

ECON 3823 (FA01) - Urban Economics

Department of Economics

Acadia University

Fall 2024

Instructor	Dr. Justin Beaudoin
Email	justin.beaudoin@acadiau.ca
Office Location	BAC 346 & Virtual (Microsoft Teams)
Office Hours	Wed, 9:30 - 10:30; Thu, 11:00 - 12:00; and by appointment
Course Website	https://moodle.acadiau.ca/course/view.php?id=33253
Class Location	BAC 424
Class Times	Mon/Wed/Fri, 10:30 - 11:20

Course Description

This course is a special offering in the Fall 2024 semester, focusing on two unique experiences for students. The first section of the course involves preparing and participating in the Atlantic Undergraduate Policy Case Competition hosted by Mount Allison University. The second section of the course involves preparing a presentation for the Non-Market Housing Working Group with the Town of Wolfville. Student involvement is subject to invitation from the instructor.

Course Learning Objectives

The course provides a novel experience for students to apply academic concepts outside the classroom. In particular, the course will emphasize the following:

- how to prepare and deliver a presentation,
- how to write a professional report,
- how to coordinate a project in a group setting, and
- how to communicate economic and statistical concepts to non-experts in support of an argument.

Prerequisites

The course does not require particular prerequisite courses and backgrounds. While introductory microeconomics and statistics is assumed, further economic and quantitative-based courses are helpful but not expected/required. Invited students intentionally have a diverse background and will be able to contribute and develop skills according to their individual interest along the way.

Course Materials and Websites

Moodle is the primary source for class announcements and will contain all course materials: syllabus, class notes/slides, instructors and resources.

Microsoft Teams may be utilized as an option for office hours and discussions if helpful.

Technology Issues & Support

If you are having technological issues, please contact the Service Desk for support. The Consultants will help you work through any issues that you're having.

Live Chat: ts-chat.acadiau.ca

HUB Service Portal: hub.acadiau.ca or ts.acadiau.ca

Phone: 902-585-4357 or 1-888-609-3330

Email: helpdesk@acadiau.ca

Office Hours

I will hold office hours on Wednesdays from 9:30 - 10:30 and Thursdays from 11:00 - 12:00. I am also happy to arrange appointments for other times to meet; you are welcome to send me an email to schedule a time. Office hours may be held in my office or over Teams.

Should any issues or concerns arise throughout the course, you are encouraged to consult with me as soon as possible so that we can work together to find the resources to help you succeed.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. If you are interested in resources related to any particular topics, please get in touch with me for suggestions and/or explanations.

Class Attendance & Participation

Given the collaborative group-based nature of the course, it is expected that all students attend class and participate in discussions regularly. While some absences are unavoidable, please let me know if there are any long-term issues so that we can make adjustments as necessary.

Grading

AUPCC Report	35%
AUPCC Presentation	30%
Wolfville Presentation	25%
Classroom Participation/Engagement	10%

No extra credit opportunities will be offered. If necessary, a peer evaluation component may comprise a portion of the grade for the report and presentations. The grade scale for the course is below:

Letter Grade	GPA	% Range	Rating
A+	4.33	90 - 100%	Excellent
A	4.0	85 - 89%	
A-	3.67	80 - 84%	
B+	3.33	77 - 79%	Good
B	3.0	73 - 76%	
B-	2.67	70 - 72%	
C+	2.33	67 - 69%	Average
C	2.0	63 - 66%	
C-	1.67	60 - 62%	
D+	1.33	57 - 59%	Pass
D	1.0	53 - 56%	
D-	0.67	50 - 52%	
F	0.0	0 - 49%	Failure

Class Schedule

The following is a preliminary schedule for the course that may be updated as the course proceeds. The posted class notes will contain any information about any potential changes to the schedule in advance. If there are any specific things to complete prior to class, I will try to give you reasonable notice through announcements in class and/or via Moodle.

