

Faculty of Science: Department of Economics
Course Syllabus

ECON2200.03 (2024, Summer): Intermediate Microeconomics

Instructor: Ruth Forsdyke, Ruth.Forsdyke@Dal.ca,

Lectures: Monday & Wednesday, 9:35 am - 11:55 am, Studley LSC-Common Area C206

Office Hours (Professor):

Real: Mon. 1 - 2 pm, room C12, Economics Department, 6220 University Ave.

Online: Thursday: 1 - 2 pm, online via Collaborate

Teaching Assistant: *Mohammad Saeed Saffari Ashtiani*, Saeed.Saffari@dal.ca

Tutorials (with Saeed): Wed. 1 - 2 pm, room TBA.

Tutorial worksheets are posted under "**Content**" >> "**Tutorials**" and answers are provided.

Please bring questions to the tutorial and our TA, Saeed, will work through the answers with you.

Course Delivery: in person, lectures not recorded.

Part A: Course Information

Course Description:

This course covers consumer behaviour, the theory of the firm, factor markets, and general equilibrium welfare analysis. The course serves as the microeconomic prerequisite for higher-level courses in economics.

Course Prerequisites and Exclusions:

PREREQUISITES: ECON 1101.03 with a minimum grade of C.

EXCLUSIONS: ECON 2220.03, ECON 2210.03

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

1. Better understand economies, economic policies and how these affect wellbeing.
2. Further develop analytical skills used in microeconomic analysis.
3. Use basic microeconomic models to solve problems (including graphs and algebra).
4. Learn how microeconomic models are used as tools for understanding economics and policy making.
5. Practice problem solving skills by applying microeconomics to a variety of contexts.
6. Understand model assumptions and their limitations and the distinction between normative and positive economics.
7. Learn and practice critical thinking, writing, and communicating.

Course Materials:

Required Textbook: Besanko, D. and Braeutigam, R.R. (2020) *Microeconomics*, 6th Ed., Wiley
Paper books can be purchased at the Dalhousie Bookstore.

Electronic versions can be rented via the link at the Dalhousie bookstore at:

<https://bookstore.dal.ca>

Note: Older editions are fine but students may need to use the index to find page references.

Brightspace Learning Management System: Key course material is available under “content”, “discussions”, “announcements” and “Assessments”.

Students are responsible for checking “Announcements” regularly to be sure not to miss important information.

Course Assessment:

Your grade will be the highest of the following schemes.

Component	Weights (Scheme 1)	Weights (Scheme 2)	Details
Midterm	20	24	Wed. May 29th, 9:35 - 10:55, in class
Final Exam	40	46	Monday, June 24th, 9:30 - 12:30, location TBA
Assignments (Best 3 out of 4)	30	30	Do on paper and submit as ONE PDF to "Assessments">> "Assignments" - 2 before midterm and 2 after midterm
Brightspace Quiz (optional)	10	0	- find under >> "Assessments" >> "Quizzes", - dispersed throughout term - score is average of best n-1 quizzes where n is the total number of quizzes.

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)	

Details on Course Work and Assessment

Readings from Textbook: To learn microeconomics, read through the text and work through the problems. Learning by doing exercises are highly recommended and are often similar to the tutorial worksheets. I also recommend practicing those textbook problems that have answers provided. The readings are posted on the first page of the slides.

Lecture Slides/Covid Videos: The lecture slides will be posted after class. I also post videos that were produced during the Covid lockdown, the "covid videos". Note that although these may be helpful if you need to miss classes due to illness, or to review material previously covered in class, they should be regarded as **highly imperfect substitutes** for in-person lectures which may differ in coverage or emphasis. Also, **any information in the videos regarding dates (ex. assignment due dates, test dates) or statements like "next week we will cover" should be disregarded as they applied to the time period of the Covid Lockdowns.**

Midterm and Final Exam: Written on paper. The dates can be found above under "Course Assessment" above. The midterm is in class while the final exam location will be announced.

Assignments: Your grade will be the average of the best 3 out of 4 assignments. *You must submit individual assignments, which **must be written in your own words**.* Submit as ONE PDF file such that pages are aligned with the top corresponding to the top of the computer screen to help markers. TAs mark a selection of submitted questions. Submit via **Assessments>>Assignments**.

Tutorials and Tutorial Worksheets: Please do the tutorial worksheets for practice and bring materials you have questions about to the tutorials. The teaching assistant(s) are prepared to take up the worksheets and to help you out with other questions.

Practice Problems: These are provided for practice and are NOT submitted for a grade. **Answers** are posted so you can check your answers. If you get stuck, peak at answers to help you to see how to proceed. However, do your best to try the problem on your own before peaking at the answers.

Brightspace (BS) Quizzes: Several BS practice quizzes are provided to allow you to test your knowledge as the course proceeds. You are advised to seriously attempt the quizzes whether you want the grade to count or not. These are not timed but once answers are posted, you may no longer attempt the quiz for grades.

