

William Paterson University
Department of Economics, Finance, and Global Business
ECON 4280: Healthcare Economics
 On-line

COURSE SYLLABUS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

Healthcare Economics studies the economics behavior of patients, physicians, and other stakeholders in the healthcare markets. In addition, it evaluates how state and federal government healthcare policies and interventions influence health outcomes. This course provides information on U.S. healthcare system.

2. TEXT

Health Economics, by Bhattacharya, Hyde, and Tu, Palgrave MacMillan 2014.

3. COURSE OUTLINE

Below is a **tentative** course outline. These are some important core concepts in microeconomics which I review prior to going into health topics. I'll do my best to cover as many topics as possible.

| Session | Description | Chapter |
|---------|--|---------|
| 1 | Microeconomics review | -- |
| 2 | Why health economics?, Demand for health care | 1, 2 |
| 3 | Demand for health | 3 |
| 4 | Socioeconomic disparities in health | 4 |
| 5 | Labor market for physicians, Hospital industry | 5, 6 |
| 6 | Demand for insurance | 7 |
| 7 | Technology and the price of health care | 13 |
| 8 | Market for nurses, Medical malpractices | -- |
| 9 | The health policy conundrum | 15 |
| 10 | The American model | 18 |
| 11 | Obesity | 22 |

4. GRADING AND DISCUSSIONS

The course grade will be based on midterm and final exams (30% each) and a course project (40%).

5. REQUIRED READINGS

| Session | Readings |
|---------|---|
| 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gruber J. (2006). The Role of Consumer Copayments for Health Care: Lessons from the RAND Health Insurance Experiment and Beyond. |
| 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SMITH, J. P. (1999). Healthy Bodies and Thick Wallets: The Dual Relation Between Health and Economic Status. <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i>. 13, 145-166. |
| 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LUBOTSKY, D., PAXSON, C., & CASE, A. (2002). Economic status and health in childhood: the origins of the gradient. <i>The American Economic Review</i> (Evanston). 92, 1308-1334. - CURRIE, J., & STABILE, M. (2003). Socioeconomic Status and Child Health: Why Is the Relationship Stronger for Older Children? <i>American Economic Review</i>. 93, 1813-1823. |
| 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kaiser Foundation (2010). "The Uninsured: A Primer." http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7451-06.pdf. Read pages 1-12. |
| 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBO (2008). "Technological Change and the Growth of Health Care Spending." Download the full text in PDF format at http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/89xx/doc8947/01-31-TechHealth.pdf. - CUTLER DM, & MCCLELLAN M. (2001). Is technological change in medicine worth it? <i>Health Affairs</i>. |
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cutler, David M. 1994. "A Guide to Health Care Reform." <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i>, 8(3): 13-29. - June E. O'Neill & Dave M. O'Neill, 2008. "Health Status, Health Care and Inequality: Canada vs. the U.S," <i>Forum for Health Economics & Policy</i>, Berkeley Electronic Press, vol. 10(1). |
| 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRUBER, J. (1997). Policy Watch: Medicaid and Uninsured Women and Children. <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i>. 11, 199-208. - Kaiser Foundation (2010). "Medicare: A Primer." http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/7615-03.pdf. Read pages 1-14; can skip pages 7-13 if not interested. - Kaiser Foundation (2010). "Medicaid: A Primer." http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7334-04.pdf. Read pages 1-4, 6-12. |
| 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CBO (2008). "Technological Change and the Growth of Health Care Spending." Download the full text in PDF format at http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/89xx/doc8947/01-31-TechHealth.pdf. - CUTLER DM, & MCCLELLAN M. (2001). Is technological change in medicine worth it? <i>Health Affairs</i>. |
| 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cutler, David M., Edward L. Glaeser and Jesse M. Shapiro. "Why Have Americans Become More Obese?," <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i>, 2003, v17(3,Summer), 93-118. - Bhattacharya, Jay, and Neeraj Sood. 2011. "Who Pays for Obesity?" <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i>, 25(1): 139-58. |