

Intermediate Microeconomics Syllabus

Department of Economics
ECON 2200 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.

COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Álvaro Parra **Email:** Parra@dal.ca
Lectures: M – W: 11:35 - 1:05pm @ LSC-COMMON AREA C240
Office Hours: Tuesday: 3:20 to 4:20 pm @ 6206 University Avenue, A23 (Maxwell House A)
Teaching Assistant: David Orozco Rios (dv614046@dal.ca)
Tutorial: Thursday 8:55 - 9:55 am @ LSC-COMMON AREA C236
Course Delivery: In person, lectures not recorded.
Course Prerequisites: ECON 1100 with a minimum grade of C.

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 assessed in the following ways:

Problem Sets (five):	20% (bi-weekly(ish), take home)
Participation:	5% (attending to class and participating)
Midterm 1:	22.5% (during class time, February 11 th)
Midterm 2:	22.5% (during class time, March 25 th)
Final Exam:	30% (TBD)

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)	

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 in the classroom.**

VERY TENTATIVE TOPICS AND ROUGH COURSE SCHEDULE

	Monday	Wednesday	Tutorial
Week 1	Jan 5: Holiday Break (No class)	Introduction (Jan 7)	
Week 2	Budget Constraint (Jan 12)	Preferences (Jan 14)	Tutorial 1 (Jan 15)
Week 3	ONLINE: Preferences (Jan 19)	ONLINE: Utility (Jan 21)	No tutorial
Week 4	Snow day (Jan 26)	Utility II (Jan 28) - PS 1 Due	Tutorial 2 (Jan 29) PS 1 Sol
Week 5	Optimal Choice (Feb 2)	Demand (Feb 4)	Tutorial 3 (Feb 5)
Week 6	Quasilinear Utility (Feb 9) - PS 2 Due	Feb 11 – Midterm I	No tutorial
Week 7	Feb 16: Winter Break (No class)	Feb 18: Winter Break (No class)	
Week 8	Income Effect (Feb 23)	Substitution Effect (Feb 25)	Tutorial 4 (Feb 26) Midterm Review
Week 9	Welfare (March 2)	Aggregation and Elasticities (Mar. 4)	Tutorial 5 (Mar. 5)
Week 10	Technology (March 9) - PS 3 Due	Profit Maximization (March 11)	Tutorial 6 (Mar 12) PS 3 Sol
Week 11	Cost Minimization (March 16)	Cost Curves (March 18)	Tutorial 7 (Mar 19)
Week 12	Cost Curves (March 23) - PS 4 Due	March 25 – Midterm II	No tutorial
Week 13	Market Equilibrium (March 30)	Monopoly (April 1)	Tutorial 8 (Apr 2) Midterm Review
Week 14	Monopoly II (April 6) - PS 5 Due		

Schedule of Course Readings
(subject to modifications)

I. Consumer Theory

1. January 7 – Introduction

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

2. January 12 – Budget Constraint

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

3. January 14 and 19 – Preferences

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

4. January 21 and 26 – Utility (PS 1 DUE JAN 26)

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

5. January 28 – Choice

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

6. Feb 2 and 4– Demand

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

7. February 9 – Quasilinear Utility (PS 2 DUE)

8. February 11 – Midterm

MIDTERM I – February 11th 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.

9. February 16 and 18 – Winter Break

10. February 23 and 25 – Income and Substitution Effect

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

11. March 2 – Welfare

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

12. March 4 – Aggregation, and Elasticities

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

II. Producer Theory

13. March 9 – Technology (PS 3 DUE)

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

14. March 11 – Profit Maximization

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

15. March 16 – Cost Minimization

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

16. March 18 and 23 – Cost Curves (PS 4 DUE March 23)

- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 21, skip Sub-section 4.
- **Read:** Varian, Chapter 22.

17. March 25 – Midterm

MIDTERM II – March 25th 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.

III. Market Equilibrium

18. March 30 – Short and Long Run Market Equilibrium

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

19. April 1 and 6 – Monopoly (PS 5 DUE)

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

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.