

Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Economics
Principles of Microeconomics, ECON 1101
Winter 2026

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:

Christos Ntantamis

Office: 6220 University Avenue (Economics Department), C25

e-mail: christos.ntantamis@dal.ca

Teaching Assistants:

Fuli Gao: fl890913@dal.ca

Timetable:

Lecture Hours:

- Tuesday and Thursday, 2:25pm-3:55pm, Rowe 1020

Tutorial Hours:

- Monday, 11:35am-12:25pm, LSC C242

Office Hours:

- Tuesday 09:00-11:00 (or by appointment)

Course Description:

How do you decide whether or not to go to university? Why does the price of pizza change so much less than the price of oil? What will better help prevent climate change: a carbon tax, or a cap-and-trade system? Microeconomic analysis, which considers the behaviour of individuals and businesses, can answer questions like these.

Course Prerequisites:

None

Course Objectives:

In this course, you will learn to use economic principles and develop critical thinking in analyzing economic issues reported in the media. We will show you how economics relates to your everyday life, as well as to businesses and society overall. We will also look at how government policies can influence the economy, and hence your life.

Learning Outcomes and competences:

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

- consider trade-offs and opportunity cost in making choices.
- analyze how demand and supply work together to determine equilibrium in a market.
- calculate the responsiveness of demand and supply to prices and income.
- measure the efficiency of a market and show how government interventions affect efficiency.
- determine how a firm's production function affects its costs.
- display a competitive firm's optimal output level given its cost structure.
- analyze the output and pricing decisions of imperfectly-competitive firms.
- demonstrate how firms choose the optimal number of workers to hire.
- depict and explain a country's level of income inequality.
- explain how market failure provides a justification for government intervention in the economy.

Material:

- Required Textbook:
 - + Milligan K., Oreopoulos P., Stevenson B., and Wolfers J. (2023) Principles of Microeconomics. Canadian Edition, MacMillan.
 - + Achieve Online Access (MacMillan, 2023)
 - Required for assignments
 - Achieve for Principles of Microeconomics Canadian edition (1-Term Access) for Dalhousie University \$97.60 net, available from Dalhousie bookstore via:
 - https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?courseID=SUB,202620,ECON,ECON110_1,01
 - Access via Brightspace course page
- Course slides: available via Brightspace.
- Articles from periodical editions (Economist, Financial Times): available via Brightspace

Format:

- Lectures: in-person
- Tutorials: in-person

Assessment:

Academic Calendar regulation 16.1: "In order to complete a course satisfactorily, a student must fulfill all the requirements as set down in the course outline."

- Self-reflections (x2): 4%
 - + Students are required to provide two self-reflection pieces for the course.

- + No 1 (due: January 19th): Where you come from, what are your expectations in taking the course.
- + No 2 (due: April 8th): Did the course meet your expectations? How could you improve yourselves? Suggestions for the instructor?
- Tutorial Participation: 10%
 - + Attend at least 6 out of the scheduled 10 tutorials to earn the full mark.
- Achieve Assignments (x10): 10%
 - + Administered via Achieve Online Platform (link via Brightspace); almost weekly.
 - + Best 8 out of 10 assignments
- Case Studies (x3): 16%
 - + Worst performance won't count.
- Midterm Exam (in class): 25%
- Final Exam (scheduled by the RO): 35%
 - + Cumulative, 2 hrs

- Notes:

- Achieve Assignments
 - + Assignments will be on the chapter covered the week before, for a total of 10 assignments. They are on Achieve platform that can be accessed through Brightspace (links available).
 - + They will all be due on Wednesday by 11:59pm, with only Assignment 5 being due on Monday, 02/23/26, 11:59 pm. You will typically have one week to complete each assignment; all submission deadlines are noted in Brightspace calendar.
 - + You will have three (3) attempts for each assignment. There will not be any time limit once you start the assignment.
- Case Studies
 - + There will be three case studies, assigned for reading/watching before coming to class; dates; see dates on course schedule.
 - + In class, you will work in groups (of maximum 3 students) to answer questions applying the concepts learnt.
- Exams
 - + For exams, in addition to normal writing materials you may use a simple non-scientific and non-programmable calculator. The only permitted model (**Sharp EL-510RNB**) is available at the university bookstore.
 - + Examinations are “closed book”, and materials other than those permitted should not be used. A formula sheet will be provided, and its contents will be available to students before the exam.
 - + Information about the exact exam format will be communicated closer to exam dates. It will be a combination of multiple choice questions and short answer problems.
- To pass the course, a student must achieve an overall passing grade and a minimum grade of 45% on the final examination, which covers material drawn from the entire course.

