

**William Paterson University**  
**Department of Economics, Finance, and Global Business**  
**ECON/NUR4280: 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 Microeconomics Review lecture videos. Please watch them before you start studying the slides and chapters.***

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

#### 4. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED READINGS

The following articles are uploaded on the chapter sections on BlackBoard. I encourage you to go over them, especially those related to medical malpractice which are under the medical malpractice folder.

Chapter	Readings
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Gruber J. (2006). The Role of Consumer Copayments for Health Care: Lessons from the RAND Health Insurance Experiment and Beyond.</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SMITH, J. P. (1999). Healthy Bodies and Thick Wallets: The Dual Relation Between Health and Economic Status. Journal of Economic Perspectives. 13, 145-166.</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- LUBOTSKY, D., PAXSON, C., &amp; CASE, A. (2002). Economic status and health in childhood: the origins of the gradient. The American Economic Review (Evanston). 92, 1308-1334.</li><li>- CURRIE, J., &amp; STABILE, M. (2003). Socioeconomic Status and Child Health: Why Is the Relationship Stronger for Older Children? American Economic Review. 93, 1813-1823.</li></ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Kaiser Foundation (2010). "The Uninsured: A Primer." <a href="http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7451-06.pdf">http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7451-06.pdf</a>. Read pages 1-12.</li></ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- CBO (2008). "Technological Change and the Growth of Health Care Spending." Download the full text in PDF format at <a href="http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/89xx/doc8947/01-31-TechHealth.pdf">http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/89xx/doc8947/01-31-TechHealth.pdf</a>.</li><li>- CUTLER DM, &amp; MCCLELLAN M. (2001). Is technological change in medicine worth it? Health Affairs.</li></ul>
Medical malpractice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Background on Tort Reform, Congressional Budget Office report.</li><li>- Understanding medical malpractice insurance: A primer</li></ul>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cutler, David M., 1994. "A Guide to Health Care Reform." Journal of Economic Perspectives, 8(3): 13-29.</li><li>- June E. O'Neill &amp; Dave M. O'Neill, 2008. "Health Status, Health Care and Inequality: Canada vs. the U.S," Forum for Health Economics &amp; Policy, Berkeley Electronic Press, vol. 10(1).</li></ul>
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- GRUBER, J. (1997). Policy Watch: Medicaid and Uninsured Women and Children. Journal of Economic Perspectives. 11, 199-208.</li><li>- Kaiser Foundation (2010). "Medicare: A Primer." <a href="http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/7615-03.pdf">http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/7615-03.pdf</a>. Read pages 1-14; can skip pages 7-13 if not interested.</li><li>- Kaiser Foundation (2010). "Medicaid: A Primer." <a href="http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7334-04.pdf">http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7334-04.pdf</a>. Read pages 1-4, 6-12.</li></ul>

## 5. TEACHING METHODS:

The course will be conducted in the following format: For each chapter I will post the relevant power point presentation. In addition, there are videos for each chapter presented by Prof. Rahi Abouk where he explicitly covers the relevant material. Also, for some chapters there are some additional readings. There will be class discussion of some topics using the Discussion Board in Blackboard. You are required to access the Blackboard pages daily to check for announcements and other postings such as assignments.

I strongly encourage you to keep up with the course since the material that is usually covered over a whole semester is compressed into three weeks.

## 6. 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. Assignments will be available on BlackBoard and should be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due dates. **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 90 minutes to finish them.

**Assignment 1 from chapters 1 to 7, due date: 01/10/2024**

**Midterm: 01/12/2024**

**Assignment 2 from chapters 12, 13, 15, 18, and 22, due date: 01/22/2024**

**Final: 01/24/2024**

## GRADING POLICY

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

## 7. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy (a.k.a. cheating in its various forms) will not be tolerated. If you have not done so yet, please familiarize yourself with the **Academic Integrity Policy** (available online at <http://www.wpunj.edu/dotAsset/230122.pdf>). **All parts of that Policy are relevant and important**, but for the online setting of the class, I especially would like to stress sections II.B. (on plagiarism) and II.C. (on collusion), i.e., **you are not allowed to work with anyone else on a graded assignment.**

To name a few examples,

- **working together with another student on a graded assignment**
- **sharing your work for a graded assignment with another student**
- **getting help on a graded assignment from another student**
- **getting help on a graded assignment from a tutor (in person or online)**

- **uploading a graded assignment to an online tutoring site**
- **copying another student's work for a graded assignment**
- **submitting work for a graded assignment obtained from an online tutoring site are all violations of the Academic Integrity Policy.**

The above is **not meant to be an exhaustive list of possible violations**, so if you have any questions about whether something is permissible, I strongly encourage you to check with me ahead of time. I am available to help you with graded assignments (within certain limits, e.g., I cannot tell you whether an answer is correct before you submit an assignment, but am able to answer more general questions).