



## Faculty of Science: Department of Economics

### Course Syllabus

#### ECON2200.03 (2021, Winter): Intermediate Microeconomics

**Instructor:** Ruth Forsdyke, [Ruth.Forsdyke@Dal.ca](mailto:Ruth.Forsdyke@Dal.ca)

**Lecture Slides & Videos:** An announcement and slides are posted on Brightspace Mon, Wed. am. These indicate textbook readings and problems to work on. Some sections are illustrated with short videos.

**Office Hours (Professor):** Brightspace Collaborate, Mon. and Wed. 11 am - 12 noon ADT (drop in), or email me to set up an appointment.

**Tutorials:** Tutorial worksheets are posted under **Content >> Tutorials** and answers are provided. During tutorials, TAs will answer your questions. Time and day (TBA).

**Teaching Assistants:**

Thiago Andrade Moellmann Ferro, [th990413@dal.ca](mailto:th990413@dal.ca) and Zihao Sheng, [Zihao.Sheng@Dal.ca](mailto:Zihao.Sheng@Dal.ca)

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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 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, components of economies and 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. (2014) *Microeconomics*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., Wiley  
<https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course%5b%5d=SUB,WINT21,ECON,ECON2200&>  
- available as an ebook or paper book

[Older editions are fine but students may need to use the index to find page references]

#### *Brightspace Learning Management System:*

On Monday and Wednesday, please visit "Announcements" (on the "home "page) for information on content for that day. Announcements may be made at other times also. **Students are responsible for checking "Announcements" regularly.**

Please look under "**content**" and "**discussions**" tabs for course material.

### Course Assessment:

Your grade will be the highest of the following 4 schemes.

Component	Weights (Scheme 1)	Weights (Scheme 2)	Weights (Scheme 3)	Weights (Scheme 4)	Details
Midterm	20	25	19	23.75	Wed. Feb. 24
Final Exam	40	45	38	42.75	Scheduled by Registrar
Assignments (Best 3 out of 4)	30	30	28.5	28.5	Do on paper and submit as ONE PDF to "Assessments">> "Assignments"
Brightspace Quiz (optional) (score on each quiz is average of 3 tries)	10	0	9.5	0	- find under >> "Assessments" >> "Quizzes", dispersed throughout term
Discussion Board Grade (optional)	0	0	5	5	- post questions, comments, help other students

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. It is 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/Videos:

Lecture slides and textbook readings are posted on Monday and Wednesday. When you log into Brightspace, first visit announcements for new information. The videos may vary in length and may not cover all topics in the slides. To ask questions, use **Discussions** and/or visit the professor and/or TA during **Virtual Office Hours**. If your question is likely to be of general interest to the class, ***we prefer that you use Discussions***. However, you may **email** your questions to the TAs or professor particularly if the question is not of general interest to the class.

**Midterm and Final Exam:** contain a mixture of Brightspace Quiz questions (ex. multiple choice, matching, ordering, fill in the blank) and written components (ex. graphing, microeconomic problems, short explanations and/or short essay).

**Assignments:** Your grade will be the average of the best 3 out of 4 assignments. *You must hand in 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. Answers will be posted. The teaching assistants will answer questions on worksheets and are prepared to take up the worksheets during tutorial times which will be held in Collaborate (times and dates, TBA).

**Practice Problems:** These are provided for practice and are NOT handed in. **Answers** are posted so you can check your answers and if you get stuck, you may 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 Quizzes:** Several Brightspace practice quizzes are provided to allow you to test your knowledge as the course proceeds. You will get **3 attempts** and find out which ones you got correct after each attempt. Your grade on the quiz will be the average of all attempts. These are an **optional grade component** but you are advised to seriously attempt the quizzes whether you want the grade to count or not.

**Discussion Board Participation:**

Participate in Discussion board 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, 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). Discussion board participation is highly encouraged and constitutes an optional 5% of the grade (under schemes 3 and 4).

**Virtual Office Hours:** Held by the professor on Monday and Wednesday (11 am to noon) in the Collaborate Virtual Rooms assessable via Brightspace. If you are unable to make these hours and have a question, please email the professor or TAs to set up an appointment.

**Virtual Rooms (Collaborate):** These are used for office hours and tutorials students may use these rooms at other times.

**Tentative Course Content (as time permits):**

Topic	Chapter(Besanko and Brautigam)
<b>I Introduction and Review Key Concepts of Microeconomic Principles</b>	
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

<b>II Consumer Theory</b>	
Preferences & Utility	Ch. 3
Budgets and Consumer Choice	Ch. 4
Theory of Demand	Ch. 5
<b>III Producer Theory</b>	
Technology, Inputs, & Production Functions	Ch. 6
Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch. 7
Cost Curves (long and short run)	Ch. 8
<b>IV: Market Structure</b>	
Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch. 9
Monopoly/ Monopsony & Oligopoly/ Nash Equilibrium	Ch. 11 Ch. 13 (Section 2) (if time permits)
<b>V: Market Failures &amp; Social Efficiency</b>	
Externalities, Public Goods, Assymmetric Information	Ch. 17 Ch. 15 (627-633) (if time permits)

## Course Policies

**Exam Conflicts & Time Zones:** In cases of *conflicts on midterms and finals and time zones* which make it difficult to write at the same time as the other students, please email the professor to arrange to write an alternative test at an alternative time on the same day.

**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 submit a **Declaration of Absence (DOA)** form available at: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/misssed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/misssed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html)

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.

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.

**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*.

**Class slides** are a complement, not a substitute for reading the textbook. It is essential that you read through the textbook readings and work through the problems.

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

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

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 (Jan. 15th, 2020). If you do not have access to certain material, inform the instructor as soon as possible.

Alternative access methods are not guaranteed.

### **How to Learn in this Course:**

- read through course syllabus to get an overview of what lies ahead.
- make a schedule, write down due dates in your planner and set aside times to study.
- Manage your time and 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 and watch any posted videos. Take 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. Ask questions in the tutorial session.
- relate course concepts to other things you know.
- ask questions 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 and using words). Test yourself.
- If you are having trouble focussing your study, please visit office hours for advice.
- ask questions on the discussion boards and in office hours and tutorials.

### **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 the office (Rm 3037, McCain Building), e-mail ([elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca)) or leave message (902-494-6803).

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/native.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/native.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)

## **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>

**Aboriginal Student Centre:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/native.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/native.html)

**Black 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 Services:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/health-services/services.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services/services.html)

**Counselling:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html)

**Student Advocacy:** <https://www.dsu.ca/services/community-student-services/student-advocacy-service>

**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)

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