

Economic Demography Syllabus

Department of Economics

ECON 2400 - Winter 2024

Dalhousie University acknowledges that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People and pays respect to the Indigenous knowledges held by the Mi'kmaq People, and to the wisdom of their Elders past and present. The Mi'kmaq People signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the Crown, and section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights. We are all Treaty people.

Dalhousie University also acknowledges the histories, contributions, and legacies of African Nova Scotians, who have been here for over 400 years.

Course Instructor(s)

Name	Email	Office Hours
Mrittika Shamsuddin	Mrittika.Shamsuddin@dal.ca	Wednesday, 10am-12pm, 6214 University Ave, Room B22
Nasim Soran	ns669547@dal.ca	Monday, 11 am-12 pm, Place - TBA

Course Description

This course investigates the economic determinants and consequences of the size, growth and age structure of human populations. Topics include the economic impact of immigrants, the growing pension burden as population age, how age structure affects employment, how population growth interacts with economic growth and the causes of demographic behavior, including fertility, health, marriage and labor supply.

Course Prerequisites

ECON 1101, ECON 1102 with minimum grades of C

Course Exclusions

NA

Student Resources

Instructor's office hour: - Every Wednesday, 10am-12pm at 6214 University Ave, Room B22 and by appointment

TA office Hour: Every Monday 11 am - 12 pm, Place to be announced

Course Structure

Course Delivery

- This course will be delivered face-to-face.
- The timing, dates and location of the different sections are:

Lectures

Section 01: MW 4:05– 5:25 pm MCCAIN ARTS&SS 1170

Laboratories - NA

Tutorials - NA

Course Materials

Required Readings:

- *Demography and Economics, by Anya Hageman*

The book can be accessed here

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/demographyandeconomics/>

- *Other required readings will be posted in Brightspace*

Other readings, videos, and podcast per week will be posted in Brightspace.

Assessment

Assignments

Assessment	Weight (% of final grade)	Date
In- class assignment (6/9)	20%	Every Wednesday in class
Group Presentation	10%	Apr 1 and 3
Term Paper	20%	Final paper due - Apr 9
Midterm	20%	Feb 28
Final Exam	30%	Scheduled by Registrar

In-class assignments

- From January 17, every Wednesday, there will be an in-person assignment in class, which will be for 30 minutes.
- These assignments are meant to test your understanding of the concepts discussed in class. They will contain problem-solving and short answer questions.
- There will be nine of these assignments and your best 6 performances will be used for grade calculation.

Midterm and Final exam

- The midterm exam will be in class on Feb 28 for 80 minutes. It will have 10 problem-solving and short answer questions and one data problem.
- The midterm covers the contents of the first six weeks of classes (the required readings and videos and Ch 1 to Ch 16 of the book).
- If you miss the midterm exam, the weight goes to the final exam.
- The final exam will be in-person and the date will be announced by the registrar. The final exam is compulsory and cumulative.
- The final exam will have 5 problem-solving questions, 5 short-answer questions and 2 data questions.
- The final exam will be for 2 hours.

Group Presentation

- You need to form a group of 3 and present the demographic scenario of one of the provinces in Canada.
- Each group presents once and will be randomly assigned to represent either on Apr 1 or Apr 3.
- Each and every member of the group needs to present. Half of the grade will be on your individual performance, while the other half will depend on your group performance. If you don't present, you get a 0.
- Details can be found on Brightspace module after the first two weeks of classes.

Term Paper

- The term paper for the course is to write how demographic changes affected the economy of Canada (or one of its provinces).
- The paper needs to be between 1000-2000 words, double-spaced using APA citation style.
- Although the final paper is due on **Apr 9**, the draft of the whole paper is due in Brightspace by **March 15**. I will give you comments on how to improve your paper by March 25 and you are expected to incorporate the comments in the final submission. The topic of your paper needs to be submitted in Brightspace by **February 20** and approved by me.
- The details can be found on Brightspace module called Term Paper.
- Please note you cannot submit a paper you prepared for some other courses. Your paper needs to incorporate the ideas discussed in this class.

Conversion of numerical grades to final letter grades follows the

<u>Dalhousie Grade Scale</u>			
A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D (50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F (0-49)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)	

Course Policies on Missed or Late Academic Requirements

Course Policies related to Academic Integrity

If you miss the class assignment for any reason, there will be no retake since we will be taking your best 6 out of 9 assignments.

If you miss the midterm exam, the weight goes to the final exam.

If you miss the final exam on medical grounds, there will be retake scheduled. There will be no need to submit doctors' notes/SDAs.

There will be no extension on group presentation and term project deadline.

All work submitted for grading should be your own. Plagiarism and collaboration in assignments, term paper, midterm and final exam will be considered failure of academic Integrity and will be reported.

Turnitin will be used to test for plagiarism when you submit your term paper.

