

**Faculty of Science Course Syllabus****Department of Economics***ECON 2200- Section 01**Intermediate Microeconomics**Summer 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 Fridays (May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 -June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020) from 4 to 5 pm through Collaborate Ultra. Links will be posted on the announcement board in Brightspace.***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.*

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**Course Description**

This course covers consumer behaviour, the theory of the firm, factor markets, and general equilibrium welfare analysis. The course serves as the microeconomic prerequisite for higher-level courses in economics.

**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 case studies have **fixed** deadlines.*

**Course Assessment**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Weight (% of final grade)</b>	<b>Date</b>
Assignments	50%	Every 2 days
Case Studies	30%	May 28 <sup>th</sup> 2019
Practice/Study Problems	10%	2nd June 2020
Discussions	10%	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2020

**Assignments:** There will be 6 assignments containing multiple choice and problem-solving short answer questions. Each will have a deadline for submission and will be 10% of your grade. They are to test your understanding of the content of the class. Your best 5 performances will be counted towards your grade.

**Case Studies:** There will be 3 Case Studies for the course, each counting for 10% of your grade. After reading the case study, you will need to answer some questions that will test whether you can apply the content learnt in class.

**Practice/Study Problems:** After every lecture, there will a short question to test your understanding of the materials in that lecture. Note, you will only be able to attempt them after going through the lecture.

**Discussions:** Between May 11<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020, each of you will need to find a newspaper article in English that is related to the materials covered in class, post the link to the discussion board and explain how you think it relates to the materials covered. You will also need to respond to at least one other student's post by commenting on whether you agree with the explanation given on the original post. Be sure to give explanation. **Note, each newspaper article and the explanations should be different.** If we find the same article and explanation, the one who posted first gets the credit. Similarly, when you are responding to other people's thread, do not respond to a thread with more than 5 replies. The maximum number of students who can respond to a given thread is 5. So, please read the discussion board regularly. 5% of your grade comes from your original post and the other 5% comes from your response of other person's thread.

#### **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.*
- *You will have access to the solutions, after the due date of your assignments. So, the deadlines are enforced.*
- *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. Although, the contents of week 1 and week 2 are disjoint, week 3 builds on week 1 and 2's materials, so I strongly recommend you to follow the weekly sequence.*
- *For discussion board, you need to post an original article before posting your response to others. No credit will be awarded if you do not submit an original article but have responded to others.*
- *I will be holding virtual office hours every Tuesdays and Fridays from 4-5pm 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](mailto:Mrittika.Shamsuddin@dal.ca).*
- *You can also email or chat with your TA Samuel at [yh928944@dal.ca](mailto:yh928944@dal.ca).*
- *All submitted work needs to be your own work. If you are caught using someone else's work, it will be dealt according to Dalhousie's Academic Integrity policy.*
- *While doing the assignments, please feel free to consult your lectures and notes.*

**Tentative Course Content and Outline**

<b>Module</b>	<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Assessments</b>
Week 1	Understand consumer behavior	Consumer Preferences	Lecture Videos	Assignment 1, Assignment 2
	Solve a consumer's utility maximization problem mathematically and graphically	Consumer Choice	Case Study	Case Study 1, Discussions
	Apply economic principles to a range of real-life problems and policy questions	Theory of Demand	Discussions	Practice Problems 1 to Practice Problem 8
Week 2	Understand firm's behavior	Production and profit maximization	Lecture Videos	Assignment 3, Assignment 4
	Solve firm's cost minimization and profit maximization problems mathematically and graphically	Cost Minimization in the short-run	Case Study	Case Study 2, Discussions
	Apply economic principles to a range of real-life problems and policy questions	Cost Minimization in the long-run	Discussions	Practice Problems 9 to 16
Week 3	Analyze different market structures	Competitive market	Lecture Videos	Assignment 5, Assignment 6
	Explain the welfare effect of the economic agent under different market structures	Monopoly	Case Study	Case Study 3, Discussions
	Apply economic principles to a range of real-life problems and policy questions	Monopsony Price discrimination	Discussions	Practice Problems 17 to Practice Problems 24

## 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](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](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](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](mailto:elders@dal.ca)).

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](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](https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)

#### **University Grading Practices**

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html](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](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](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](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

**Black Students Advising Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)

**International Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/international-centre/current-students.html](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](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](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](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](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>