

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

**ECON2200.03 (2025, Winter): Intermediate Microeconomics**

*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.*

**Instructor:** Ruth Forsdyke, [Ruth.Forsdyke@Dal.ca](mailto:Ruth.Forsdyke@Dal.ca)

**Lectures:** Monday & Wednesday, 4:05 pm - 5:25 pm, LSC-Common Area C236

**Office Hours (Professor):**

Tues, Thurs 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm, room C12, Economics Department, 6220 University Ave.

**Teaching Assistant:** Phillip Duah, [ph504574@dal.ca](mailto:ph504574@dal.ca)

**Tutorials:** Wed. 2:35 pm - 3:55 pm, Kenneth Rowe Management, rm 1016.

Tutorial worksheets are posted on Brightspace under "**Content**" >> "**Tutorials**" and answers are provided. Please bring questions to the tutorial and our TA will work through the answers.

- If you have questions, but cannot attend regular office hours or the tutorial, please email us to set up an appointment. Appointments may be online via Collaborate under Brightspace "Content".

**Course Delivery:** in person, lectures not recorded.

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## **Part A: Course Information**

### **Course Description:**

This course covers consumer behaviour, the theory of the firm, factor markets, and general equilibrium welfare analysis. The course serves as the microeconomic prerequisite for higher-level courses in economics.

### **Course Prerequisites and Exclusions:**

PREREQUISITES: ECON 1101.03 with a minimum grade of C.

EXCLUSIONS: ECON 2220.03, ECON 2210.03

### **Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

1. Better understand economies, economic policies and their potential effects on wellbeing.
2. Further develop analytical skills used in microeconomic analysis.
3. Use basic microeconomic models to solve problems (including graphs and algebra).
4. Learn how microeconomic models are used as tools for understanding economics and policy making.
5. Practice problem solving skills by applying microeconomics to a variety of contexts.
6. Understand model assumptions, their limitations and the distinction between normative and positive economics.

- Learn and practice critical thinking, writing, and communicating.

## Course Materials:

### Required Textbook:

Besanko, D. and Braeutigam, R.R. (2020) *Microeconomics*, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed., Wiley

Paper books can be purchased at the Dalhousie Bookstore OR

electronic versions can be rented or purchased via the link at the Dalhousie bookstore at:

<https://bookstore.dal.ca>

OR at

<https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Microeconomics%2C+6th+Edition-p-9781119554936>

Note: Older editions are fine but students may need to use the index to find page references.

### Brightspace Learning Management System:

The key material for the course is available under “content”, “discussions”, “announcements” and “Assessments”.

Students are responsible for checking “Announcements” regularly to be sure not to miss important information.

## Course Assessment:

Your grade will be the highest of the following schemes.

Component	Weights	Details
Midterm	25	Wed. Feb 12th, in class
Final Exam	45	date, time, and location to be determined by the Registrar's Office
Assignments (Best 3 out of 4)	30	Do on paper and submit as ONE PDF to "Assessments">> "Assignments" - 2 before midterm and 2 after midterm

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)	

## Details on Course Work and Assessment

### Readings from Textbook:

To learn microeconomics, read through the text and work through the problems. I highly recommended that you do the learning by doing exercises which are often similar to the tutorial worksheets. The readings are posted on the first page of the slides.

### Lecture Slides/Covid Videos:

The lecture slides will be posted after class. I will also post videos that were produced during the Covid lockdown, the "covid videos". Note that although these may be helpful if you need to miss classes due to illness, or to review material previously covered in class, they should be regarded as **highly imperfect substitutes** for real in-class lectures and may differ in coverage or emphasis. Also, **any information in the videos regarding dates (ex. assignment due dates, test dates) or statements like "next week we will cover" should be disregarded as they applied to the time period of the Covid Lockdowns.**

**Midterm and Final Exam:** These are written on paper. The dates can be found above under "Course Assessment" above. The midterm is in class while the location of the final exam will be announced.

