ECONOMICS 6260-001: Health Economics
Fall 2015
Thursday 3:30-6:15 PM, Friday 207

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Schulkind
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Office: Friday 227B
Office Hours: T 4:30-5:30 Center City 7th Floor, TH 1:30-3:30 Friday 227B

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES
This course is designed to provide students with the tools needed in order to engage as an informed participant in debates about health policy. The course is divided into 5 main topics. The first part of the course will provide an introduction to health economics. From there, we will cover economic efficiency and cost-benefit analysis and the theory and evidence related to the production of and demand for health capital. The fourth topic covers the theory of insurance and the role of asymmetric information in that market. Next, we will examine the reasons why, and the extent that governments intervene in health care markets. Finally, we will cover the different types of health care systems that exist around the world, and the ongoing reforms to the U.S. health system.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Publisher: Pearson

RECOMMENDED TEXTS
Publisher: Princeton University Press
ISBN: 9780691120355

Publisher: South-Western Cengage Learning
GRADING

10% - Class Participation
30% - Paper/Presentation
60% - Exams

Practice Problems: I will assign practice problems for each chapter. They will be posted on Moodle, and are primarily intended to provide opportunities to practice using the information learned in class and in the readings. They will not be graded, but answer keys will be posted and students are encouraged to attend office hours to ask questions.

Class Participation: Class participation is an important part of the learning process. I expect you to be in class and to be prepared and engaged while you are there. While I will rarely take attendance, being in class is crucial to success in the class, and it will be counted as part of your participation grade. In addition, I will frequently post reading questions on Moodle throughout the semester. They will typically consist of multiple choice questions meant to guide you through the assigned reading and they will also give you opportunities to ask questions that you would like me to cover in class. Due dates will be announced in class and posted on Moodle. Your grades on the quizzes will be factored into your participation grade. Late quizzes will not be accepted for any reason.

Paper/Presentation: More details will be given in class and in a separate handout posted on Moodle.

Exams: There will be two exams given during the semester, and each exam will count for 30% of your final grade.
COURSE OUTLINE

This is meant as a rough guide. Exam dates will not change without advanced notice, but we might cover topics slightly slower or faster than expected. Any changes will be announced in class. Any additional course readings will be posted on Moodle.

Topic 1: Introduction to Health Economics
Approximate Classes: 8/27, 9/3
Textbook: Chapters 1, 2
Course Readings: 1

Topic 2: Economic Efficiency and Cost-Benefit Analysis
Approximate Classes: 9/10
Textbook: Chapter 4

Topic 3: Production of and Demand for Health
Approximate Classes: 9/17, 9/24
Textbook: Chapters 5, 7, 24
Course Readings: 2, 3, 4, 5

Exam #1: Thursday 10/1

Topic 4: Insurance Theory and Asymmetric Information
Approximate Dates: 10/8, 10/15
Textbook: Chapters 8, 10

Topic 5: Government Intervention in Health Care Markets
Approximate Dates: 10/22, 10/29
Textbook: Chapters 19, 21
Additional Readings: 6, 7, 8, 9

Topic 6: Comparative Health Systems and Health Care Reform
Approximate Dates: 11/5, 11/12
Textbook: Chapters 22, 23
Additional Readings: 10, 11

Exam #2: Thursday 11/19

Group Presentations
Approximate Dates: 12/3

Final Paper Due: Tuesday 12/17 from 5:30-8:15pm
IMPORTANT DATES

Note: Due dates may be adjusted if we cover material faster or slower than expected.

Wednesday September 16 – Paper Topic Preference Due

Thursday October 1 – Exam #1

Thursday October 8 – Reference List Due

Thursday October 22 – Paper Summaries Due

Thursday November 12 – First Draft Due

Thursday November 19 – Exam #2

Thursday November 26 – No class (Thanksgiving)

Thursday December 3 – Presentations and Peer Evaluation Due

Thursday December 10 – No class (Reading Day)

Thursday December 17 – Final Paper Due

CLASS POLICIES

Academic Integrity: I will not tolerate intellectual dishonesty. All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at http://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407.

Accommodation Policy: If you have a disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Services in the beginning of the semester. For more information regarding accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or stop by their office in Fretwell 230.
Exam Policy: There will not be any regularly scheduled makeup exams. If you cannot be there on exam days, do not take this class. If you miss an exam for any reason, you must contact me prior to the examination time or as soon as you are reasonably able to do so and we will discuss the possibility of a makeup exam or alternative grade weighting. These options will be provided at my discretion, and only in the case of a documented serious illness or family emergency.

Re-grade Policy: If you would like your exam re-graded, you must submit a re-grade request, in writing, within one week of receiving your graded exam. Your request should point out the question(s) where you think you deserve additional credit, along with an explanation. Please note that your entire exam will be reviewed, and your final score may go up or down.

“No Screen”: While in class, I expect you to follow my “no screen” policy. I do not want to see any cell phones. Leave them in your backpack/purse/pocket (with the sound turned off) during class. Laptops/Tablets are strongly discouraged. They will not be very helpful for note taking, as much of the class will require writing equations, graphs, etc. If you absolutely must use one, please talk to me about it in person.

Statement on Diversity: The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

**REQUIRED COURSE READINGS**

All course readings will be posted on Moodle, and additional papers may be added throughout the semester.


