

Faculty of Science: Department of Economics
Course Syllabus

ECON2200.03 (2023, Summer): Intermediate Microeconomics

Instructor: Ruth Forsdyke, Ruth.Forsdyke@Dal.ca,

Lectures: Monday & Wednesday, 9:35 am - 11:55 am, Studley LSC-Common Area C216

Office Hours (Professor):

Real: Mon. 1 - 2 pm, room C12, Economics Department, 6220 University Ave.

Online: Thursday: 1 - 2 pm, online via Collaborate

Wed. 11 am - 12 noon ADT (drop in), or email me to set up an appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Camilo Vargas Silva, cm457529@dal.ca

Tutorials: Wed. 3 - 4 pm, McCain room 1102

Tutorial worksheets are posted under "**Content**" >> "**Tutorials**" and answers are provided.

Please bring questions to the tutorial and the TA, Camilo, will work through the answers with you.

Course Delivery: in person, lectures not recorded.

Part A: Course Information

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 and Exclusions:

PREREQUISITES: ECON 1101.03 with a minimum grade of C.

EXCLUSIONS: ECON 2220.03, ECON 2210.03

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

1. Better understand economies, economic policies and how these affect wellbeing.
2. Further develop analytical skills used in microeconomic analysis.
3. Use basic microeconomic models to solve problems (including graphs and algebra).
4. Learn how microeconomic models are used as tools for understanding economics and policy making.
5. Practice problem solving skills by applying microeconomics to a variety of contexts.
6. Understand model assumptions and their limitations and the distinction between normative and positive economics.
7. Learn and practice critical thinking, writing, and communicating.

Course Materials:

Required Textbook:

Besanko, D. and Braeutigam, R.R. (2020) *Microeconomics*, 6th Ed., Wiley
Paper books can be purchased at the Dalhousie Bookstore.

Electronic versions can be rented via the link at the Dalhousie bookstore at:
<https://bookstore.dal.ca>

Note: Older editions are fine but students may need to use the index to find page references.

Brightspace Learning Management System:

The key material for the course is available under “content”, “discussions”, “announcements” and “Assessments”.

Students are responsible for checking “Announcements” regularly to be sure not to miss important information.

Course Assessment:

Your grade will be the highest of the following schemes.

Component	Weights (Scheme 1)	Weights (Scheme 2)	Details
Midterm	20	24	Wed. May 31st, in class
Final Exam	40	46	Monday, June 26th, 9:30 - 12:30, location TBA
Assignments (Best 3 out of 4)	30	30	Do on paper and submit as ONE PDF to "Assessments">> "Assignments" - 2 before midterm and 2 after midterm
Brightspace Quiz (optional)	10	0	- find under >> "Assessments" >> "Quizzes", - dispersed throughout term

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)	

Details on Course Work and Assessment

Readings from Textbook:

To learn microeconomics, read through the text and work through the problems. I highly recommended that you do the learning by doing exercises which are often similar to the tutorial worksheets. The readings are posted on the first page of the slides.

Lecture Slides/Covid Videos:

The lecture slides will be posted after class. I will also post videos that were produced during the Covid lockdown, the "covid videos". Note that although these may be helpful if you need to miss classes due to illness, or to review material previously covered in class, they should be regarded as **highly imperfect substitutes** for real in-class lectures and may differ in coverage or emphasis. Also, **any information in the videos regarding dates (ex. assignment due dates, test dates) or statements like "next week we will cover" should be disregarded as they applied to the time period of the Covid Lockdowns.**

Midterm and Final Exam: These are written on paper. The dates can be found above under "Course Assessment" above. The midterm is in class while the location of the final exam will be announced.

Assignments: Your grade will be the average of the best 3 out of 4 assignments. *You must submit individual assignments, which **must be written in your own words**.* Submit as ONE PDF file such that pages are aligned with the top corresponding to the top of the computer screen to help markers. TAs will mark a selection of submitted questions. Submit via **Assessments>>Assignments**.

Tutorials and Tutorial Worksheets: Please do the tutorial worksheets for practice and bring materials you have questions about to the tutorials. The teaching assistant(s) are prepared to take up the worksheets and to help you out with other questions.

Practice Problems: These are provided for practice and are NOT submitted for a grade. **Answers** are posted so you can check your answers. If you get stuck, peak at answers to help you to see how to proceed. However, do your best to try the problem on your own before peaking at the answers.

Brightspace (BS) Quizzes: Several BS practice quizzes are provided to allow you to test your knowledge as the course proceeds. You are advised to seriously attempt the quizzes whether you want the grade to count or not. These are not timed but once answers are posted, you may no longer attempt the quiz for grades.

