

The Economics of Health and Health Policy

EC 755

4.0 Credit Hours

COURSE SCHEDULE AND DESCRIPTION

Classes will meet one evening a week from 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy in Kettering (Miami Valley Research Park).

This course explores the economics of health and health care services and its role in current health policy. The sessions will focus on the market for health care and its financing, the role of government, the impact of innovation, incentives for quality, and economic evaluation. Our investigation will introduce underlying economic theory, emphasize real-world examples and provide opportunities to discuss current health care and public health policy issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students should expect to:

1. Identify reasons why health economics is as an important subfield of economics and state what characteristics distinguish health related goods and services markets from non-health markets.
2. Explain why the presence of insurance affects both the demand and supply for health care.
3. Define price elasticity and illustrate the importance of the RAND health insurance experiment.
4. Distinguish between perfect competition and monopoly power and explain how each can influence health care markets.
5. Explain the role of quality and how differing levels of quality can affect health care demand and supply
6. Construct an evaluation of an international health system.
7. Critique current US health care policy proposals based on health economics research findings and theoretical arguments.
8. Define economic evaluation. Be able to outline the construction of a cost-effectiveness analysis and explain its usefulness.
9. Describe the role of technology and its influence on health markets.

PREREQUISITES

Participation in this course requires acceptance in the Certificate in Health Care Management, dual MD/MPH – MD/MBA, or Master of Public Health programs or with permission of the instructor.

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MODE OF INSTRUCTION

The main concepts and theory will be presented in lecture format; however, the class will also be very participatory, especially with regards to assigned readings covering health policy and public health issues. As a result, class participation by students is vital, required and will be actively promoted by the instructor.

In addition to in-class discussions, this course is mixed-mode and, as a result, will utilize WebCT, an Internet-based tool, to further our discussion while not in class. Students are required to log-on to WebCT and be actively involved in the discussions going on throughout the quarter.

ATTENDANCE

While attendance is required at all class sessions, this instructor certainly recognizes the demands graduate education places on full-time working professionals. With that said, *the greatest benefit of this course will come from the group discussions taking place in class.* Studying a textbook and reading the articles assigned will only contribute to a limited understanding of the course content. As you will find, a practical and rich understanding of health economics will come through participation in classroom-based discussions and some debate which, of course, necessitates attendance.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

In order to stimulate learning through self-investigation, students are required to complete the following assignments and will receive an overall grade based on the following assignments.

1) Participation is based on three components:

a) In-class discussion requires one to be involved in group discussions and to take an active role in the oral evaluation of the required policy reading each session.

b) WebCT discussions require that the student either respond to questions posed by the instructor on the Discussion Board or add substantially to an answer presented by a fellow student. For full credit, each student will be required to formulate 10 well-developed responses on-line before the end of the course. The responses may be made to the original questions or a peer's response.

c) A short, in-class presentation on a foreign county's health system. Each student should present a 10 to 15 minute (5-10 slides)

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introduction to a foreign country's health care system. Presentations will take place on Aug 3rd. Students can choose their own country; however, they will need to notify the instructor of their choice to prevent multiple presentations using the same country. Presentations should include information on 1) health care financing, payment, and insurance, 2) government involvement, 3) basic information on how the country compares internationally with regards to health indicators (e.g., mortality rates), and 4) an specific area of personal interest (e.g. public health, physician employment, hospital ownership, etc.).

2) A Final exam will be distributed prior to the end of the course via email. The exam will be due on or before the last day of class. The exam will cover the material presented and discussed in class as well as any required readings. The exam format will consist of short and long essay questions. Each exam must represent a student's individual effort and therefore, each is on their honor not to communicate with or assist others regarding the exam at any time.

The overall course grade will result from the weighting formula below.

	<u>Weights</u>
Final exam	40
Participation	60
In class discussion (20)	
WebCT Discussions (20)	
International Health System Presentation (20)	
Total	<hr/> 100

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All student work is to be completed individually, unless stated otherwise in writing. Absolutely no academic misconduct will be tolerated in this course. Regardless of the type of assignment, students found responsible for violating the WSU Academic Integrity Policy will receive an "F" for the course. All violations will be forwarded to the Office of Judicial Affairs where a university disciplinary file will be created. Information regarding academic misconduct can be found in the Code of Student Conduct located at <http://www.wright.edu/students/judicial/stuintegrity.html> Please contact the instructor during office hours should you have any questions or concerns.