DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

Department of Economics

Intermediate Microeconomics 2200.02

Fall 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.

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Teaching Assistant: Abigail Obour ww478852@dal.ca

Course delivery

Lectures, tutorials, quizzes, assignments, the midterm and the final examinations will be held in person and on campus.

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday, 10:05–11:25, Henry Hicks Building, Room 212

Tutorial: Friday, 12:35–13:25, LSC Common Area, Room C338

Office hours: Tuesday, 11:35-12:35, Economics Department, Room A1

All correspondence for this course must use Dalhousie email addresses. If you have not activated your account, follow the instructions at https://www.dal.ca/dept/its.html.

Class materials, marks, and announcements will be posted to Brightspace. Each time you log in, check the Announcements section on the course homepage for updates and reminders. It is essential that you familiarize yourself with Brightspace. The course page for registered students is https://dal.brightspace.com/d2l/home/445733

Course Description

This course builds on Principles of Microeconomics and examines how consumers, firms, and markets make decisions. Topics include utility maximization, production and costs, and market

structures ranging from perfect competition to monopoly. The course also applies microeconomic tools to policy questions and practical contexts, providing a foundation for upper-level economics courses.

Learning Objectives

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

- Model consumer choices by solving utility maximization problems using both graphical and algebraic methods.
- Analyze how firms operate by solving cost minimization and profit maximization problems.
- Compare different market structures, from perfect competition to monopolies, and evaluate their impact on society.
- Solve real-world problems by applying microeconomic models to current policy questions and diverse practical contexts.

Course Prerequisites

ECON 1101 (minimum grade of C)

Course Materials

Required textbook: David Besanko and Ronald Braeutigam, *Microeconomics*, 6th ed., Wiley, 2020.

Paper books can be purchased at the Dalhousie Bookstore. Electronic versions can be rented through the Dalhousie Bookstore course search

https://bookstore.dal.ca/CourseSearch/?course[]=SUB,202710,ECON,ECON2200,02

Older editions are acceptable, but students may need to use the index to locate page references.

You may also use any intermediate microeconomics textbook.

Course Assessment

Assessment	Weight	Key details
Assignments	20%	4 written assignments; 5% each.

Midterm Exams	40%	2 exams; 20% each; 1 hour each; closed book.
Final Exam	30%	Cumulative; 2 hours; closed book.
Pop-up Quizzes	5%	Best 10 quiz scores count.
Tutorial Attendance	5%	Full marks for attending at least 7 tutorials.

Assignments: Submit a physical hard copy of your assignment at the beginning of the lecture on the due date. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. **The only exception is Assignment 1, which you will hand in during your third tutorial session.** All work must be completed independently, and extensions are not available.

Midterms: No make-up exams or extensions will be provided. If a midterm is missed, its weight will be transferred to the final exam.

Final exam: The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the final examination period (December 11–21). Do not make travel arrangements during this period. If the final exam is missed for a valid reason, notify the instructor promptly and arrange an in-person make-up exam.

Pop-up quizzes: A short quiz (typically 5 multiple-choice questions) will be administered through Brightspace during class. Each quiz is worth 10 marks, with each question worth 2 marks. The best 10 quiz scores will count toward the final grade. No make-up quizzes will be offered.

Tutorials: Tutorials cover ungraded practice problems and past assignment questions after the due date. Answer keys are posted online so you can check your work. Please complete the questions before the session and bring any questions you want to review.

Conversion of Numerical Grades to Final Letter Grades

Grade	Range	Grade	Range	Grade	Range
A+	90–100	B+	77–79	C+	65–69

A	85–89	B	73–76	C	60–64
A−	80–84	B−	70–72	C−	55–59
D	50–54	F	<50		

These grades follow the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale.

Course Policies

Missed assignments: Each assignment provides at least one week for completion. Late or missed assignments will not be accepted, and no make-up assignments or extensions will be offered.

Missed pop-up quizzes: Quizzes are administered during lectures without prior notice. Because only the best 10 quiz scores count, missed or late quiz submissions cannot be accommodated.

Missed tutorials: Students are expected to attend tutorials regularly. The attendance policy provides flexibility for missed tutorials; requests for alternative arrangements will not be considered.

Missed midterm exam: If a midterm is missed, the weight of the missed midterm will be transferred to the final exam. No make-up midterm exams will be given.