Discussion Board Participation: Participate in the forums by means such as asking a question, making a comment, relating class content to real world events, or responding to posts made by the professor, TAs, or other students, and/or posting links to useful information. You may either use your name or participate anonymously (meaning that other class members will not know who you are but the professor and teaching assistants will know your name).

Office Hours and Tutorials: For details, see beginning of the syllabus. If you are unable to make these hours, you may try asking your question on the discussion board or you may email the TA or professor to set up an appointment (which may be real or virtual).

Virtual Rooms (Collaborate): Used for office hours and available for student use at other times.

Tentative Course Content (as time permits):

Topic	Textbook Chapter
I Introduction and Review Key Concepts of Microeconomic Principles	
marginals vs. totals, supply & demand, concept of constrained optimization, consumer, producer, & private surplus, equilibrium, comparative statics, normative vs. positive questions, elasticity	Ch. 1, Ch. 2
II Consumer Theory	
Preferences & Utility	Ch. 3
Budgets and Consumer Choice	Ch. 4
Theory of Demand	Ch. 5
III Producer Theory	
Technology, Inputs, & Production Functions	Ch. 6
Costs and Cost Minimization	Ch. 7
Cost Curves (long and short run)	Ch. 8
IV: Market Structure	
Perfectly Competitive Markets	Ch. 9
Imperfectly Competitive Market structure (monopoly) - other market structures may be examined time permitting.	Ch. 11 Ch. 13 (Section 2) (if time permits)
V: Market Failures & Social Efficiency	
Externalities, Public Goods, Assymmetric Information	Ch. 17 (time permitting) Ch. 15 (time permitting)

How to Learn in this Course:

- attend all lectures, pay attention, and take notes during class. Taking notes will help you to pay attention and to learn the material because you will be forced to try to understand the information in order to write it down concisely. Audio reinforcement will help you to learn.
- read through the course syllabus to get an overview of what lies ahead.
- manage your time -- make a schedule, write down or enter due dates in your planner and set aside times to study.
- avoid distractions such as social media while studying.
- After logging into Brightspace, check **Announcements** for new information.
- do all assignments.
- read and work through the textbook readings using the slides to guide your focus. Posted "covid videos" may help you to review points you missed during the lectures. You may benefit from taking notes organizing the material in a manner that makes sense to you and relates material to prior knowledge. Charts, flow charts and mind maps may be helpful. Work through the mathematical problems and write down and/or talk through the method used. Make summaries to identify key points.
- do Brightspace Quiz problems (even if not for marks).
- do the tutorial and practice problems on your own. If you get stuck, peak at the solution and then try on your own again. Repeat as necessary. Note down where you went wrong in your initial attempt.
- relate course concepts to other things you know.
- Ask questions during class, tutorials, office hours, while studying, in office hours and on discussion boards.
- start studying early for tests. Do review sheet problems.
- explain concepts to yourself and friends (orally using words). Test yourself.
- If you are having trouble knowing how to focus your study, please visit office hours for advice.
- ask questions on the discussion boards and in office hours and tutorials.

Course Policies:

1) Students are responsible for *checking the final exam schedule prior to booking any flights*. There are **no early exams under ANY circumstances**.

2) **Late or Missed Midterms or Assignments:** If you miss a midterm or assignment due to illness, as soon as possible, inform the professor via email and include a **Declaration of Absence (DOA)** form. This form may only be used twice for this course. These are available at: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html

3) In the case of a **missed midterm or more than one missed assignment**, other evaluation components will be given higher weight. There is no make-up midterm.

4) If the **final exam is missed due to illness**, please inform the professor by email as soon as possible to arrange to write an alternative exam.

5) **Late assignments** receive a maximum penalty of 5% per day, unless the student submits a DOA form and will not be accepted after answers have been posted on the Brightspace.

6) **Class slides** should be regarded as complements as opposed to substitutes for reading the textbook. When you read the textbook, with pencil and paper, work through examples, and learning by doing exercises.

- 7) Students are responsible for [checking Brightspace “Announcements” regularly](#). Important information to guide learning as well as occasional corrections to assignments or test review questions is posted there.
- 8) **Online Access:** When connecting to online resources, you are responsible for observing any applicable laws of the country you are connecting from.
- 9) You are responsible for establishing whether you have access to all course material as soon as the term begins and before the ADD/DROP date. If you do not have access to certain material, inform the instructor as soon as possible. Alternative access methods are not guaranteed.
- 10) Please do NOT give me gifts, this may create a conflict of interest.

Part B: 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

Part C: Faculty of Science 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/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/classroom-recording-protocol.html

Dalhousie Grading Practices Policies:

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

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/dept/university_secretariat/policies/health-and-safety/sexualized-violence-policy.html

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/about-dal/agricultural-campus/ssc/academic-support/advising.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

Indigenous Connection: <https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/indigenous-connection.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://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/pdf/academics/UG/indigenous-studies/Elder-Protocol-July2018.pdf>

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

South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre: <https://southhousehalifax.ca/about/>

LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/vpei/edia/education/community-specific-spaces/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/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html

Human Rights and Equity Services: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/hres.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>