Class #	Date	Notes
..... <i>Week 1</i>		
1	Wed, Sept 4	Course introduction/overview
2	Fri, Sept 6	Topic brainstorming, part 1
..... <i>Week 2</i>		
3	Mon, Sept 9	Topic brainstorming, part 2
4	Wed, Sept 11	Put together timeline; brainstorm topic/policy
5	Fri, Sept 13	Class discussion – brainstorming contents for paper sections
..... <i>Week 3</i>		
6	Mon, Sept 16	Group discussion – assign tasks to team members
7	Wed, Sept 18	Group discussion/individual work
8	Fri, Sept 20	Group discussion/individual work

Class #	Date	Notes
..... <i>Week 4</i>		
9	Mon, Sept 23	Group discussion/individual work
10	Wed, Sept 25	Group discussion/individual work
11	Fri, Sept 27	Group discussion/individual work
..... <i>Week 5</i>		
-	Mon, Sept 30	No class
12	Wed, Oct 2	Group discussion/individual work
13	Fri, Oct 4	Paper submission due (tentative)
..... <i>Week 6</i>		
14	Mon, Oct 7	Discussion on how to prepare presentation slides, part 1
15	Wed, Oct 9	Discussion on how to prepare presentation slides, part 2
16	Fri, Oct 11	Discussion of public speaking tips/advice
..... <i>Week 7: Study Break</i>		
-	Mon, Oct 14	No class
-	Wed, Oct 16	No class
-	Fri, Oct 18	No class
..... <i>Week 8</i>		
17	Mon, Oct 21	Class work for presentation prep
18	Wed, Oct 23	Class work for presentation prep
19	Fri, Oct 25	Practice presentation: Group 1
..... <i>Week 9</i>		
20	Mon, Oct 28	Practice presentation: Group 2
21	Wed, Oct 30	Group editing of presentation slides (Presentations and posters due)
22	Fri, Nov 1	AUPCC – Day 1
-	Sat, Nov 2	AUPCC – Day 2
..... <i>Week 10</i>		
23	Mon, Nov 4	No class
24	Wed, Nov 6	Recap of AUPCC experience
25	Fri, Nov 8	Introduction to Wolfville Housing topic

Class #	Date	Notes
..... <i>Week 11</i>		
-	Mon, Nov 11	No class
26	Wed, Nov 13	Lecture 1 – house prices
27	Fri, Nov 15	Lecture 2 – house prices
..... <i>Week 12</i>		
28	Mon, Nov 18	Lecture 3 – house prices
29	Wed, Nov 20	Brainstorming for Wolfville housing presentation
30	Fri, Nov 22	Group discussion/individual work for presentation prep
..... <i>Week 13</i>		
31	Mon, Nov 25	Group discussion/individual work for presentation prep
32	Wed, Nov 27	Group discussion/individual work for presentation prep
33	Fri, Nov 29	Practice presentation: Group 1
..... <i>Week 14</i>		
34	Mon, Dec 2	Practice presentation: Group 2
35	Wed, Dec 4	Presentation to Town of Wolfville (date to be determined)

Course Policies

Course dates/policies are outlined at the beginning of the course and are the student's responsibility; please communicate any issues, concerns or scheduling conflicts *well before* the relevant deadline so that we can address the issue appropriately.

Please communicate with me if an illness or other issue will cause you to miss multiple classes. I ask that students exercise proper classroom etiquette in respect of their classmates and the instructor.

Accessibility

Acadia University is dedicated to improving access to campus life for all students with disabilities. While we attempt to ensure that all courses are accessible, we recognize that there are barriers that need to be addressed on an individual basis. Students who require accommodations to complete coursework or otherwise fully participate in class should contact Accessible Learning Services directly as soon as possible.

For more information, please email accessible.learning@acadiau.ca

Academic Ethics

It is the responsibility of students to familiarize themselves with the University's policy on academic ethics. Copying, plagiarism and other academic offenses will not be tolerated. Penalties are severe and may result in suspension from a program/course and expulsion. A complete list of Academic Regulations can be found on the Policies page of the University's website. I strongly recommend that all class members review the sections in the 2024-25 academic calendar dealing with Academic Policy and Regulations. It is a serious offense to engage in academic misconduct.

Last updated: September 10, 2024