- Missing assessment elements:
 - Tutorials
 - + Considering that you are required to attend only 6 out of 10 tutorials, no Student Declaration of Absence form will be accepted for missed tutorials.
 - Achieve Assignments
 - + Students unable to submit an assignment, they must contact the instructor by email prior to the date and time of the assessment and submit a completed Student Declaration of Absence (SDA) form via Brightspace or by email (no medical note is required). The weight of the missed assignment will be equally distributed among the other assignments.
 - Case Studies
 - + No Student Declaration of Absence form will be accepted for missed case studies, and no retake will be allowed.
 - Exams
 - + If a student is unable to attend the midterm exam, they must contact the instructor by email prior to the date and time of the exam and submit a completed Student Declaration of Absence via Brightspace or by email (no medical note is required). The weight of the midterm exam will be added to the final exam.
 - + If a student misses the final exam for a valid reason, (Section 16.8 of the University Calendar), they must notify the instructor immediately. The student will have the opportunity to write up a make-up exam.

Note that the SDA form can only be used twice during the term.

Policies related to Academic Integrity:

- Assignments
 - + Assignments are individual assignments. Copying and/or cooperation is not permitted, and it constitutes a serious academic offence (see Academic Integrity).
- Case Studies
 - + Groups should refrain from using generative AI and large language models (e.g., ChatGPT).

Grading scheme:

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

Important Dates (midterm date is tentative):

- Last Day to Change and Add Classes for registered students: January 22nd
- Last Day to Drop without “W”: February 5th
- Last Day to Drop with “W”: March 9th
- Last Day of Classes: April 6th
- Winter study break: February 16th-20th
- **Midterm Exam:** February 24th (**in class**)
- **Final Exam:** Regular exam period (April 11th- April 27th)

Course Policies:**Email Policy:**

- Weekdays: emails received by 18.00 would be responded by the end of the day. Anything after that hour would be responded in the following day.
- Weekends: emails are to be checked sporadically; thus you should not expect a response within the same day.
- Lengthy questions are easier and preferable to be answered during office hours.
- **Make sure that you have checked the course outline and all material available in Brightspace prior to asking a question.**

Hints:

- You should plan to spend approximately two hours working on your own for every one hour in class, throughout the term, beyond class time, assignments, and exams. If you let the material pile up, by the time of the final exam you will be overwhelmed trying to catch up.
- This course is designed to equip you with some basic skills and concepts which will help you to understand the often-complex events occurring around us. You may find this course more abstract than those with which you are familiar; hence, it is essential that you read the indicated textual material in advance of the lecture sessions. As you read, note things that you do not understand and be prepared to ask questions in the appropriate class. Raising these points in class could make life easier for all of us.
- You will benefit from relating course concepts to real world events by reading publications such as the *Globe and Mail* or *The Economist*. If you read an article and a question pops-up, you should not hesitate to bring this question in class.

Course contents/schedule:

Week	Topics, Readings, and Major Deliverables
1	Administrative Issues/Introduction to ECON 1101
2	Chapter 1: The Four Core Principles of Economics Chapter 2: Demand and Consumer Choice
3	Chapter 3: Supply and Producer Choice Chapter 4: Equilibrium: Where Supply meets Demand Assignment 1 due on Wednesday, 01/21/26, 11:59 pm
4	Chapter 5: Elasticity Assignment 2 due on Wednesday, 01/28/26, 11:59 pm
5	Chapter 6: Taxes, Price Controls, and Quantity Regulations Assignment 3 due on Wednesday, 02/04/26, 11:59 pm
6	Chapter 7: Welfare Economics: Evaluating Market Efficiency and Market Failure Assignment 4 due on Wednesday, 02/11/26, 11:59 pm Case Study 1 (Feb 12th)
7	Winter Break: Feb 16th – Feb 20th
8	Chapter 10: Externalities and Public Goods Assignment 5 due on Monday, 02/23/26, 11:59 pm Midterm (Tuesday Feb 24th)
9	Chapter 10: Externalities and Public Goods Chapter 11: The Labour Market
10	Chapter 13.1 & 13.2: Inequality, Poverty, and Social Insurance Chapter 14: Market Structure and Degrees of Market Power Assignment 6 due on Wednesday, 03/11/26, 11:59 pm
11	Chapter 15: Entry, Exit, and Long-Run Profitability Assignment 7 due on Wednesday, 03/18/26, 11:59 pm Case Study 2 (Mar 19th)
12	Chapter 16: Price Discrimination and Sophisticated Pricing Strategies Assignment 8 due on Wednesday, 03/25/26, 11:59 pm
13	Chapter 18: Game Theory and Strategic Choices Chapter 19: Decisions Involving Private Information Assignment 9 due on Wednesday, 04/01/26, 11:59 pm
14	Assignment 10 due on Wednesday, 04/08/26, 11:59 pm Case Study 3 (April 7th)
April 11th-April 27th: Final Exam Period	

Notes:

Week 01: Jan 8th
Week 02: Jan 13th, Jan 15th
Week 03: Jan 20th, Jan 22nd
Week 04: Jan 27th, Jan 29th
Week 05: Feb 3rd, Feb 5th

Week 06: Feb 10th, Feb 12th
Week 07: Feb 17th, Feb 19th
Week 08: Feb 24th, Feb 26th
Week 09: Mar 3rd, Mar 5th
Week 10: Mar 10th, Mar 12th

Week 11: Mar 17th, Mar 19th
Week 12: Mar 24th, Mar 26th
Week 13: Mar 31st, Apr 2nd
Week 14: Apr 7th

University Policies and Statements

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by Senate.

