

Economics 1101.04 Fall 2026

Principles of Microeconomics

Dalhousie University operates in the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaw, Wolastoqey, and Peskotomuhkati Peoples. These sovereign nations hold inherent rights as the original peoples of these lands, and we each carry collective obligations under the Peace and Friendship Treaties. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, recognizes and affirms Aboriginal and Treaty rights in Canada.

We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies, and contributions have enriched the part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.

Instructor: Prof. Michael Rushe michael.rushe@dal.ca

*Please allow **24 hours** for a response to any email message; **48 hours on weekends**.*

Teaching Assistant(s): Philip Duah ph504574@dal.ca

Note: There are no formal tutorials.

Office Hours:

Online office hours are available on weekdays with 24 hours' notice; email to make an appointment. **All correspondence** in this class must be through **Dalhousie email addresses only**. Any email coming from any other address will be treated as spam and is neither read nor answered. If you have not yet activated your account, please follow the instructions at <https://www.dal.ca/dept/its.html>

Course Delivery: Fully Online - - - Asynchronous pre-recorded lectures; quizzes, assignments and midterm **exam** are **all online**. The Final Exam will be in person.

This course has a Brightspace page for all registered students
<https://dal.brightspace.com/d2l/home/443182>

Class materials, marks, and announcements will be posted to Brightspace. Each time you log onto Brightspace you should check Announcements on the course homepage!
It is essential you **familiarize** yourself with how to use the Brightspace system.

Discussion Board - Live online help with the teaching assistants. **For all questions related to the class material, please post to the Discussion Board or meet with a TA via Teams during scheduled hours.**

The Discussion Board on Brightspace should be used for all course content-related questions. If you send me or the TA an email about a course content related question, we will ask you to post your question to the Discussion Board. The Discussion Board is particularly important in an online course, as it helps to generate "class discussions," allows all students to benefit from the questions and answers posted, and it allows each of you to join the discussion and help answer each other's questions, which is an excellent way to reinforce what you are learning. The TA will be monitoring the Discussion Board during the scheduled time to answer any questions. Please check the Discussion

Boards often and try to help answer any questions your fellow classmates may have, as well as post questions of your own.

For **technical help** with **Achieve** contact **MacMillan support**:
<https://mhe.my.site.com/macmillanlearning/s/chat-with-us>

For **technical help** with **Brightspace** please contact: support@dal.ca or call them at 902-494-HELP (4357), or toll free at 1-800-869-3931.

The IT Help Desks in the Killam Library, Sexton Library, and Wallace McCain Learning Commons are open for walk-in assistance - - - **check hours of operation**.

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, businesses, and the role of government can answer questions like these.

Course Prerequisites:

None.

Course Learning Outcomes:

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

- consider trade-offs and opportunity cost in making choices.
- discuss how models are useful in analyzing the economy.
- 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.

Course Materials:

Required book: *Milligan K., Oreopoulos P., Stevenson B., and Wolfers J. (2026) Principles of Microeconomics. Canadian Edition 2nd Edition, MacMillan.*

*You are required to purchase Achieve with digital access to the book to **complete the assignments and quizzes** for Principles of Microeconomics Canadian Edition 2nd Edition(1-Term Access) for Dalhousie University \$97.96.*

The loose-leaf Version for Principles of Microeconomics Canadian Edition & Achieve for Principles of Microeconomics Canadian Edition (1-Term Access) \$179.99.

The URL to purchase Achieve from the Dalhousie bookstore:

[https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course\[\]=SUB,202710,ECON,ECON1101,04](https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course[]=SUB,202710,ECON,ECON1101,04)

Course Assessment:

Achieve Assignments (best 8/12) <u>Atlantic Time</u>)	15% of final grade	Every week (due on Sundays before 11:59 p.m.
Achieve Quizzes (best 8/11)	20% of final grade	Every week (Sunday 11:59 a.m.- Monday 11:59 p.m. <u>Atlantic Time</u>)
Midterm Exam	20% of final grade	<u>Monday, October 26;</u> 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Atlantic Time. Alternate times will not be offered. – 1hr online.
Final Exam***	45% of final grade	<u>Scheduled by Registrar</u> (December 11-20) – 2hrs, <u>in person, on campus.</u>

**** **Travel arrangements must not be made during the Final Exam period.** ****

Note: See the Course Schedule below for the dates of assignments, quizzes, and midterm exams.

