



ECON 5190/6190: Health Economics

Fall 2016: MW 11:50a-1:10p, Fletcher Physics (JFB), Rm B-1

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Course Website: utah.instructure.com

Office: Old Law Library (Bldg 72), Room TBD

Office Hours: MW 11-11:30 am and by appointment

Course Overview: This course is designed as an introduction to health care markets and institutions in the United States from an economic perspective. To that end, we will examine how economic theory, key principles including supply and demand and competition, and tools such as outcomes analysis can offer insights into the production and distribution of health and health care. At times, we will also adopt a critical perspective on the ways such theories, principles, and tools have been applied. This course draws on a wide breadth of resources, authors, ideas, and presentation styles to give you broad exposure to the key themes in health economics, to be reflective of the heterogeneity in the health field in general, and to be accessible to the diverse set of students enrolled in this course.

Note: Graduate students should register for ECON 6190 and will be held to higher standards and/or additional work.

Credit Hours: 3

Texts: Course readings will come from a variety of sources including, but not limited to: peer-reviewed health economics and health policy journals, medical journals, reports, and newspaper articles. All readings will be posted on Canvas.

Course Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the insights economics can offer in determining how health is "produced," how health care is distributed, the quality of care delivered, how health care markets function similarly and differently from other markets, and the overall management of health care in the United States;
2. understand the role of institutions in determining health and health care systems;
3. use economic principals and theory to examine and critique health care systems, markets, and health care reform proposals.

Assignments and Grading:

Assignments	25%
Blog	20%
Presentation	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	25%

Assignment and Exam Details:

- **Assignments:** Mix of in-class and take-home assignments including both individual and group work.
- **Blog:** Contribute to the course blog by both writing your own blog posts and responding to classmates' posts on a rotating basis. Expectations will be discussed in class and a rubric will be posted on Canvas. Blogs allow for careful consideration, writing, and research on topics while embracing a wider, external audience. Due to the diverse backgrounds in this course, blog posts are a great way to connect across disciplines and engage in multidisciplinary discussions while also fine-tuning our writing skills and technological proficiency.
- **Presentation** In groups of two, you will be responsible for presenting the main points of a course reading and leading the discussion on that piece. Presentations will take place throughout the semester. You will sign up for the date/topic/article of presentation in the second week of class.
- **Midterm Exam:** In-class exam on October 5, mix of short answer and essay questions.
- **Final Exam:** Take-home final exam, comprised of short essay questions. Open book and open notes. Exam will be posted on Canvas on December 7 and will be due on Canvas by 11:59 pm on December 12.

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

Extra Credit:

Various opportunities will be announced in class and on Canvas.

Course Policies:

- Canvas will be heavily utilized in this course. I highly recommend you check Canvas often and **turn on notifications**. Log into Canvas and click Settings in the top righthand corner. Double check that the registered email address is one you use. Then, click Notifications on the left-hand bar. I recommend choosing ASAP for Announcements and Conversations, at the very least.

University Policies:

- *Academic (Dis)Honesty.* Academic dishonesty of any kind is a serious offense, which undermines both the reputation and quality of the degrees issued by the University of Utah. Plagiarism of any kind, intentional and/or unintentional, will result in strict sanctions against the student per university policy. Please meet with me immediately if you are unclear as to what constitutes plagiarism.
- *The University Code: Section V.A.* Students must adhere to generally accepted standards of academic honesty, including but not limited to, refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting ones work, and/or inappropriately collaborating.
- *Section V.B.* A student who engages in academic misconduct may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension, or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the students degree or certificate.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement:

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Masters in Health Administration (MHA) Competencies Addressed in Class

Competency	Level of Learning	Assessment Method
Strategic & Analytical Thinking: Analyze situations taking into consideration diverse controllable and uncontrollable factors	Novice	Students will demonstrate analytic skills in oral discussion and blog posts
Communication: Ability to speak and write clearly and effectively	Advanced Beginner	Students will demonstrate effective written communication skills through blog posts, class assignments, and exams
Business Knowledge & Skills: Understand and use financial and accounting information	Competent	Questions on Midterm and Final exams related to C/B and C/E methods
Business Knowledge & Skills: understand the fundamental principles of health care organization	Advanced Beginner	Midterm and Final exam questions related to these principles
Leadership & Ethics: Ability to be flexible and adaptable, and think creatively in a changing environment	Novice	Align financial incentives for ethical practice; think creatively and lead change by engaging in crucial conversation in class

Tentative Course Outline:

The topics listed are those that we will be covering in class that day. A companion reading list to this set of topics will be posted on Canvas. This outline is tentative and may change. Check "Modules" in Canvas for most up-to-date topics, assignments, and readings.

Week // Date	Content
1 // 8/22,24	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and Comparative Health Systems
2 // 8/29,31	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Expenditures and Coverage in the US
3 // 9/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Expenditures and Coverage in the US
4 // 9/12,14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Production" of Health
5 // 9/19,21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Production" of Health
6 // 9/26,28	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are Recessions Good for Your Health?
7 // 10/3,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10/3 Review• 10/5 Midterm Exam
8 // 10/10,12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall Break
9 // 10/17,19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tools of Economic Assessment: Cost of Illness, Cost-Benefit, and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
10 // 10/24,26	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tools in Practice
11 // 10/31,11/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Markets and Market Failure
12 // 11/7,9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insurance Markets, Moral Hazard, and Cost-sharing
13 // 11/14,16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accountable Care Organizations
14 // 11/21,23	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provider Reimbursement and Supply
15 // 11/28,30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of Care
16 // 12/5,7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summing Up and Review