



**FACULTY OF SCIENCE COURSE SYLLABUS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
ECON 3600 – STRATEGIC BEHAVIOUR¹
WINTER 2022**

INSTRUCTOR: MOSHE LANDER
EMAIL: MOSHE.LANDER@DAL.CA
OFFICE HOURS: F 1:00pm – 2:00pm ATLANTIC
LECTURE HOURS: ASYNCHRONOUS (RECORDED)
TA: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Many economic questions (such as price competition, tax policy, research and development decisions, bargaining) can be interpreted as games, in which each player's action affects the payoffs of other players. Students learn how to recognise various strategic interactions in economics and how to evaluate the outcomes of such interactions.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

- ECON 2200 or ECON 2210 or ECON 2220, MATH 1000
 - Unless otherwise stated, all economics courses have a minimum grade requirement of C for their prerequisite courses.

COURSE MATERIALS

- Watson, J. *Strategy: An Introduction to Game Theory, 3rd Edition*. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc. 2013. ISBN: 978-0-393-91838-0.
 - This book can be purchased from the Dal bookstore (<https://bookstore.dal.ca/>) or directly from the publisher (<https://wwnorton.com/books/9780393918380/about-the-book/product-details>).
- You must have access to a(n):
 - Computer with an up-to-date operating system (macOS or Windows should work with all university-supported online learning technologies);
 - Up-to-date web browser (Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Edge should help to avoid compatibility issues);
 - Secure, regular and reliable internet connection;
 - Webcam with high quality microphone/headphones;

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Game theory is a way to model strategic situations. By the end of this course, you should be able to...

- Feel comfortable with the basics of game theory and its applications to different areas in economics and other disciplines;
- Take strategic considerations into account when making choices;
- Predict how other people or organisations behave when they are in strategic settings; and,
- Consider numerous social interactions as strategic games and to use game-theoretic concepts to predict outcomes of these interactions.

¹ In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's and/or instructor's control, the course content and/or assessment is subject to change. Announcements will be made in class and/or on Brightspace and will comply with Dalhousie's syllabus policy available [here](#).

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence in this class is directed through **Dalhousie email addresses *only***. Any email coming from any other address is treated as spam and is neither read nor answered. If you have not yet activated your account, please follow the instructions at www.dal.ca/dept/its/o365/services/email.html.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	CONTENT	DATE
Midterm 1	25 percent	Chapters 1 – 13	February 8
Midterm 2	25 percent	Chapters 14 – 23	March 22
Final	50 percent	Chapters 1 – 29	TBD

GRADE CONVERSION

A+	90 – 100	B+	77 – 79	C+	65 – 69	D	50 – 54
A	85 – 89	B	73 – 76	C	60 – 64	F	00 – 49
A-	80 – 84	B-	70 - 72	C-	55 – 59		

- Numerical grades are converted to letter grades using the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale.

LECTURES

- The international nature of the student body makes it nearly impossible to find a common time in which all students can gather online to attend a live lecture.
- For that reason, lectures are pre-recorded and posted on Brightspace according to a schedule that corresponds to a traditional in-class semester (see *Tentative Scheduled Posting Dates of Video Lectures on Brightspace* on page 2).
- The videos for each week’s topics last around 2 hours for a total run time of less than 30 hours over the semester and, along with the textbook, contains all the information needed to complete the course.
- Once posted, each lecture is always available (as long as Brightspace is working) except during exams.

OFFICE HOURS

- Office hours are not recorded, optional and take place online F 1:00pm – 2:00pm Atlantic.
- Information on how to log in to office hours is posted on Brightspace.
- As with traditional on-campus office hours, you are received on a first-come, first-served basis and not by appointment. You sit in a virtual waiting room until the instructor is ready to receive you.
- If you use office hours, you are expected to “arrive” prepared (ie, with your questions ready) and to be efficient so that the maximum number of students can make use of the available time.
- If you are unable to attend office hours because of scheduling conflicts, you can email your questions with attached audio, video and/or pictures. The more precise the information you provide, the faster and more precise the instructor can respond.

EXAMS

- There are two in-person midterms (Tuesday, February 8 and Tuesday, March 22) that cover the first- and second-thirds of the course, respectively, and a cumulative in-person final written during the final exam period (see *Course Assessment* and *Tentative Scheduled Posting Dates of Video Lectures on Brightspace* on page 2).
- You are responsible for knowing the date, time and location of the final and can find the information posted online (www.dal.ca/academics/exam_schedule/halifax_campus_exam_schedule.html).
- The weight of a missed midterm, for any reason (eg, illness, religious, work obligation, exam/class scheduling conflict, etc.), is shifted automatically to the final. There are NO MAKEUP, ALTERNATE OR DEFERRED MIDTERMS under any circumstances, nor may they be written early.
- If you miss the final, you must conform to Dalhousie's policy on qualifying for an alternate final time available [here](#). Final exam accommodations are almost never approved for reasons relating to personal/family travel/events.
- All exams are closed book, although you may use a non-programmable calculator and scrap paper to assist you. You may NOT use any other additional materials (eg, formula sheets, dictionaries, etc.). If you fail to follow any of these instructions, you will receive a grade of zero for the exam and will face academic misconduct proceedings in accordance with Dalhousie's [Code of Student Conduct](#). If you are unsure if what you are doing is acceptable, ask first.
- Exams involve algebra, definitions, interpretations and multi-part questions where the answer to one question may lead to another.
- While solution sets are likely available online or from previous students, if you acquire, distribute and/or utilise this material, intentionally or unintentionally, you are in violation of Dalhousie's [Code of Student Conduct](#) and will receive a grade of zero for the exam and will face academic misconduct proceedings. If you are aware of somebody else violating this policy, YOU are in violation of this policy. If you are unsure if what you are doing is acceptable, ask first.
- If you require university-approved special accommodations (eg, 30 min/hr extra writing time), you must secure the necessary approval from the Dalhousie Student Accessibility Centre (https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html) and notify me at least one week prior to the exam to receive it.
- You may review your midterms with the TA during office hours that he will hold after each exam is graded. The dates, times and locations of those office hours will be posted on Brightspace later in the semester. During those hours, you may NOT take notes, pictures, etc. of the exam contents. Intellectual property laws protect the contents of the exam.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULED POSTING DATES OF VIDEO LECTURES ON BRIGHTSPACE