There will be **12** assignments and **11** quizzes, with the best **eight** assignments and **eight** quizzes counted. More importantly, the assignments, quizzes, and exercises will aid in your understanding of the material and in exam preparations. **No make-up quizzes or assignments will be offered** under any circumstances.

Carefully read the University and Department's Statement on Academic Integrity.

To pass the course, a student must earn an overall mark of at least 50% and **must earn a mark of 50%** or more on **the Final Exam.**

Grading: **GRADES ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE.** Do not contact me after the final semester grades have been posted asking me to change your grade for any reason. [Of course, if you believe your grade was posted erroneously by all means DO contact me.]

Course Requirements:

Assignments:

Every week there will be an assignment due in Achieve.

- You will have one week to complete each assignment; you have three attempts at each question. For each additional attempt you are **penalized by 5%**.
- An assignment should take you approximately 40 minutes or less to complete.
- **Each assignment is due before 11:59 p.m. (Atlantic Time) on Sundays.**
- The best 8 out of 12 assignments will count.
- Each assignment will contain 9 -12 questions.
- An AI tutor is available while taking the assignments!

Quizzes: Every week starting the second week, there will be a Quiz due in Achieve.

- There will be 11 quizzes, one every week except the week of the midterm exam, done on Achieve.
- The best 8 out of 11 quizzes will count.
- Each quiz will contain 8 multiple choice questions.
- **Students must complete each quiz on the appointed day, within the 36**
- **-hour framework of Sunday 11:59 a.m. to Monday 11:59 p.m. Atlantic time.**
- Once a student begins the quiz, the student has 14 minutes to complete the quiz.
- Although quizzes are not invigilated, students are expected to do their **own work** without reference to notes, the textbook, others, or online materials. Remember Academic Integrity!
- **Quiz dates:** Available on Sundays from 11:59 a.m. to Monday 11:59 p.m., due on the following Mondays: September 14,21,28; October 5,19; November 2,16, 23, 30; December 7.
- **Note, since the University is closed on Monday, October 12, the quiz will be due on Tuesday of that week (October 13).**

Exams: The Midterm Exam is **On Brightspace** - - - - Click on **Assessments** - - - - dropdown menu

Quizzes

- There will be one midterm exam, online via Brightspace.
- The midterm will contain 40 multiple choice questions; you have 1 hour to complete the exam.
- The midterm will be offered at 8:30 a.m. (Atlantic Time) and 2:30 p.m. (Atlantic Time). You **must** submit a **registration form** only if you want to take the 2:30 p.m. exam. Upload the form to the Dropbox through the Brightspace (Assessments > Assignments).
- The registration form to write the midterm at 2:30 p.m. **must be uploaded before 11:59 p.m. (Atlantic time) on Friday, October 23.**
- Although the midterm is not invigilated, students are expected to do their own work without reference to notes, the textbook, others, or online materials.
- **Respondus Lockdown Browser will be used when taking the midterm.**
- Midterm date: **Monday, October 26. Note: If the time(s) of the midterm conflict with your schedule, you should not take this course!**
- If the midterm cannot be held due to a campus closure, that midterm will be rescheduled to Thursday of the same week.
- If you **miss** the midterm for any reason, the weight of the missed midterm will be added to the final (cumulative) exam.

The Final Exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the December 11 – 20 Final Exam period. **Travel arrangements must not be made during this period. Note, the Final Exam is in person and on campus.**

- The final exam is **cumulative** (covering the entire course) and will contain **30** multiple choice questions and 4 – multi-part short answer questions.
- Students must pass **the Final Exam**, (50% or higher) to pass the class.
- The use of electronic devices is not permitted during the exam, simple calculators only!

In accordance with the 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 [Syllabus].**”

Note: See the Course Schedule below for the dates of Assignments, Quizzes, and Exams.

Workload:

Typically, you will need to spend 6-10 hours of your time each week on this course. This includes time spent watching videos, reading the textbook, and reviewing your notes.

