

# Intermediate Microeconomics Syllabus

Department of Economics  
ECON 2200 Winter 2025

*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.*

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## COURSE INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Álvaro Parra **Email:** Parra@dal.ca  
**Lectures:** T-R 10:05 - 11:25am @ Chemistry, Room 226  
**Office Hours:** W: 12 to 1 pm @ Maxwell House, Office A23 (6206 University Avenue)  
**Teaching Assistant:** Yongpei Cai (yn257662@dal.ca)  
**Tutorial:** Thursday 11:35 - 12:55 pm @ LSC-COMMON AREA C242  
**Course Delivery:** In person, lectures not recorded.  
**Course Prerequisites:** ECON 1100 with a minimum grade of C.

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Intermediate Microeconomics offers an in-depth exploration of microeconomic theory, focusing on consumer behavior, producer decisions, and market equilibrium. This course provides the analytical tools necessary to develop, study, understand, and predict common economic problems. In addition, this course provides the knowledge foundation that enables students to take higher-level economics courses.

*Learning objectives:* By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand consumer and firm behavior.
- Solve a consumer's utility maximization problem mathematically and graphically.
- Solve a firm's cost minimization and profit maximization problems mathematically and graphically.

- Identify and analyze different types of market structures and their consequences on welfare and well-being.
  - Apply economic principles to a range of real-life problems and policy questions.
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## COURSE MATERIALS

The main learning resource will be classroom discussion and the material covered there.

There is no guidebook. *Any* intermediate microeconomics book would work. However, there are two books that I recommend:

- Besanko, D. and Braeutigam, R.R. (2020) *Microeconomics*, 6th Ed., Wiley.  
The paper edition can be purchased at the Dalhousie Bookstore. Electronic versions can be rented via the link at the Dalhousie bookstore at: <https://bookstore.dal.ca>.
  - Varian, Hall, “Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach,” *any edition*, W. W. Norton & Company.  
This book is available free from Internet Archive library.
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## ASSESSMENT

Your development in the course will be assess in the following ways:

Problem Sets (four):	20% (bi-weekly(ish), take home)
Participation:	5% (attending to class and participating)
Midterm 1:	22.5% (during class time, February 13 <sup>th</sup> )
Midterm 2:	22.5% (during class time, March 18 <sup>th</sup> )
Final Exam:	30% (Scheduled by Registrar)

Conversion of numerical grades to final letter grades follows the [Dalhousie Grade Scale](#)

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)	

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## COURSE POLICIES ON MISSED OR LATE WORK AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

**Assignment Policy:** All assignments are to be turned in at the beginning of the class in which they are due. Late assignments receive no credit. If a student misses an assignment, the student will get no credit unless proper justification for missing the assignment is provided. There are no make-up exams. Assignments can be turned in early at your instructor’s office. Students can cooperate in their assignments but are expected to hand in individual and original work (not just

a copy of the homework of the student you just “cooperated” with). Generative AI and Large Language Models are prohibited beyond checking for grammar and spell check.

*Exam Policy:* In the event that a student misses a midterm, the points from the missed exam will be placed on the final. There are no make-up exams.

The following materials are allowed for use during the exam: graphing calculator, accounting calculator or four-function calculator. **There are to be no books**, papers other than the exam itself, cell phones, smart-watches, or other items that connect to the internet. Students found to be using unapproved items are in violation of the Academic Integrity policy of the University and will be subject to disciplinary action.

*Laptop Policy:* Students are strongly discouraged to use laptops during class. Tablets are ok! **Phones are strictly prohibited on the classroom.**

