

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

Economics 2400
Economic Demographics
Winter 2021

Instructor: Don McIver
Lectures: Time & Location: On-line Asynchronous. Typically, but not necessarily, lectures will be recorded and made available twice a week—on Tuesday and Thursday
Office: Department of Economics, Room A13, 6220 University Ave.
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Office Hours: Via Brightspace Collaborate T/TH 3:45 to 4:30 or by arrangement

Course Description

This course investigates the economic determinants and consequences of the size, growth, and age structure of human populations. Topics include why and how households save for retirement and related policy; how age structure affects the employment and well-being of particular generations; and how demographic change and economic growth interact.

Course Prerequisites

Principles of Macroeconomics - Econ 1102 or equivalent with at least a grade of C-.

Required readings:

The topic outline below contains some required readings -- **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READINGS WILL BE POSTED ON BRIGHTSPACE**. Students have access to journal articles through JSTOR by using their library privileges.

Grading Scheme:

Participation	5%
Mid-term Exam:	25%
Term Papers	15% each (x2)
Final Exam:	40%

Term Papers (2):

1 Students will be required to submit a research paper of at least 3,000 words in length comparing the labour force characteristics of Canada's aging population with that of another country of the student's choice. There is no restriction on the choice of the second country—it could be a similarly developed country or substantially less developed. This paper should

examine how male and female participation rates are changing in each country—with particular attention to older age cohorts. If significant differences are evident an explanation should be suggested. If the characteristics are similar an explanation of what factors explain the similarities should be suggested.

N.B. Students may submit individual papers but are encouraged to collaborate with up to two other students in a group submission.

The paper must be submitted on or before February 2nd.

2 Students will be required to submit a research paper of at least 3,000 words in length comparing the structure of pension provisions in Canada with that in another country of the student's choice. There is no restriction on the choice of the second country—it could be a similarly developed country or substantially less developed.

N.B. Students may submit individual papers but are encouraged to collaborate with up to two other students in a group submission.

The paper must be submitted on or before March 18th.

The midterm exam will be held on **February 11 4:00 to 6:30** If a student missed the midterm for a valid reason, as defined in Section 6 of the University Academic Procedures booklet, then the weight of the midterm will be added to the final exam.

To pass the course, a student must earn an overall mark of at least 50% and must earn a mark of 50% or more on the final exam.

Travel arrangements must not be made that will conflict with the final examination.

Grading Scale:

A+	90 - 100%	B+	77 - 79%	C+	67 - 69%	D	50 - 59%
A	85 - 89%	B	73 - 76%	C	63 - 66%		
A-	80 - 84%	B-	70 - 72%	C-	60 - 62		

CLASS OUTLINE OF TOPICS

Jan 6th: First class: Discussion of syllabus and evaluation methodology; description of research paper topics and requirements.

Week 2 Introduction: Demographic profile of Canada and the world

Reading: Statistics Canada <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-215-x/2012000/part-partie2-eng.htm>

Week 3 Life-cycle Theory

Reading: Angus Deaton; Franco Modigliani and the Life Cycle Theory of Consumption
Princeton 2005

Week 4 Labour force participation and fiscal implications

Reading: Canada, Department of Finance (2016). Update of Long-Term Economic and Fiscal Projections Government of Canada. <https://www.fin.gc.ca/pub/ltefp-peblt/pdf/ltefp-peblt-eng.pdf>

Week 5 Healthcare Pressures

Reading: Collier, R. (2011). Canadians face unappealing medicare options, ex-Bank of Canada governor says. *Canadian Medical Association. Journal*, 183(8), E449-50.

Week 6 Midterm Review

February 11 4:00 to 6:30 MIDTERM EXAM ON-LINE

FEBRUARY 12TH TO 21 READING BREAK—NO CLASSES

Week 7 The role of Immigration

Reading: Robson, William B. P. and Mahboubi, Parisa, Inflated Expectations: More Immigrants Can't Solve Canada's Aging Problem on Their Own (March 13, 2018). C.D. Howe Institute e-brief 274, Available at SRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3139657> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3139657>

Week 8 The conventional approach to the economics of retirement
Canada's retirement system: The Three Tiers

Reading: TBA

Week 9 Canada's retirement system: The Three Tiers (contd.)
CPP actuarial assumptions

Reading: TBA

Week 10 The behavioral approach to the economics of retirement

Reading: Olivia Mitchell Stephen Utkus; Lessons from Behavioral Finance for Retirement Plan Design Wharton

Week 11 Reasons for the decline of the traditional pension

Reading: TBA

Week 12 The finances of a traditional pension: DB & DC plans. How DC Plans Work.
Modifying the DB plan/Enhancing the Basic DC plan. Regulatory and fiduciary issues for both plan types

Reading: Class material

Week 13 COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW -- April 7th LAST DAY OF CLASSES

FINAL EXAMINATION (TBA)

Course Policies

A late submission of a research paper will be discounted by 10% per day. In the event of a missed mid-term due to sickness or weather, the weight of the mid-term will be carried forward and added to the final grade weight of the final exam.

In the event that, for legitimate reasons. A student is unable to write the final exam notification prior to the start of the exam **MUST BE PROVIDED**. In that case, the student will be provided the opportunity to write a make-up exam offered on another date

FINAL EXAM –DETERMINED BY REGISTRAR DURING EXAM PERIOD

_ 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://ug.cal.dal.ca/UREG.htm#12>)

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.”

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>



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