**ECONOMICS 3141-001: Health Economics**  
Fall 2014  
TR 12:30-1:45 PM, Friday 112

**Instructor:** Dr. Lisa Schulkind  
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Office Hours: T 4:30-5:30 Center City 7th Floor, TH 3:00-5:00 PM Friday 227B

**Teaching Assistant:**  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the economics of health and health care. We will study the application of microeconomic concepts to markets for health/medical care, including issues such as health care delivery, financing, regulation, and costs. The primary goal of the class is to provide the tools needed in order to engage as an informed participant in debates about health policy. By the end of the course, students will be able to answer the following questions:

- What is health economics?  
- How do economists contribute to our understanding of health and health care?  
- How are income and education related to health?  
- How do policy makers use cost-benefit analysis?  
- How does the U.S. health care system differ from those in other countries?  
- Why is there so much disagreement about health care reform?  
- How does health insurance affect demand for medical care?  
- Why and how do governments intervene in health care markets?  
- What are Medicaid and Medicare?  
- And what do we know about their effects on insurance coverage and health status?

**Prerequisite:** Minimum Grade of C in ECON 2102

**REQUIRED TEXT**

Publisher: South-Western Cengage Learning  
GRADING

25% - Problem Sets
75% - Exams

Scale: A: 90%-100%, B: 80%-89%, C: 70%-79%, D: 60%-69%, F: below 60%

Rounding of final course averages will follow the standard practice (only .5 or above will be rounded up to the next whole number).

Attendance: While I do not plan to take attendance, 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.

Reading Questions: 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 as well as opportunities for you to ask questions that you would like me to cover in class. A score of 75% or better on a set of reading questions will earn you 1 extra percentage point on your next exam. Due dates will be announced in class and posted on Moodle. Late quizzes will not be accepted for any reason.

Problem Sets: I will assign 8 problem sets throughout the semester. 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. You are encouraged to work with classmates, but must hand in your own (non-photocopied or copied) assignment. Your answers should be your own, and in questions where I ask for examples, they should NOT be the same as your classmates’. If this is not clear, ask me for clarification before the assignment is due. They will be graded as ✓ (put significant effort into all questions, according to my subjective evaluation), ✓- (put significant effort into at least half of the questions) and 0 (significant effort not displayed or didn't hand in). Due dates will be announced in class and posted on Moodle, and problem sets are due IN CLASS on the date listed. Late assignments can receive a maximum grade of ✓-. No exceptions. Answer keys will be posted and students are encouraged to attend office hours to ask questions. Your lowest score will be dropped.

Exams: There will be three exams given throughout the semester: two during the semester and one during finals week. Your two highest scores will count for 30% each, and the lowest score will count for 15% 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.

Topic 1: Introduction to Health Economics
   Approximate Classes: 8/19, 8/21, 8/26, 8/28
   Textbook: Chapters 1 including appendix, 2

Topic 2: Cost Benefit Analysis
   Approximate Classes: 9/2, 9/4, 9/9, 9/11
   Textbook: Chapters 3
   Additional Readings: 1, 2

Midterm #1: Wednesday 9/18 (review 9/16)

Topic 3: Health Care Systems
   Approximate Dates: 9/23, 9/25, 9/30
   Textbook: Chapters 4, 16

Topic 4: Demand for Medical Care
   Approximate Dates: 10/2, 10/9, 10/14
   Textbook: Chapter 5
   Additional Readings: 3

Topic 5: Demand for Medical Insurance
   Approximate Dates: 10/16, 10/21, 10/23
   Textbook: Chapter 6

Midterm #2: Monday 10/30 (review 10/28)

Topic 6: The Role of Government
   Textbook: Chapters 9, 10
   Additional Readings: 4, 5, 6

Final Exam: Thursday 12/11 at 11:00 AM (review 12/2)
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**