Discussion Board Participation: Participate in the forums by means such as asking a question, making a comment, relating class content to real world events, or responding to posts made by the professor, TAs, or other students, and/or posting links to useful information. You may either use your name or participate anonymously (meaning that other class members will not know who you are but the professor and teaching assistants will know your name).

Office Hours and Tutorials: See information at the beginning of the syllabus. If you are unable to make these hours and have a question, you may try asking it on the discussion board. If you are still need real tutoring, please email the professor to set up an appointment (which may be real or virtual).

Virtual Rooms (Collaborate): Used for some office hours and available for student use at other times.

Tentative Course Content (as time permits):

Topic	Chapter(Besanko and Brautigam)
I Introduction and Review Key Concepts of Microeconomic Principles	
marginals vs. totals, supply & demand, concept of constrained optimization, consumer, producer, & private surplus, equilibrium, comparative statics, normative vs. positive questions, elasticity	Ch. 1, Ch. 2
II Consumer Theory	
Preferences & Utility	Ch. 3
Budgets and Consumer Choice	Ch. 4
Theory of Demand	Ch. 5
III Producer Theory	
Technology, Inputs, & Production Functions	Ch. 6
Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch. 7
Cost Curves (long and short run)	Ch. 8
IV: Market Structure	
Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch. 9
Imperfectly Competitive Market structure (monopoly) - other market structures may be examined time permitting.	Ch. 11 Ch. 13 (Section 2) (if time permits)
V: Market Failures & Social Efficiency	
Externalities, Public Goods, Assymmetric Information	Ch. 17 (time permitting) Ch. 15 (time permitting)

How to Learn in this Course:

- attend all lectures, pay attention, and take notes during class. Taking notes will help you to pay attention and to learn the material because you will be forced to try to understand the information in order to write it down concisely. Audio reinforcement will help you to learn.
- read through the course syllabus to get an overview of what lies ahead.
- manage your time -- make a schedule, write down or enter due dates in your planner and set aside times to study.
- avoid distractions such as social media while studying.
- After logging into Brightspace, check **Announcements** for new information.
- do all assignments.
- read and work through the textbook readings using the slides to guide your focus. Posted "covid videos" may help you to review points you missed during the lectures. You may benefit from taking notes organizing the material in a manner that makes sense to you and relates material to prior knowledge. Charts, flow charts and mind maps may be helpful. Work through the mathematical problems and write down and/or talk through the method used. Make summaries to identify key points.
- do Brightspace Quiz problems (even if not for marks).
- do the tutorial and practice problems on your own. If you get stuck, peak at the solution and then try on your own again. Repeat as necessary. Note down where you went wrong in your initial attempt.
- relate course concepts to other things you know.
- Ask questions during class, tutorials, office hours, while studying, in office hours and on discussion boards.
- start studying early for tests. Do review sheet problems.
- explain concepts to yourself and friends (orally using words). Test yourself.
- If you are having trouble knowing how to focus your study, please visit office hours for advice.
- ask questions on the discussion boards and in office hours and tutorials.

Course Policies:

1) Students are responsible for checking the final exam schedule prior to booking any flights. There are **no early exams under ANY circumstances**.

2) **Late or Missed Midterms or Assignments:** If you miss a midterm or assignment due to illness, as soon as possible, inform the professor via email and include a **Declaration of Absence (DOA)** form. This form may only be used twice for this course. These are available at:

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

3) In the case of a **missed midterm or more than one missed assignment**, other evaluation components will be given higher weight. There is no make-up midterm.

4) If the **final exam is missed due to illness**, please inform the professor by email as soon as possible to arrange to write an alternative exam.

5) **Late assignments** receive a maximum penalty of 5% per day, unless the student submits a DOA form and will not be accepted after answers have been posted on the Brightspace.

6) **Class slides** should be regarded as complements as opposed a substitutes for reading the textbook. When you read the textbook, with pencil and paper, work through examples, and learning by doing exercises.

7) Students are responsible for checking Brightspace "Announcements" regularly. Important information to guide learning as well as occasional corrections to assignments or test review questions is posted there.

8) **Online Access:** When connecting to online resources, you are responsible for observing any applicable laws of the country you are connecting from.

9) You are responsible for establishing whether you have access to all course material as soon as the term begins and before the ADD/DROP date. If you do not have access to certain material, inform the instructor as soon as possible. Alternative access methods are not guaranteed.

Part B: 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://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=117&chapterid=-1&topicgroupid=31821&loaduserredits=False>

University Grading Practices

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

Part C: 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/undergrad-students/degree-planning.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.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>

Dalhousie COVID-19 information and updates: <https://www.dal.ca/covid-19-information-and-updates.html>