

**Faculty of Science Course Syllabus**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON 2233 01 CROSS-LISTING: CANA 2233.03**  
*Canadian Economic History*  
*Winter 2025*

***Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.***

**Instructor:** Don McIver

**Course Time and Place:** Mon Wed 14:35 - 15:55 LSC-COMMON AREA C206

**Office:** Department of Economics, Room A13, 6220 University Ave.

**E-mail:** dn495504@dal.ca

**Office Hours:** M/W T/TH 16.00 or after class.

---

### **Course Description**

An examination of the economic history of Canada from the time of Confederation to WWI. Major topics explored include: the economic reasons for Confederation, the building of the CPR, the Wheat Boom, foreign trade and investment and the roots of regional disparities.

NOTES: Approved with Canadian Studies. The student is recommended to have some knowledge of history prior to taking this course.

### **Course Prerequisites**

ECON 1101.03, ECON 1102.03 with minimum grades of C

### **Learning Objectives**

This course is designed to provide students with a fundamental understanding of the historical perspective on the economic forces that shaped the formation first, of the constituent colonies and second, of Canadian confederation. It is designed to provide a viewpoint upon which to understand the development of modern trade and economic relationships.

Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of usual macroeconomic measures and to apply the logic of standard economic policies and to make individual assessments of how policies helped/or hindered the country's development pre- and post-confederation. Included in these policies would be Imperial-Mercantilism in the early colonial days, protectionism during the National Plan and Keynesian/monetary policies in the wake of the Depression.

## Course Materials

### Required Text:

Easterbrook, W. T., and Aitken, Hugh G. J. *Canadian Economic History*.  
Toronto, Ontario: U of Toronto, 2008

Earlier editions are available, but students are responsible for ensuring consistency in content.

In addition to the assigned textbook, various additional readings on topics will be assigned and in order to achieve satisfactory grades, the student will be expected to understand and be prepared to comment on all readings.

Additional readings will be assigned: Students have access to journal articles through JSTOR by using their library privileges.

### Requirements:

- Students are expected to be familiar with standard technological requirements to utilize MICROSOFT OFFICE programs and to be able to submit assignments, papers etc. using these technologies.
- At least some portion of this course will be delivered remotely. **IT IS CRUCIAL THAT ALL STUDENTS FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH BRIGHTSPACE-COLLABORATE IN ORDER TO ACCESS THE LECTURES AND COMPLETE QUIZ AND EXAM REQUIREMENTS. THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ACHIEVE THAT FAMILIARITY REST SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT—HOWEVER THE UNIVERSITY PROVIDES HELP-LINE FACILITIES TO ASSIST.**

## Course Assessment

**Evaluation for the course** will involve four components: weekly quizzes, a mid-term exam, a final exam and a research paper. The weights of each component will be:

**Weekly Quiz and participation 20%** A weekly quiz will be administered on-line via BRIGHTSPACE

**Mid-term 20%** - The mid-term test will take place in class on **February 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Research Paper 20% - DUE FEBRUARY 26th** A short research papers (at least 2000 words) will be assigned during the course—students will be given a list of topics from which they may choose a unique topic—or may propose one themselves.

**Final exam 40%**- The final exam will be scheduled during the official exam period following the end of classes.

**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 on Missed or Late Academic Requirements**

**Considering that you have one week to complete each of the quizzes, no excuses for late quizzes will be accepted.**

If a student misses the midterm for a valid reason, as defined in Section 16.8 of the University Calendar, then the weight of the midterm will be added to the final exam. If a student performs better on the final exam than on the midterm, then the weight of the midterm will be added to the final exam; i.e. the final exam will count as 65% of the final grade.. If a student misses the final exam for a valid reason, as defined in Section 16.8 of the University Calendar, the student will have the opportunity to write a make-up exam, scheduled after the end of the official exam period.

**Course Content**

**Week 1 Introduction**

**Week 2 Canadian Economic History and Economic Development**

**Text: Easterbrook, W. T., and Aitken CH 2**

Watkins, Melville H. "A Staple Theory of Economic Growth." *The Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science / Revue Canadienne D'Economie Et De Science Politique*, vol. 29, no. 2, 1963, pp. 141–158. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/139461](http://www.jstor.org/stable/139461).

**Week 3 The Era of Imperial Rivalry:**

**Text: Easterbrook, W. T., and Aitken CH 1 & 3**

Lecture material

**Week 4 The British Mercantile Era**

**Text: Easterbrook, W. T., and Aitken CH 1 & 3**

The Economist Aug 23 2013 <https://www.economist.com/free-exchange/2013/08/23/what-was-mercantilism>

**Week 5 Confederation**

**Text: Easterbrook, W. T., and Aitken CH 5& 7 & 16**

Buckner, Phillip. « Beware the Canadian Wolf: The Maritimes and Confederation. » *Acadiensis*, volume 46, numéro 2, summer/autumn 2017, p. 177–195.

**Week 6 Midterm Review ... MIDTERM EXAM Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup> in-class**



**February 19-23      Winter Study Break**

**Week 7 The National Policy**

**Text: Easterbrook, W. T., and Aitken CH 17**

Acheson, T. (1972). The National Policy and the Industrialization of the Maritimes, 1880-1910. *Acadiensis*, 1(2), 3-28.

**Week 8 Transition Years**

Lecture material

**Week 9 The Railways**

**Text: Easterbrook, W. T., and Aitken CH 18**

Lecture material

**Week 10 Regional Growth and Welfare**

Robin Neill Disintegration of Institutions and Policy, [http://people.upei.ca/rneill/canechist/topic\\_19.html](http://people.upei.ca/rneill/canechist/topic_19.html)

**Week 11 Turbulent years**

**Text: Easterbrook, W. T., and Aitken CH 23**

**Lecture material**

A History of the Canadian Dollar: The Depression Years [https://www.bankofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/dollar\\_book.pdf](https://www.bankofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/dollar_book.pdf)

Livio Di Matteo, A Federal Fiscal History Canada 1867–2017

<https://www.fraserinstitute.org/sites/default/files/federal-fiscal-history-canada-1867-2017.pdf>

**Week 12 World War II- Changing Demographics**

**Statistics Canada: Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Canada**

<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/as-sa/99-010-x/99-010-x2011001-eng.pdf>

**March 28th FINAL REVIEW**

**FINAL EXAM SET BY REGISTRAR**

**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](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](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-student-conduct.html](https://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 **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](mailto:elders@dal.ca)).

**Information:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/communities/indigenous.html](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](https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html)

### **University Grading Practices**

[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)

## **Student Resources and Support**

### **Advising**

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

**Science Program Advisors:** <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/academic-advising.html>

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

**Black Students 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/current-students.html](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](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-and-tutoring.html](https://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>

#### **Other supports and services**

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

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

**Ombudsperson:** [https://www.dal.ca/campus\\_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-gethelp/ombudsperson.html](https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-gethelp/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/scent-free.html>