in originality and attribution. The results of such assessment may be used as evidence in any disciplinary action taken by the Senate.”