Missed final exam: If the final exam is missed for a valid reason as defined in Section 16.8 of the University Calendar, the student will receive an INC or ILL grade until the make-up exam is completed. Notify the instructor prior to the exam or within 3 days of the missed exam. The make-up final exam will be held in person and on campus.

Grades are not negotiable. Do not contact the instructor after final semester grades have been posted to request a change unless you believe the grade was posted erroneously.

Course Videos

If a class is cancelled because of an instructor illness, campus closure, or another unforeseen circumstance, or if course material cannot be completed during scheduled class time, additional videos will be uploaded to Brightspace to ensure access to required course content.

Academic Integrity

Students must complete all assignments, quizzes, and examinations independently and in

accordance with the University's academic-integrity policies. Do not use unauthorized assistance from classmates or online sources.

Email Policy

I aim to respond to emails within 24 hours on weekdays and within 48 hours on weekends. To help me respond efficiently:

- Brief questions that can be answered in one or two sentences will be addressed by email.
- For detailed questions, please make an appointment during online office hours.
- Before emailing, please check Brightspace, the syllabus, and lecture materials, as the information may already be available there.

All correspondence for this class must use Dalhousie email addresses. Class materials, marks, and announcements will be posted to Brightspace. Check Brightspace Announcements each time you log in for updates and reminders.

Electronic devices in class

To maintain a focused learning environment, cell phones should be turned off or placed silently when class begins and should not be used during lectures. Texting, checking email, and other non-course-related phone use are not permitted. An exception applies to in-class activities that require electronic devices, such as Brightspace pop-up quizzes; devices may be used only for the designated course activity.

Health and Safety

All students are expected to comply with campus health and safety requirements and to be considerate of the health and well-being of others. Non-compliance may be reported under the Code of Student Conduct.

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Course Schedule

The dates listed next to the Week number correspond to lecture dates. Tutorial dates may differ.

Week	Dates	Topics	Book sections	Assignments / tutorials
1	Sep 9	Introduction; Review of Supply & Demand	2.1 Demand, supply, and market equilibrium	—
2	Sep 14–16	Elasticity; consumer preferences; utility; marginal utility	2.2–2.3 Elasticity; 3.1–3.4 Preferences and utility	Tutorial 1
3	Sep 21–23	Budget constraint; utility maximization	4.1–4.3 Consumer choice and optimal choice	Tutorial 2
4	Sep 28–30	No lectures, Independent Learning and Practice	Short videos	**Assignment 1 due Oct 2;** Tutorial 3
5	Oct 5–7	Theory of demand; review for Midterm 1	5.1–5.4 Substitution effect, income effect, consumer surplus, and market demand	Tutorial 4
6	Oct 12–14	No lecture Oct 12—Thanksgiving; **Midterm Exam 1 on Oct 14**	—	No tutorial
7	Oct 19–21	Production function; marginal product; returns to scale	6.1–6.6 Production function; production with one or multiple inputs; MRTS; returns to scale	**Assignment 2 due Oct 21**; Tutorial 5
8	Oct 26–28	Costs and cost minimization	7.1–7.4 Cost functions; cost minimization; short-run costs	Tutorial 6

9	Nov 2–4	Cost curves	8.1–8.2 Long-run and short-run cost curves	**Assignment 3 due Nov 4**; Tutorial 7
—	Nov 9–11	Fall Break—no classes	—	—
10	Nov 16–18	Perfect competition; profit maximization; review for Midterm 2; **Midterm Exam 2 on Nov 18**	9.1–9.4 Perfect competition	Tutorial 8
11	Nov 23–25	Applications in competitive markets	10.1–10.5 Taxes; price ceilings; price floors	**Assignment 4 due Nov 25**; Tutorial 9
12	Nov 30–Dec 2	Monopoly pricing, profit, welfare	11.1–11.6 Monopoly	Tutorial 10
13	Dec 7	Review for final examination	—	—

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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

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

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

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).
Information: 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

University Grading Practices
https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

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Student Resources and Support

Advising

General Advising 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

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

International Centre: 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 **Studying for Success:** 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/services-support/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-get-help/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

Dalhousie COVID-19 information and updates: https://www.dal.ca/covid-19-information-and-updates.html