

William Paterson University
Department of Economics, Finance, and Global Business
ECON 4280: Healthcare Economics
 Online

COURSE SYLLABUS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

Healthcare Economics studies the economic 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 the U.S. healthcare system.

2. TEXT

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

3. COURSE OUTLINE

Below is the course outline. These are some important core concepts in microeconomics that you need to review prior to going into health topics. ***I have uploaded lecture videos. Please watch them before you start studying the slides and chapters.***

Description	Chapter
Microeconomics review	Watch the videos (Ch 1 & 2)
Why health economics? Demand for healthcare	1, 2
Demand for health	3
Socioeconomic disparities in health	4
The labor market for physicians, Hospital industry	5, 6
Demand for insurance	7
Midterm from Chapters 1 to 7	
Pharmaceutical industry	12
Technology and the price of health care	13
The health policy conundrum	15
The American model	18
Obesity	22
Final from chapters 12, 13, 15, 18, and 22	

4. GRADING

The course grade will be based on two homework assignments (20% each), one midterm (30%), and the final exam (30%). All assignments and exams are multiple-choice questions. Assignment 1 will be available on BlackBoard from 01/04/2024 and should be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date. Assignment 2 will be available on BlackBoard from 01/14/2024 and should be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date. **No excuse is accepted for missing the due dates.** Exams will be available on BlackBoard on the dates specified below from 00:00 am. Once you start the exam, you have 60 minutes to finish them. You will be able to see your answers and the correct ones after the due dates.

Assignment 1 due date: 01/08/2024

Midterm: 01/13/2024

Assignment 2 due date: 01/21/2024

Final: 01/24/2024

4.1 GRADING POLICY

- Final grades will not be curved
- Departmental grading letter, grade quality points, and number grade

A	4.0	93.51-100
A-	3.7	89.51-93.5
B+	3.3	86.51-89.5
B	3.0	83.51-86.5
B-	2.7	79.51-83.5
C+	2.3	76.51-79.5
C	2.0	73.51-76.5
C-	1.7	69.51-73.5
D+	1.3	66.51-69.5
D	1.0	63.51-66.5
F	0.0	Below 63.5

5. RECOMMENDED READINGS

The following articles are uploaded on BlackBoard. I encourage you to go over them, especially those related to medical malpractice.

Chapter	Readings
1,2	- Gruber J. (2006). The Role of Consumer Copayments for Health Care: Lessons from the RAND Health Insurance Experiment and Beyond.
3	- SMITH, J. P. (1999). Healthy Bodies and Thick Wallets: The Dual Relation Between Health and Economic Status. Journal of Economic Perspectives. 13, 145-166.
4	- LUBOTSKY, D., PAXSON, C., & CASE, A. (2002). Economic status and health in childhood: the origins of the gradient. The American Economic Review (Evanston). 92, 1308-1334. - CURRIE, J., & STABILE, M. (2003). Socioeconomic Status and Child Health: Why Is the Relationship Stronger for Older Children? American Economic Review. 93, 1813-1823.
7	- Kaiser Foundation (2010). "The Uninsured: A Primer." http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7451-06.pdf . Read pages 1-12.
13	- 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? Health Affairs.
Medical malpractice	- Background on Tort Reform, Congressional Budget Office report. - Understanding medical malpractice insurance: A primer
15	- Cutler, David M., 1994. "A Guide to Health Care Reform." Journal of Economic Perspectives, 8(3): 13-29.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- June E. O'Neill & Dave M. O'Neill, 2008. "Health Status, Health Care and Inequality: Canada vs. the U.S.," Forum for Health Economics & Policy, Berkeley Electronic Press, vol. 10(1).
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- GRUBER, J. (1997). Policy Watch: Medicaid and Uninsured Women and Children. Journal of Economic Perspectives. 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.