Economics of Health and Healthcare

Fall 2021
Thursday 2:30-5:15 PM, Friday 155

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Schulkind
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Office: Friday 227B
Office Hours: T 3:00-4:30, TH 11:00-12:30 on Zoom

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: Routledge

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Publisher: Princeton University Press
ISBN: 9780691120355

Publisher: South-Western Cengage Learning
**Grading**

10% - Class Participation  
50% - Paper/Presentation  
40% - Exams

Practice Problems: I will assign practice problems for each topic. 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. 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. Another way to show that you are engaged is to watch the weekly roundup video and fill in the weekly feedback survey each week. More details will be provided on the first day of class.

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

Exams: There will be two exams given during the semester, and each exam will count for 20% 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 Canvas.

Topic 1: Introduction to Health Economics
  Approximate Classes: 8/26, 9/2
  Textbook: Chapters 1, 2
  Additional Readings: 1

Topic 2: Economic Efficiency and Cost-Benefit Analysis
  Approximate Classes: 9/9
  Textbook: Chapter 4
  Additional Readings: 2, 3, 4

Topic 3: Production of and Demand for Health
  Approximate Classes: 9/16, 9/30
  Textbook: Chapters 5, 7
  Additional Readings: 5, 6, 7, 8

Exam #1: Thursday 10/07

Topic 4: Insurance Theory
  Approximate Dates: 10/14, 10/21 (online)
  Textbook: Chapters 8
  Additional Readings: 9, 10

Topic 5: Government Intervention in Health Care Markets
  Approximate Dates: 10/28, 11/04
  Textbook: Chapters 19, 20
  Additional Readings: 11, 12, 13, 14

Topic 6: Health System Reform
  Approximate Dates: 11/11
  Textbook: Chapters 22
  Additional Readings: 15, 16, 17, 18

Exam #2: Thursday 11/18

Group Presentations
  Approximate Dates: 12/02

Final Paper Due: Thursday 12/16 from 2:00-4:30pm
CLASS POLICIES

Academic Integrity: 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 and on the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407. Additional resources are available on the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity website.

Accommodation Policy: UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Services early in the semester. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit 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.

**Discrimination:** All students and the instructor are expected to engage with each other respectfully. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person’s actual or perceived race, actual or perceived gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**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.

**Gender:** This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is indicated on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

### EXTRA COVID RELATED CLASS POLICIES

**Classroom Recordings:** Class sessions will all be audio- and/or video-recorded for the purposes of student-participant reference and access by other students enrolled in the same course (including students enrolled in different class sections or break-out groups). Student consent to being recorded during class is a condition of class participation. If you do not consent to being recorded during class, you will need to deactivate your video camera, keep your mute button activated, and participate only via the chat feature, but please note that such actions may have a negative impact on any portion of your grade that is based on class participation. Students are not permitted to make their own recordings of class sessions or to share or distribute University recordings of class sessions. NOTE: Students with specific electronic recording accommodations authorized by
the Office of Disability Services may record classes; however, the instructor must be notified of any such accommodation prior to recording. Any distribution of such recordings is prohibited.

Facemasks: It is the current policy of UNC Charlotte that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the 49er community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings in all indoor spaces on campus, including classrooms and labs, **regardless of vaccination status.** Failure to comply with this policy in the classroom or lab may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity for charges under the Code of Student Responsibility.
REQUIRED COURSE READINGS

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

**Topic 1: Introduction to Health Economics**


**Topic 2: Economic Efficiency and Cost-Benefit Analysis**


**Topic #3: Production and Demand for Health**


**Topic 4: Insurance Theory**

[9] Moral Hazard in the context of the RAND HIE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0OtUbDYdxw&t=2s

[10] RWJF summary of similar issue: https://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2010/rwjf402103

**Topic 5: Government Intervention in Health Care Markets**


**Topic 6: Health System Reform**