**Assignments:** Your grade will be the average of the best 3 out of 4 assignments. *You must submit individual assignments, which **must be written in your own words**.* Please submit as **ONE PDF file** such that **pages are aligned with the top corresponding to the top of the computer screen** to help markers. TAs will mark a selection of submitted questions. Submit via **Assessments>>Assignments**. **Thank you!**

**Tutorials and Tutorial Worksheets:** Please do the tutorial worksheets for practice and bring materials you have questions about to the tutorials. The teaching assistant(s) are prepared to take up the worksheets and to help you out with other questions.

**Practice Problems:** These are provided for practice and are NOT submitted for a grade. **Answers** are posted so you can check your answers. If you get stuck, peak at the answers to help you to see how to proceed. However, in order to, **hopefully learn more**, do your best to try the problem on your own before peaking at the answers.

**Discussion Board Participation:** Participate in the forums by means such as asking a question, making a comment, relating class content to real world events, or responding to posts made by the professor, TAs, or other students, and/or posting links to useful information. You may either use your name or participate anonymously (meaning that other class members will not know who you are but the professor and teaching assistants will know your name).

**Office Hours and Tutorials:** See information at the beginning of the syllabus. If you are unable to make these hours and have a question, you may try asking it on the discussion board. If you are still need real tutoring, please email the professor to set up an appointment (which may be real or virtual).

**Virtual Rooms (Collaborate):** Used for some office hours and available for student use at other times.

**Tentative Course Content (as time permits):**

Topic	Textbook Chapter
<b>I Introduction and Review Key Concepts of Microeconomic Principles</b>	
marginals vs. totals, supply & demand, concept of constrained optimization, consumer, producer, & private surplus, equilibrium, comparative statics, normative vs. positive questions, elasticity	Ch. 1, Ch. 2
<b>II Consumer Theory</b>	
Preferences & Utility	Ch. 3
Budgets and Consumer Choice	Ch. 4
Theory of Demand	Ch. 5
<b>III Producer Theory</b>	
Technology, Inputs, & Production Functions	Ch. 6
Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch. 7
Cost Curves (long and short run)	Ch. 8
<b>IV: Market Structure</b>	
Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch. 9
Imperfectly Competitive Market structure (monopoly) - other market structures may be examined time permitting.	Ch. 11 Ch. 13 (Section 2) (if time permits)
<b>V: Market Failures &amp; Social Efficiency</b>	
Externalities, Public Goods, Assymmetric Information	Ch. 17 (time permitting) Ch. 15 (time permitting)

## How to Learn in this Course:

- read through the course syllabus to get an idea of what lies ahead.
- attend class -- if you miss a lecture due to illness, for example, find out what you missed and if there is an available video, watch it.
- attending class may help you to establish a learning rhythm and reduce chances of falling behind.
- taking notes in class requires you to think about and engage with the lecture and may help you to pay attention.
- trying the problems while the teacher is doing them is an excellent way to "learn by doing".
- do the practice problems on your own. If you get stuck, peak at the solution and then try on your own again. Repeat as necessary. Note down where you went wrong in your initial attempt. Ask questions.
- make a schedule, write down due dates in your planner and set aside times to study.
- manage your time and avoid distractions such as social media while studying.
- read and work through textbook. This may include writing down concepts in your own words, redrawing graphs, practicing math, and experimenting with changing values in equations.
- ask questions during class, after class, during office hours, and on the discussion board.
- do all assignments.
- study for tests (do review sheet problems).
- work with other students to share ideas and information.
- manage your time (ex. start assignments early, not the night before they are due).
- If you need help, please come to TA or /and Professor's office hours.

## Course Policies:

1) Students are responsible for ***checking the final exam schedule prior to booking any flights***. Due to challenging logistics, there are ***no early exams under ANY circumstances***.

2) ***Late or Missed Midterms or Assignments***: If you miss a midterm or assignment due to illness, as soon as possible, inform the professor via email and attach a **Student Declaration of Absence (DOA)** form. DOA forms may only be used twice for this course. These are available at: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html)

3) If you submitted a DOA, in the case of a ***missed midterm***, the ***entire test weight will be moved to the final exam***. If you submitted a student DOA for a missed assignment, assignment weights will be re-weighted. There will be ***no make-up midterm***. There will be ***no make-up midterm***.