Date	Topic	Lecture
January 6	Introduction The Extensive Form	Chapter 1 Chapter 2
January 11	Strategies and the Normal Form	Chapter 3
January 13	Beliefs, Mixed Strategies, and Expected Payoffs	Chapter 4
January 18	General Assumptions and Methodology Dominance and Best Response	Chapter 5 Chapter 6
January 20	Rationalisability and Iterated Dominance	Chapter 7
January 25	Location, Partnership and Social Unrest Nash Equilibrium	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
January 27	Oligopoly, Tariffs, Crime and Voting Mixed-Strategy Nash Equilibrium	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
February 1	Strictly Competitive Games and Security Strategies Contract, Law and Enforcement in Static Settings	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
February 3	Details of the Extensive Form	Chapter 14
February 8	MIDTERM 1 (16:00 – 17:30 Atlantic, DUNN 101)	Chapters 1 – 13
February 8	Sequential Rationality and Solution Concepts	Chapter 15
February 10	Topics in Industrial Organisation	Chapter 16
February 15	Parlour Games	Chapter 17
February 17	Bargaining Problems	Chapter 18
March 1	Analysis of Simple Bargaining Games	Chapter 19
March 3	Games with Joint Decisions; Negotiation Equilibrium	Chapter 20
March 8	Unverifiable Investment, Hold Up, Options And Ownership	Chapter 21
March 10	Repeated Games and Reputation	Chapter 22
March 15	Collusion, Trade Agreements and Goodwill	Chapter 23
March 17	Random Events and Incomplete Information	Chapter 24
March 22	MIDTERM 2 (16:00 – 17:30 Atlantic, ROWE 101)	Chapters 14 – 23
March 22	Risk and Incentives in Contracting	Chapter 25
March 24	Bayesian Nash Equilibrium and Rationalisability	Chapter 26
March 29	Lemons, Auctions and Information Aggregation	Chapter 27
March 31	Perfect Bayesian Equilibrium	Chapter 28
April 5	Job-Market Signalling and Reputation	Chapter 29
TBD	FINAL	Chapters 1 – 29

EXPECTATIONS

I have been told that my lecture style is fast-paced and intense but engaging and humorous. Although students often find that this style makes the concepts easier to understand, they are often disappointed when they fail to perform to the level to which they are accustomed on my exams. My exams tend to reward those that are sufficiently knowledgeable of the underlying concepts and have developed an intuitive approach to the material. **Memorisation is almost never rewarded.**

To give you the best chance for success in my course, I strongly encourage you stay on schedule as if you were in class, approach the material with a positive attitude, read and review the relevant chapters in detail before (and after) watching the videos, work in a comfortable environment and identify problems and seek help as soon as they occur.

COPYRIGHT OF LECTURES

- As per Article 23.04 in the Collective Agreement between the Dalhousie Board of Governors and the Dalhousie Faculty Association, course materials, such as course outlines, lectures, lecture notes, presentation slides and exam questions are the intellectual property of the instructor.
- If you upload these materials to file sharing sites, or distribute, publish or broadcast or share these materials with others outside the class in any way, in whole or in part, without prior expressed permission of the instructor, then you are in violation of the [Copyright Act of Canada](#) and Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity (www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html).
- You must also seek prior expressed permission of the instructor before, for example, photographing, recording or taking screenshots course materials, such as course outline, lectures, lecture notes, presentation slides and exam questions. If you are found to be in violation of an instructor's intellectual property rights, you could face serious consequences pursuant to Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity (www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html). Additional consequences could involve possible legal action under the [Copyright Act of Canada](#).

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

The academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by the Senate govern this course.

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 (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) (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 (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 (www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html).

MISSED OR LATE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS DUE TO STUDENT ABSENCE (POLICY)

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

RECOGNITION OF MI'KMAQ TERRITORY

Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people. 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) (www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html).

IMPORTANT DATES IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR (INCLUDING ADD/DROP DATES)

www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

UNIVERSITY GRADING PRACTICES

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

ADVISING, ACADEMIC AND OTHER SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

General Advising www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html

Science Program Advisors www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/academic-advising.html

Indigenous Student Centre www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Black Students Advising Centre www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Centre www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html

Library <https://libraries.dal.ca/>

Writing Centre www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

Studying for Success 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>

Student Health & Wellness Centre www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html

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

Ombudsperson www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html

SAFETY

Biosafety www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html

Chemical Safety www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html

Radiation Safety www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html

Scent-Free Program www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html

Dalhousie COVID-19 information and updates www.dal.ca/covid-19-information-and-updates.html