INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Hui-Kuan Tseng
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OFFICE PHONE: 704-687-7598
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 9:30 am – 12:00 pm and by appointment
Thursdays 9:30 am – 12:00 pm and by appointment
EMAIL: htseng@uncc.edu

Teaching Assistant: to be announced


Course Description: ECON 3141, Health Economics. (3) Prerequisite: ECON 2102. The application of microeconomic concepts to markets for health/medical care, including issues such as healthcare delivery, financing, regulation, and costs. (On demand)

Course Objectives: This course provides students with a basic knowledge of the health care economy. Students should be able to apply the principles of microeconomics in the context of analyzing health care issues from an economic perspective to understand the behavior and performance of the principal health market participants – consumers, physicians, hospitals, insurance companies, and government entities. Topic areas that will be covered include: the health production function, the demand for health care, the demand for health insurance, physician behavior, hospital behavior and the market for long-term care services. These topics are examined using an economic framework.

Electronic Distribution of Class Material: There is a Moodle page for this course, accessible through 49er Express. Syllabus, lecture outlines and other materials will be posted on the Moodle. The pace of my lectures will be based on the assumption that you have read the outlines before you come to class so that you can participate in discussion and benefit more from my lectures.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity: Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submissions of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Any special requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor and are binding on the students. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student's work is free from academic dishonesty of any type; and grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to F. Copies of the code can be obtained from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.
Attendance: Students are expected to attend, to arrive on time and to stay the entire class period. A sign-up sheet will circulate randomly to record attendance. No points are explicitly added for attendance nor subtracted for absences. However, attendance will be considered when I determine your final course grade. When missing class, students will be expected to obtain class notes or assignments from other students in the class.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EXAM 1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXAM 2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINAL EXAM (non-cumulative)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td></td>
<td>300</td>
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Notes:

1. There will be two 100-point midterm exams during the semester plus a 100-point non-cumulative final exam, totaling 300 points. The exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, problem solving and essay questions.
2. No make-up midterm exams shall be given for whatever reason. Students who miss one midterm exam are required to take a cumulative final exam which carries a weight of 200 points. Students who miss two midterm exams will get an "F" as course grade.
3. The final exam, regular or cumulative, will be given according to the university's final exam schedule. There will be absolutely no consideration given to students who wish to take the final exam early. The semester ends with the scheduled final exam time.
4. Bonus Opportunities: There are extra credit opportunities. You may earn extra credits from in-class group practice questions. Ten percent (10%) of the total points you earn on in-class practice questions counts as your extra credit. When the extra credits are offered, they must be completed in class and only group members who are present are eligible for the extra credits. No make-up for in-class practice questions.
5. The combined scores for midterm exams and non-cumulative or cumulative final exams shall be 300 points. The course grade is determined by the following formula and scale:

\[
Average(\%) = \frac{Exam1 + Exam2 + FinalExam + 10\% \text{ practice}}{300}
\]

- A = 90% or above
- B = 80% - 89.9%
- C = 70% - 79.9%
- D = 60% - 69.9%
- F = below 60%

Cells phones and other technology: The use of cell phones, beepers, or other communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore not permitted during class. If you have a personal or professional emergency or urgent matter, let the instructor know that you may need to respond to a call during class; turn your cell phone to the "vibrate" option, and leave the room to respond to the call. Otherwise, cell phones and other communication devices should be turned off. I also ask that students do not "surf" the internet, text-message or twitter during class; if you have a personal emergency let me know; you can leave the room to
respond to a call or text-message. One more thing, you may not use the calculator features of your cell phone during exams.

**Reading List:** The purpose of this course is to teach students to apply economic theory to health care issues and markets. To this end the following reading list informs you of the topics we are likely to cover in the class and the reading assigned for each topic. However, the reading list may be changed as circumstances warrant.

Introduction – what is health economics? Course overview, assignments, expectations

**Required Reading:**

FGS: Chapter 1


Microeconomic tools for health economics – PPC. D&S, Elasticity, Utility, etc.

**Required Reading:**

FGS: Chapter 2

Statistical Tools for Health Economics

**Required Reading:**

FGS: Chapter 3

Economic Efficiency and Cost-Benefit Analysis

**Required Reading:**

FGS: Chapter 4

***************Exam 1, Thursday, September 19***************
Production of Health

Required Reading:

FGS: Chapter 5


Demand and Supply of Health Insurance

Required Reading:

FGS: Chapter 8


Consumer Choice and Demand

Required Reading:

FGS: Chapter 9

Asymmetric Information and Agency

Required Reading:

FGS: Chapter 10

******************Exam 2, Thursday, October 31 ******************

The Physician’s Practice

Required Reading:

FGS: Chapter 15

Health Care Labor Markets and Professional Training
Required Reading:

FGS: Chapter 16

Government intervention in Health Care Market

Required Reading:

FGS: Chapter 19

Government Regulation: Principal Regulatory Mechanisms

Required Reading:

FGS: Chapter 20

**************Final Exam, Thursday, December 12, 2:00 – 4:30pm ***************

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.