4) If the ***final exam is missed*** due to illness, death in the family, or other traumatic circumstances, please inform the professor by email as soon as possible to arrange to write an alternative exam.

5) ***Late assignments*** receive a ***maximum penalty of 3% per day***, unless the student submits a DOA form and ***will not be accepted after answers have been posted on the Brightspace***.

- 6) ***Class slides*** are a ***complement and a highly imperfect substitute*** for ***reading the textbook***. If time permits, try to do some at least some of the assigned readings prior to the lecture. When you read the textbook, with pencil and paper, work through the examples. You may wish to take notes to organize the material in a way that makes sense to you and can be more easily reviewed for the tests.
- 7) Students are responsible for ***checking Brightspace “Announcements” regularly***. Important information to guide your learning as well as occasional corrections to assignments, or test review questions is posted there.
- 8) ***Online Access***: When connecting to online resources, you are ***responsible for observing any applicable laws of the country you are connecting from***.
- 9) You are responsible for ***establishing whether you have access to all course material as soon as the term begins and before the ADD/DROP date***. If you cannot access certain material, inform the instructor as soon as possible. Alternative access methods are not guaranteed.
- 10) ***If you are sick***, if symptoms are covid-like, it is recommended that you take a ***covid test***. If sick, it's recommended that you rest at home and find out what you missed via emailing other students (or TA or professor if you do not know other students) and catch up via online content. You are encouraged to email us to set up an online office hour appointment.
- 11) ***Academic Integrity***: Please see University Policy Statements on Academic Integrity below -- You are advised to read about what constitutes ***plagiarism*** at the link given. Note that communicating with anyone other than the professor, TA, or exam invigilators during midterms or final exams is considered to be a violation of academic integrity. Specific details on issues of academic integrity, will be included with individual assignments, tests, and midterms, and will be discussed in class. If you have questions, please ask the professor.

## **Part B: 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/about/leadership-governance/academic-integrity/faculty-resources/ouriginal-plagiarism-detection.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.

## **Part C: Student Resources and Support**

### **University Policies and Programs**

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates):

[http://www.dal.ca/academics/important\\_dates.html](http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)

Classroom Recording Protocol:

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/classroom-recording-protocol.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/classroom-recording-protocol.html)

Dalhousie Grading Practices Policies:

[https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html)

Grade Appeal Process: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html)

Sexualized Violence Policy: [https://www.dal.ca/dept/university\\_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html](https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html)

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

### **Learning and Support Resources**

General Academic Support – Advising (Halifax): [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html)

General Academic Support – Advising (Truro): <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/ssc/academic-support/advising.html>

Student Health & Wellness Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/health-and-wellness.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html)

On Track (helps you transition into university, and supports you through your first year at Dalhousie and beyond): [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/On-track.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/On-track.html)

Indigenous Student Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html)

Indigenous Connection: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/indigenous-connection.html>

Elders-in-Residence (The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel, and support. Visit the office in the Indigenous Student Centre or contact the program at [elders@dal.ca](mailto:elders@dal.ca) or 902-494-6803:

<https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/academics/UG/indigenous-studies/Elder-Protocol-July2018.pdf>

Black Student Advising Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/black-student-advising.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html)

International Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/international-centre.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html)

LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/vpei/edia/education/community-specific-spaces/LGBTQ2SIA-collaborative.html>

Dalhousie Libraries: <http://libraries.dal.ca/>

Copyright Office: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services: <https://www.dsu.ca/dsas?rq=student%20advocacy>

Dalhousie Ombudsperson: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html)

Human Rights and Equity Services: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres.html>

Writing Centre: [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html)

Study Skills/Tutoring: [http://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html](http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html)

Faculty of Science Advising Support: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/undergrad-students/degree-planning.html>

## **Safety**

Biosafety: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

Chemical Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

Radiation Safety: <http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

Laser Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety/laser-safety.html>