Important Dates:

September 22	Last day to add fall term courses
	Last day to drop fall term courses with no financial implications
October 7	Last day to change fall term courses from audit to credit (and vice versa)
	Last day to drop fall term courses without a “W”
November 5	Last day to drop fall term courses with a “W”

Conversion of Numerical Grades to Final Letter Grades following 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:

Missed assignments: Considering you have one week to complete each of the assignments, and that your **lowest four** assignment marks will be dropped, I will not accept any excuses for missed or late assignment submissions. I do not accept the Student Declaration of Absence form for missed assignments. **No make-up assignments or extensions will be offered.**

Missed quizzes: Considering you have **36 hours** to access each of the quizzes, and that your **lowest three** quiz marks will be dropped, I will not accept any excuses for missed or late quiz submissions. I do not accept the Student Declaration of Absence form for missed quizzes. **No make-up quizzes or extensions will be offered.**

Missed midterm exam: If you miss the midterm, then the weight of the missed midterm will be added to the final exam. There is no make-up midterm.

Missed Final Exam: If you miss the final exam for a valid reason, as **defined** in Section 16.8 of the University Calendar, you will receive an INC or ILL until they take the make-up exam. **You should notify me prior to the exam or within 3 days of the missed exam.** The make-up exam will be scheduled for the second week of the following term. The make-up final exam will be in person and on campus.

Online access: When connecting to online resources, you are responsible for observing any applicable laws of the country from which you are connecting. You are also responsible for establishing whether you have access to all course material as soon as the term begins and before the add/drop date of September 22, 2026.

Academic integrity: To maintain academic integrity, students are expected to do their **own work** on assignments, quizzes, and exams, **without** reference to class notes, the textbook, colleagues, or online sources.

Email policy: I will do our best to respond to email within 24 hours on a weekday, 48 hours on a weekend, according to the following policy:

- a. I will **only** respond to emails posing questions which can be answered in a sentence or two. For detailed questions, please post your question to the Discussion Board, meet with the TA, or see me during office hours.
- b. I will **not** reply to emails that request information that can be found on Brightspace, the syllabus, or in lectures, so you should check those places first.

Health and safety: All students are required to comply with health and safety requirements on campus and should be considerate of others' health concerns. Non-compliance may be reported under the Code of Student Conduct.

Course Accessibility

- You are eligible for accommodations based on protected characteristics such as religion. If you have religious, cultural, or community-significant observances that conflict with course requirements, reach out to me to collaboratively find alternatives for completing the course requirements.
- To begin the process of requesting a formal academic accommodation, contact the Student Accessibility Centre

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

Course Schedule:

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, and Deliverables
1.	September 7	Introduction to ECON 1101 Chapter 1: The Four Core Principles of Economics <i>Additional Reading:</i> "Foundations of Microeconomics" Parkin & Bade., 9 th Cdn. Edition; Pearson, pages 58-68. Submit: <u>Assignment 1 (Chapter 1), due Sunday, September 13, 11:59 p.m.</u>
2.	September 14	Chapter 2: Demand and Consumer Choice Chapter 3: Supply and Producer Choice Submit: Quiz 1 (Chapter 1), due Monday, September 14, 11:59 p.m. Submit: Assignment 2 (Chapters 2 & 3), due Sunday, September 20, 11:59 p.m.
3.	September 21	Chapter 4: Equilibrium: Where Supply Meets Demand Submit: Quiz 2 (Chapters 2 & 3), due Monday, September 21, 11:59 p.m. Submit: Assignment 3 (Chapter 4), due Sunday, September 27, 11:59 p.m.
4.	September 28	Chapter 5: Elasticity Submit: Quiz 3 (Chapter 4), due Monday, September 28, 11:59 p.m. Submit: Assignment 4 (Chapter 5), due Sunday, October 4, 11:59 p.m.
5.	October 5	Chapter 6: Taxes, Price Controls, and Quantity Regulations Submit: Quiz 4 (Chapter 5), due Monday, October 5, 11:59 p.m. Submit: Assignment 5 (Chapter 6), due Sunday, October 11, 11:59 p.m.
6.	October 12	The University is closed on Monday, October 12 Chapter 7: Welfare Economics: Evaluating Market Efficiency and Market Failure Submit: Quiz 5 (Chapter 6), due Tuesday, October 13 , 11:59 p.m. Submit: Assignment 6 (Chapter 7), due Sunday, October 18, 11:59 p.m.
7.	October 19	Chapter 10: Externalities and Public Goods Submit: Quiz 6 (Chapter 7), due Monday, October 19, 11:59 p.m. Submit: Assignment 7 (Chapter 10), due Sunday, October 25, 11:59 p.m.
8.	October 26	Midterm (Chapters 1-10), Monday, October 26 1 hour, online. Chapter 11: The Labour Market