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 Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Relations (including the Elders in Residence program, Land Acknowledgements, Understanding Our Roots, and much more) can be found at: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/mikmaq-indigenous-relations.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/mission-vision-values/global-relations.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/campus_life/ssc.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: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/equity-diversity-inclusion-and-accessibility/about-office-equity-inclusion.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/content/dam/www/about/leadership-and-governance/governing-bodies/code-student-conduct.pdf>

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/content/dam/www/about/leadership-and-governance/university-policies/fair-dealing-policy.pdf>

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.

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

Classroom Recording Protocol: <https://www.dal.ca/content/dam/www/about/leadership-and-governance/university-policies/class-recording-protocol.pdf>

Dalhousie Grading Practices Policies: <https://www.dal.ca/content/dam/www/about/leadership-and-governance/university-policies/grading-practices-policy.pdf>

Grade Appeal Process: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/appealing-a-grade.html

Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://www.dal.ca/content/dam/www/about/leadership-and-governance/university-policies/sexualized-violence-policy.pdf>

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

General Academic Support – Advising (Truro): https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/ssc.html

Student Health & Wellness Centre: 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

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

Mi'kmaq and Indigenous Relations: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/mikmaq-indigenous-relations.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 or 902-494-6803: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/mikmaq-indigenous-relations/elders-in-residence-and-traditional-knowledge-keepers.html>

Black Student Advising Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html

LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/equity-diversity-inclusion-and-accessibility/about-office-equity-inclusion/community-specific-groups/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/ombudsperson.html

Human Rights and Equity Services: <https://www.dal.ca/about/mission-vision-values/equity-diversity-inclusion-and-accessibility/about-office-equity-inclusion/human-rights-and-equity-services.html>

Writing Centre: 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

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>

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

At Dalhousie University, we respect the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility, and respect. As a student, adherence to the values of academic integrity and related policies is a requirement of being part of the academic community at Dalhousie University.

What does academic integrity mean?

Academic integrity means being honest in the fulfillment of your academic responsibilities, thus establishing mutual trust. Fairness is essential to the interactions of the academic community and is achieved through respect for the opinions and ideas of others. “Violations of intellectual honesty are offensive to the entire academic community, not just to the individual faculty member and students in whose class an offence occurs.”

(<http://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=1&chapterid=89&topicgroupid=381&loaduserredits=False>)

How can you achieve academic integrity?

- Make sure you understand Dalhousie’s policies on academic integrity.
- While discussion with your fellow students is valuable, do not submit an assignment or essay that is essentially identical to an assignment or essay submitted by another individual or group.
- In assignments or essays, use an approved method of citation for any material taken directly from an existing source or any material that is a paraphrase of an existing source.
- Do not download the work of another from the Internet and submit it as your own.
- Do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor.
- Do not have someone else write a test for you, or write a test for someone else.
- During a test, do not talk with other students and do not try to copy the work of another student.

What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?

Instructors are required to report any suspected offence. The full process is outlined in the Discipline flow chart (found at <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca>) and includes the following:

- Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors.
- The AIO decides whether to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process.
- If the case proceeds, you will receive a PENDING grade until the matter is resolved.
- If you are found guilty of an academic offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning to suspension or expulsion from the University and can include a notation on your transcript, failure of the assignment, or failure of the course. All penalties are academic in nature.

Where can you turn for help?

- If you are ever unsure about ANYTHING, contact your instructor.
- See <http://academicintegrity.dal.ca> for links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, and tips on citing and paraphrasing.
- See <http://writingcentre.dal.ca> for assistance with proofreading, writing styles, and citations.
- See <http://libraries.dal.ca/research.html> for a set of research tools including Subject Guides, Assignment Calculator, and RefWorks.
- See <http://studentservices.dal.ca> for assistance with appeals and discipline procedures.
- See <http://senate.dal.ca> for a list of Academic Integrity Officers, a discipline flow chart, and the Senate Discipline Committee.

The [Policy on Student Submission of Assignments & Use of Originality Checking Software](#) states that “any instructor may require student assignments to be submitted in both written and electronic (computer-readable) form, e.g., a text file or as an email attachment, as defined by the instructor. Use of third-party originality checking software does not preclude instructor use of alternate means to identify lapses in originality and attribution. The results of such assessment may be used as evidence in any disciplinary action taken by the Senate.”