

**Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Economics
Econ 3345: Public Finance
Winter 2021**

Instructor: Casey Warman

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Lectures: I will rely mainly on distance learning. The course will be available on Dalhousie's Brightspace. It is an online, mainly asynchronous class and access to computer and high-speed internet is essential. When connecting to online resources from outside of Canada, students are responsible for ensuring that they are aware of and observing any applicable laws of the country they are connecting from.

Office location: ~~6214 University Avenue, Room A14~~ ... Online for now....

Office hours: TBA. I will use Microsoft Teams or Zoom for office hours.

Course Description

The course will focus on expenditure decisions (including health care, education, employment insurance, social assistance, and public pensions) and the federal-provincial dimension of the public sector in Canada. It will also cover basic public finance theory and related microeconomics.

Course Prerequisites

Intermediate Microeconomics. Econ 2200 or equivalent with a minimum C grade.

Course Exclusion

None

Learning Objectives

- Students will attain, through lectures, readings and problem sets, knowledge of the building blocks of economic analysis in public finance.
- Students will develop, through lectures, readings and problem sets, some tools to analyze, critically assess, and develop creative solutions to public policy problems.
- Problem sets and exams will enable students to apply basic principles of critical thinking, problem solving and technical proficiency in economics.
- This course will introduce students to expenditure decisions in Canada related to health care, education, employment insurance, social assistance, and public pensions.

At the end of the course, students should:

- Have a general understanding of Canada's governmental structure

- Be able to understand the fundamentals of welfare economics and cost-benefit analysis
- Be able to understand of public goods as well as externalities and when there should be public or private response to such externalities
- Be able to determine the implications of given public expenditure programmes including issues such as externalities, moral hazard and adverse selection

Course Materials

- Required Text:

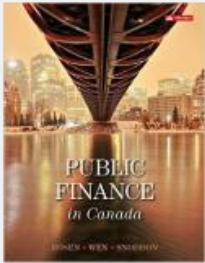
Rosen, H., F Wen, and T Snoddon, (2016), Public Finance in Canada (5th Ed), Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson

For purchase in the bookstore or

E-book online access at:

<https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course%5b%5d=SUB,WINT21,ECON,ECON3345&>

REQUIRED: PUBLIC FINANCE IN CANADA



Author: Rosen
Web SKU: WWW00342670
Publisher: Mcgraw

Buy New: \$102.43 **Buy : \$90.96**

Buy Digital: ebook: \$59.96

Around 90% of the course will follow the textbook. Additional supplementary material and information will make up the remaining 10%, such as issues related to the implications of Covid-19 for public finance.

I will post partial notes and other items on Brightspace.

Course Assessment

Component	Weight (% of final grade)	Date
Midterm Exam	(2X20%=) 40%	February 10 th and March 17 th
Final exam	40%	Scheduled exam period by Registrar’s Office
Assignments	(5X4%=) 20%	6 Mini Assignments every couple of weeks

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 4% 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.

Midterms: There will be 2 midterms for the course, each counting for 20% of your grade. Midterm 1 will become available on the morning of February 10th at 11:30am and you will have till 1 PM (Atlantic time) to attempt and finish it. Similarly, midterm 2 will be available in the morning of March 17th and you will have till 1 PM (Atlantic Time) to attempt and finish it. You will have approximately **60 minutes** once you start and **ONE** attempt to complete the midterms. It will have multiple choice and problem-solving exercises.

Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and schedule by the Registrar's Office. It will have multiple choice and problem solving and will be for **TWO** hours, online and you will have **ONE** attempt.

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

Late assignments will not be accepted. It is best 5 out 6 but I will not adjust the assignment grades any further.

Missed Exams: The midterms are mandatory and counts if written. There is a very strict policy concerning any missed exam. (See notes on **Student Declaration of Absence form**). If an exemption is not granted, a grade of zero will stand. If an exemption is granted, the weight, material and length of the midterm will be allocated to a final exam. If at least one midterm and the final are missed then a grade of *Incomplete* may be given.

If you miss a midterm due to medical reasons, the weight will be placed on the final exam.

You must pass the final to pass the course. To earn an A+ in the course, you must earn at least an A on the final exam.

Note - Student Declaration of Absence form:

The Faculty of Science follows the University policy for missed or late academic requirements due to short term student absences. The link to the policy is included in the course syllabus, and can be accessed here https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html Course sites (Brightspace) will have a link to

the **Declaration of Absence form**, and online submission of the forms will be enabled this fall via the widget on Brightspace.

Note that students are not be able to obtain medical notes from the Dalhousie Student Health and Wellness Centre for short term absences (3 consecutive days or fewer) during term. Students may submit a **MAXIMUM** of 2 separate forms per course per term. Students with recurring absences should be referred to the Assistant Dean Student Affairs. Students with long term absences may need to be referred to the Student Accessibility centre. Please note students with an Accommodation Plan in place do not need to submit Student Declarations of Absence.

The policy does not apply to final coursework or exams scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Outline (Order of chapters covers subject to change):

Introduction Ch 1,2,3 (Not covering: Uncertainty on page 52; Games Cost–Benefit Analysts Play on page 53).

Market Failures

Public Goods Ch 4

Externalities Ch 5

Information Asymmetries

Public Choice Ch 7**Market Shortcoming**

Income/Wealth Distribution Ch 6

Debt

Online chapter

Programs

Welfare Ch 12

Eissa, Nada and Jeffrey B. Liebman (1996) "Labor Supply Response to the Earned Income Tax Credit," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 111(2): 605-637. Read only pages 605-613 and 635-636. Access journal article through the library

(Un)employment Insurance Ch 10

Education Ch 13

Pensions Ch 11

Health Care Ch 9

Response to Covid-19 Class notes and supplementary material

Tax Analysis

Taxation and Income Distribution Ch 14

Taxation and efficiency Ch 15

Personal Income Tax Ch 17

Other readings may be assigned during the course.

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

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-studentconduct.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-practicespolicy.html

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence (policy)

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-lateacademic-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/academicadvising.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-studentadvising.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-andtutoring.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-andwellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html

Student Advocacy: <https://dsu.ca/dsas>

Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-andresponsibilities/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/scentfree.html>