Any diagram or table on your presentation and term paper should be your work and not copy and pasted from any other source. You should look at the source of the data, collect the data and draw your own diagrams.

You can only use generative AI and large language models (e.g., ChatGPT) to improve the grammar of your term paper but you will be required to submit both the versions of the paper.

If class is cancelled due to a holiday, instructor illness, or a campus closure, or if a given week's course material cannot be completed during class time for any reason, the material will be presented in videos that will be uploaded to Brightspace.

I will try my best to respond to email within 24 hours on a weekday, 48 hours on a weekend.

Health and safety: All students are required to comply with health and safety requirements on campus, and should be considerate of others' health concerns. Non-compliance may be reported under the Code of Student Conduct.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the advantages and disadvantages of population growth
- Comprehend what are the determinants of population growth
- Comprehend the relationship between population growth, economic development, inequality, and environment
- Understand how aging population affects the macroeconomy
- Understand demographic behavior like fertility, marriage, labour supply, retirement, and migration.
- Comprehend the impact of migration on labour market, government finances and overall welfare
- Comprehend key demographic challenges that the world currently faces
- Understand how empirical evidence can support economic argument
- Find and present secondary data to provide support for economic argument
- Write about economic data

Course Content

Week	Date	Lesson Topic(s)	Reading/Assessment
1	Jan 8	Introduction to Population Economics	Ch 1
2	Jan 15	The Malthusian Model and Pre-Industrial History	Ch 2, Ch- 15 Assignment 1 - Jan 17
3	Jan 22	Demographic Data – Forecasting Population	Ch 3 – Ch 7 & Ch 14 Assignment 2 – Jan 24
4	Jan 29	Crisis and Mortality	Ch 8 - 10 Assignment 3 – Jan 29
5	Feb 5	Fertility	Ch 11-Ch 13 Assignment 4 – Feb 7
6	Feb 12	Age Structure and the Economy	Ch 16 Assignment 5 – Feb 14
7	Feb 19	Break	
8	Feb 26	Aging and Intergenerational Equity	Ch 17 Midterm – February 28
9	Mar 4	Population and Environment	Ch 18-Ch 19 Assignment 6 – Mar 6
10	Mar 11	Population changes and economic development	Ch 25 Assignment 7 – Mar 13

11	Mar 18	Migration	Ch 20-Ch 22 Assignment 8 – Mar 20
12	Mar 25	Family	Ch 23 - Ch 24 Assignment 9 – Mar 27
13.	Apr 1		Group Presentation
14.	Apr 8	No class	

University Policies and Statements

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 at 1321 Edward St or elders@dal.ca. Additional information regarding the Indigenous Student Centre can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Internationalization

At Dalhousie, 'thinking and acting globally' enhances the quality and impact of education, supporting learning that is "interdisciplinary, cross-cultural, global in reach, and orientated toward solving problems that extend across national borders." Additional internationalization information can be found at: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/internationalization.html>

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all 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. Additional academic integrity information can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for matters related to student accessibility and accommodation. If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course (online or in-person) that result in barriers to your inclusion, please contact the Student Accessibility Centre (https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html) for all courses offered by Dalhousie with the exception of Truro. For courses offered by the Faculty of Agriculture, please contact the Student Success Centre in Truro (<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre.html>)

Conduct in the Classroom – Culture of Respect

Substantial and constructive dialogue on challenging issues is an important part of academic inquiry and exchange. It requires willingness to listen and tolerance of opposing points of view.

Consideration of individual differences and alternative viewpoints is required of all class members, towards each other, towards instructors, and towards guest speakers. While expressions of differing perspectives are welcome and encouraged, the words and language used should remain within acceptable bounds of civility and respect.

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 (Strategic Priority 5.2). Additional diversity and inclusion information can be found at: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.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. The full Code of Student Conduct can be found at:

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

Fair Dealing Policy

The Dalhousie University Fair Dealing Policy provides guidance for the limited use of copyright protected material without the risk of infringement and without having to seek the permission of copyright owners. It is intended to provide a balance between the rights of creators and the rights of users at Dalhousie. Additional information regarding the Fair Dealing Policy can be found at:

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/fair-dealing-policy-.html

Originality Checking Software

The course instructor may use Dalhousie's approved originality checking software and Google to check the originality of any work submitted for credit, in accordance with the Student Submission of Assignments and Use of Originality Checking Software Policy. Students are free, without penalty of grade, to choose an alternative method of attesting to the authenticity of their work and must inform the instructor no later than the last day to add/drop classes of their intent to choose an alternate method. Additional information regarding Originality Checking Software

can be found at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/student-submission-of-assignments-and-use-of-originality-checking-software-policy-.html

Student Use of Course Materials

Course materials are designed for use as part of this course at Dalhousie University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as books, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law. Copying this course material for distribution (e.g. uploading to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law.