



WINTER 2021 – ECON 3883

SPECIAL TOPICS IN ECONOMICS: HEALTH ECONOMICS

TIME: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 pm -4:00 pm

CLASSROOM: MS Teams

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Mohammad Pulok

OFFICE LOCATION: MS Teams

EMAIL ADDRESS: mohammad.pulok@acadiau.ca

OFFICE HOURS: Virtual office hours in MS Teams by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Health care is the major element of government expenditure in Canada and many countries around the world. It permeates numerous aspects of society, from government announcements on spending priorities and surgical wait times, to national news and interest groups advocating health system change, to personal encounters with physicians, clinics, and hospitals. All these features are topics of health economics. Health economics, indeed, is a growing subdiscipline of economics and is very much pertinent to the public and social policies. This course will offer a broad understanding of the health care systems and changes in health care systems from an economics perspective. The course will cover a number of topics related to the production of health, demand and supply of health care services, and economic efficiency. In addition, this course will introduce ideas related to externalities, imperfect information, asymmetric information, and government regulations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course aims to introduce upper-level undergraduate students in economics to the field of health economics. The provision and production of health care have distinctive characteristics and incentives compared to other consumer goods. This makes health related markets a unique topic for study. Therefore, the objective of this course is to demonstrate how theoretical and empirical microeconomics can be applied to health and health care and provides useful insights for health policy in Canada and other parts of the world. After successful completion of this course, students are expected to undertake empirical and policy analyses of health care systems locally in Canada and/or globally.

PREREQUISITES:

ECON 1013: Microeconomic Principles

READING MATERIALS:

Required Textbook:

Folland, S., Goodman, A. and Stano, M. (2013): The Economics of Health and Health Care, 7th Edition (Prentice Hall) – FGS.

Supplementary Textbook:

Hurly, J. (2010) Health Economics, 1st Edition. Mc-Graw-Hill Ryerson

EVALUATION (TBD)

Evaluation Item	Weight
Class participation	5%
Class presentation	5%
Quiz/Assignment (2 x 10%)	20%
Term paper	20%
Midterm	20%
Final exam	30%

All assessments are compulsory. There will be NO make-up for a missed quiz, assignment, presentation, term paper and midterm. If you are unable to write an exam due to illness or for compassionate reasons, please advise me in writing (along with a doctor's note, if applicable) stating your name, your student id, and an e-mail address where you may be contacted.

REQUIREMENTS:

Students of this course are expected to attend the classes in a regularly and organized manner. Students should consider reading the necessary materials prior to class. The first quarter of the semester is especially important to establish the framework that will be the foundation for the rest of the semester. The learning approach for this course will be the use of lectures supplemented by student led discussion. Lecture sessions will introduce fundamental concepts and will represent a starting point for students to engage in self-directed study. Through class participation and individual presentations, students are encouraged to stimulate critical discussion of the class material. The course website will be available via Acadia Courseware & Online Resource Network (ACORN) at <http://acorn.acadiu.ca>. Make sure to check this site every week for course related materials and announcements that will be available as we progress throughout the course.

GRADING SYSTEM:

Alpha grade	Percentage range
A+	90 – 100
A	85 – 89
A-	80 – 84
B+	77 – 79
B	73 – 76
B-	70 – 72
C+	67 – 69
C	63 – 66
C-	60 – 62
D+	57 – 59
D	53 – 56
D-	50 – 52
F	0 – 49

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

It is the responsibility of students to familiarize themselves with the University's policy on academic ethics. Copying, plagiarism and other academic offences 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 found on page 37 of the 2020-21 academic calendar dealing with **Academic Integrity**. It is a serious offence to engage in **academic misconduct**.

ACCESSIBLE LEARNING SERVICES

Accessible Learning Services (located at Rhodes Hall, 21 University Ave, and can be reached via the email address: accessiblelearning.acadiiau.ca) works with students, staff, and faculty to facilitate academic accommodations and services for students with disabilities. All accommodations are based on the recommendations that are provided in students' psychoeducational or medical assessments. Accessible Learning Services also provides academic strategy sessions for students, referrals to on-and-off campus resources, and educational awareness training. For more information about Accessible Learning Services' registration process and support services, please contact one of the staff members listed below or visit our website.

Accessible Learning Services Contact Information:

- Marissa McIsaac, M.Sc; Disability Resource Facilitator, disability.access@acadiiau.ca, 902-585-1520
- Emily Duffett, MA; Accessibility Services Officer, disability.access@acadiiau.ca, 902-585-1823

COURSE SCHEDULE & OUTLINE:

Week	Dates	Topics
1	18 January	Introduction to the course and overview of the subject FGS: Ch 1
	20 January	Microeconomics tools for Health Economics FGS: Ch 2
2	25 & 27 January	Production of Health FGS: Ch 5
3	01 & 03 February	The Production, Cost, and Technology of Health Care FGS: Ch 6
4	08 & 10 February	Demand for Health Capital FGS: Ch 7 Wagstaff, A. (1986), "The Demand for Health: Theory and Application", Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 40, 1-11.
5	15 February	Heritage Day - no classes
	17 February	Students' presentations
6	22-24 February	Demand and Supply of Health Insurance FGS: Ch 8
7	01 March	Midterm: In class
	03 March	Asymmetric Information and Agency FGS: Ch 10
8	08-10 March	Comparative Health Care Systems FGS: Ch 22 Martin, Danielle, et al. "Canada's universal health-care system: achieving its potential." The Lancet 391.10131 (2018): 1718-1735.
9	15-17 March	Government Intervention in Health Care Markets FGS: Ch 19
10	22-24 March	Government Regulation: Principal Regulatory Mechanisms FGS: Ch 20
11	05-07 April	The Pharmaceutical Industry FGS: Ch 17
12	12 April	Review class and submission of term paper
13	16-23 April	Final Examination: TBA by the registrar office