ECONOMICS 3141: Health Economics
Fall 2020
MWF 1:25-2:15 PM, Friday 132

Assigned Face to Face Days:
Section Y01: Monday
Section Y02: Wednesday
Section Y03: Friday

*When/If the university announces a return to face to face instruction (as of the writing of this syllabus, this has been scheduled for October 1):
  • You will meet in Friday 132 on your assigned day. The remainder of the instruction will be conducted remotely via Canvas. The remote instruction will be asynchronous.
  • I am unable to approve requests to attend on a day other than the one you’re assigned to. **If your assigned section is not meeting, you are not allowed to be in the classroom for safety reasons.**

*While instruction is entirely remote:
  • You will meet via zoom on your assigned day for a synchronous “section”.
  • Exams will be given via Canvas **at the same time for everyone.** It may not be on your assigned day, but it will be during the scheduled course time.
  • The remainder of the remote instruction will be asynchronous.

**Instructor:** Dr. Lisa Schulkind
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Office: Friday 227B
Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:00 and Wednesday 11:45-1:15

Teaching Assistant:
Seth Howard, Email: showar38@uncc.edu, Office Hours: TBA
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 first part of the course will provide an introduction to health economics and to cost-benefit analysis. From there, we will cover the theory and evidence related to the production of and demand for health capital and insurance theory. 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 health care reform.

Prerequisites: Minimum Grade of C in: (ECON 2102 or ECON 1202) and (ECON 2101 or ECON 1201) and (MATH 1220 or MATH 1241) and (STAT 1220 or STAT 1221 or STAT 1222)

REQUIRED TEXT

Publisher: Routledge
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GRADING

25% - Problem Sets
15% - Class Participation
60% - 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).

Class Participation (up to a maximum of 15 total points):

Reading Questions: I will frequently post reading questions on Canvas throughout the semester. They will typically consist of multiple choice questions meant to guide you through the assigned readings and videos as well as to give opportunities for you to ask questions that you would like me to cover in section. A score of 60-80% on a set of reading questions will earn you \( \frac{1}{2} \) of a point towards your participation grade, and a score of 80% or better will earn you 1 point. Due dates will be posted on Canvas. Late quizzes will not be accepted for any reason.
Section Participation: You can earn up to 1 point during each section. Attending section will earn $\frac{1}{2}$ of a point and meaningful participation (asking or answering a question about course content) will earn an additional $\frac{1}{2}$ of a point.

Problem Sets: I will assign approximately 7 problem sets throughout the semester. They will be posted on Canvas, 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 posted on Canvas, and problem sets must be uploaded on Canvas by 11:59 pm on the day they are due.** Late assignments can receive a maximum grade of ✓- and must be handed in by the last day of class (12/15) to receive credit. No exceptions. Answer keys will be posted and students are encouraged to attend office hours to ask questions.

Exams: There will be four exams given throughout the semester: three during the semester and one during finals week. The lowest score will be dropped.
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 Dates: Weeks 1 and 2 (Sept 7-Sept 19)
   Textbook: Chapters 1, 2
   Additional Readings: 1

Topic 2: Cost Benefit Analysis
   Approximate Dates: Weeks 3 and 4 (Sept 20-Oct 3)
   Textbook: Chapters 4
   Additional Readings: 2, 3

Exam #1: Week 5: October 5, 7 or 9,
   ** If face to face instruction has resumed, you will take the exam in class on your assigned day. If not, everyone will take the exam online on Wednesday October 7th from 1:25-2:15.

Topic 3: Production of and Demand for Health
   Approximate Dates: Week 6 (Oct 11-17)
   Textbook: Chapters 5, 7
   Additional Readings: 4, 5, 6

Topic 4: Insurance Theory
   Approximate Dates: Weeks 7 and 8 (Oct 18-Oct 31)
   Textbook: Chapter 8

Exam #2: Week 9: November 2, 4 or 6
   ** If face to face instruction has resumed, you will take the exam in class on your assigned day. If not, everyone will take the exam online on Wednesday November 4 from 1:25-2:15.

Topic 5: Government Intervention in Health Care Markets
   Approximate Dates: Week 10 (Nov 8 - Nov 14)
   Textbook: Chapter 19
Topic 6: Social Insurance
  Approximate Dates: Weeks 11 and 12 (Nov 15 – Nov 28)
  Textbook: Chapters 20
  Additional Readings: 7, 8

Exam #3: Week 13: November 30, December 2, December 4
  **If face to face instruction has resumed, you will take the exam in class on your assigned day. If not, everyone will take the exam online on Wednesday December 2 from 1:25-2:15.

Topic 7: Comparative Health Systems and Health Care Reform
  Approximate Dates: Week 14 and 15 (December 6-15)
  Textbook: Chapters 21, 22

Exam #4 (Final): TBA
**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 will receive a zero. Remember, your lowest score will be dropped. If you must miss more than one exam for official university business or a documented serious illness or family emergency, 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. This will only be considered if BOTH missed exams are for approved reasons.

**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*.

**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**