Submit: Assignment 8 (Chapter 11), due Sunday, November 1, 11:59 p.m.

9. November 2 Chapter 13: Inequality, Poverty, and Social Insurance (Sections 13.1 & 13.2)
Chapter 14: Market Structure and Degrees of Market Power
Additional Reading: “Ragan. Microeconomics” 18th Cdn. Edition; Pearson 2025, pages 350-359.
- Submit: Quiz 7 (Chapter 11), due Monday, November 2, 11:59 p.m.
Submit: Assignment 9 (Chapters 13 & 14), due Sunday, November 8, 11:59 p.m.
10. November 9 **Fall Reading Week**
11. November 16 Chapter 15: Entry, Exit, and Long-Run Profitability
Additional Reading: “Exploring Microeconomics” Sexton et al., 6th Cdn. Edition; Cengage, pages 232-236.
Additional Reading: “Microeconomics Canada in the Global Environment” Parkin & Bade et al., 11th Cdn. Edition; Pearson, pages 280-285.
- Submit: Quiz 8 (Chapters 13 & 14), due Monday, November 16, 11:59 p.m.
Submit: Assignment 10 (Chapter 15), due Sunday, November 22, 11:59 p.m.
12. November 23 Chapter 16: Price Discrimination and Sophisticated Pricing Strategies
Chapter 18: Game Theory and Strategic Choices (Sections 18.1 & 18.2)
- Submit: Quiz 9 (Chapter 15), due Monday, November 23, 11:59 p.m.
Submit: Assignment 11 (Chapters 16 & 18), due Sunday, November 29, 11:59 p.m.
13. November 30 Chapter 19: Decisions Involving Private Information
- Submit: Quiz 10 (Chapters 16 & 18), due Monday, November 30, 11:59 p.m.
Submit: Assignment 12 (Chapter 19), due Sunday, December 6, 11:59 p.m.
14. December 7 Wrapping things up!
- Submit: Quiz 11 (Chapter 19), due Monday, December 7, 11:59 p.m.
Wednesday, December 9 – classes end.

Exam period Final Exam (Scheduled by Registrar’s Office during December 11-20)

December 11 – 20 - - - Travel arrangements must not be made during this period.

Deliverable Due Dates & Time (Atlantic Time)

Assignments

Assignment 1	Sunday, September 13, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 2	Sunday, September 20, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 3	Sunday, September 27, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 4	Sunday, October 4, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 5	Sunday, October 11, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 6	Sunday, October 18, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 7	Sunday, October 25, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 8	Sunday, November 1, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 9	Sunday, November 8, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 10	Sunday, November 22, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 11	Sunday, November 29, 11:59 p.m.
Assignment 12	Sunday, December 6, 11:59 p.m.

Quizzes

Quiz 1	Monday, September 14, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 2	Monday, September 21, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 3	Tuesday, September 28, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 4	Monday, October 5, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 5	Tuesday, October 13, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 6	Monday, October 19, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 7	Monday, November 2, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 8	Monday, November 16, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 9	Monday, November 23, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 10	Monday, November 30, 11:59 p.m.
Quiz 11	Monday, December 6, 11:59 p.m.

Exams

Midterm	Monday, October 26, 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. <u>Online.</u>
Final Exam	Scheduled by Registrar's Office during exam period (December 11-20); <u>In person.</u>

Syllabus Appendix

University Policies and Statements

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

[Syllabus Appendix: Student Supports & University Statements, Policies, and Guidelines](#)