### VERY TENTATIVE TOPICS AND ROUGH COURSE SCHEDULE

	Tuesday	Thursday	Tutorial
Week 1	<b>Introduction</b> (Jan 7)	<b>Budget Constraint</b> (Jan 9)	
Week 2	<b>Preferences</b> (Jan 14)	<b>Preferences &amp; Utility</b> (Jan 16)	<b>Tutorial 1</b> (Jan 16)
Week 3	<b>Utility</b> (Jan 21)	<b>Choice</b> (Jan 23) - <b>PS 1 Due</b>	<b>Tutorial 2</b> (Jan 23)
Week 4	<b>Choice &amp; Demand</b> (Jan 28)	<b>Demand</b> (Jan 30)	<b>Tutorial 3</b> (Jan 30)
Week 5	<b>Duality</b> (Feb 4)	<b>Duality</b> (Feb 6) - <b>PS 2 Due</b>	<b>Tutorial 4</b> (Feb 6)
Week 6	<b>Consumer Surplus, Aggregation, and Elasticities</b> (Feb 11)	<b>Feb 13 – Midterm I</b>	
Week 7	<b>Feb 18: Winter Break</b> (No class)	<b>Feb 20: Winter Break</b> (No class)	
Week 8	<b>Consumer Surplus, Aggregation, and Elasticities</b> (Feb 25)	<b>Technology</b> (Feb 27)	<b>Tutorial 5</b> (Feb 27) <b>Midterm Review</b>
Week 9	<b>Profit Maximization</b> (March 4)	<b>Cost Minimization</b> (Mar. 6) - <b>PS 3 Due</b>	<b>Tutorial 6</b> (Mar. 6)
Week 10	<b>Cost Curves</b> (March 11)	<b>Cost Curves</b> (March 13)	<b>Tutorial 7</b> (Ma. 13)
Week 11	<b>Supply</b> (March 18)	<b>March 20 – Midterm II</b>	
Week 12	<b>Short and Long Run Eq.</b> (March 25)	<b>Short and Long Run Eq.</b> (March 27)	<b>Tutorial 8</b> (Ma. 27) <b>Midterm Review</b>
Week 13	<b>Monopoly</b> (April 1) - <b>PS 4 Due</b>	<b>Monopsony</b> – if time (April 3)	<b>Tutorial 9</b> (April 3)

**Schedule of Course Readings**  
(subject to modifications)

## I. Consumer Theory

### 1. January 7 (Tuesday) – Introduction

- **Read:** Syllabus, pp. 1-3.
- **Watch:** The London Tube Map [[Youtube](#)] or [[Tiktok](#)]

### 2. January 9 (Thursday) – Budget Constraint

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 2.

### 3. January 14 (Tuesday) – Preferences

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 3. Subsections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5

### 4. January 16 (Thursday) – Preferences & Utility

### 5. January 21 (Tuesday) – Utility (PS 1 DUE)

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 4.

### 6. January 23 (Thursday) – Choice

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 5.

### 7. January 28 (Tuesday) – Choice & Demand

### 8. January 30 (Thursday) – Demand

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 6.

### 9. February 4 (Tuesday) – Income and Substitution Effect

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 8.

### 10. February 6 (Thursday) – Income and Substitution Effect (PS 2 DUE)

### 11. February 11 (Tuesday) – Consumer Surplus, Aggregation, and Elasticities

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 14, until section 14.8 (including).

### 12. February 13 (Thursday) – Midterm

**MIDTERM I – February 13<sup>th</sup> during class time**

*Please be in your seat at least 5 minutes before the start time so that you and the rest of the class can start the exam on time.*

**February 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> – Winter Break**

*Enjoy yourself and rest.*

**13. February 25 (Tuesday) – Consumer Surplus, Aggregation, and Elasticities**

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 15, until section 15.8 (including).

**II. Producer Theory****14. February 27 (Thursday) – Technology**

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 18.

**15. March 4 (Tuesday) – Profit Maximization**

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 19, Sub-sections 1,5,6,7,8,9, and 10.

**16. March 6 (Thursday) – Cost Minimization (PS 3 DUE)**

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 20, skip Sub-section 2.

**17. March 11 (Tuesday) – Cost Curves**

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 21, skip Sub-section 4.

**18. March 13 (Thursday) – Cost Curves****19. March 18 (Tuesday) – Firm's Supply**

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 22.

**20. March 20 (Thursday) – Midterm****MIDTERM II – March 25<sup>th</sup> during class time**

*Please be in your seat at least 5 minutes before the start time so that you and the rest of the class can start the exam on time.*

**21. March 25 (Tuesday) – Short and Long Run Market Equilibrium**

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 23.

**III. Market Equilibrium****22. March 27 (Thursday) – Short and Long Run Market Equilibrium****23. April 1 (Tuesday) – Monopoly (PS 4 DUE)**

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 24.

**24. April 3 (Thursday) – Monopsony**

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 26.

## 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](mailto:elders@dal.ca). Additional information regarding the Indigenous Student Centre can be found at: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](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](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](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](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](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](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.