

ECON 3190: Introduction to Health Economics

Spring 2021: online

Credit: 3 credit hours

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Course Overview:

Economic issues such as income, cost or demand and supply lie at the heart of most decisions concerning health and health care. Because of this sometimes uncomfortable truth, a sound understanding of healthcare markets is a crucial ingredient in designing well-functioning, reliable and just health systems. This course will guide your first steps into the complex and sometimes controversial field of Health Economics by studying how economic theories and principles such as competition, insurance, production and distribution can be applied to the health sector.

Due to the unique properties of the health sector and the particularly high stakes of human life and well-being at play it is important to apply a wide, critical and reflected view to the presented theories. Therefore this course will draw on a variety of different resources, authors and ideas to give you a broad exposure to different themes and perspectives in health economics and to be accessible to the diverse set of students enrolled in this class.

Expectations:

The class will rely heavily on online discussions of the assigned materials. Active, well prepared and respectful participation in the discussions is expected from all students. Thoroughly working through all materials and assignments is not only imperative for passing the class, you will also benefit from more reflected and thoughtful discussions throughout the class.

You should inform me immediately if an emergency prevents you from submitting an assignment or completing the course. As with all other questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me via email. Pay close attention to Canvas Announcements as it will be the main tool for communicating and notifying important affairs relating to the class.

Course Materials:

Students are not required to acquire a textbook for this class. All materials (readings, podcasts, web-content etc.) will be distributed to the students through the course page on Canvas.

Course Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Apply economic principals, tools, and logic to discuss and examine health and health care issues, including health care systems, markets, and reform proposals.
2. Describe and critically review key components and characteristics of the American health care system
3. Compare and contrast tools of economic evaluation of health care
4. Explain the economic rationale behind health insurance and its effect on use and cost of health care
5. Explain and critically review media coverage as well as peer reviewed academic articles on health and health care

Assignments:

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There will be three assignments in total each worth 5 percent of the total grade.

Discussions:

We will have weekly online discussions which will take up majority of the grade component. Active, well prepared and engaged discussions are expected from all students.

Term Paper:

In addition to the general class assignments and discussions, students must write a 5 page term paper due on the last day of final exam period (**May 5th**). Students are free to choose their topic, but it should be clearly linked to the content of the class and should be discussed with me prior to writing.

Grade Weights

Assignments	15%
Discussions	70%
Term Paper	15%

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00 A	73.00 - 76.99 C
90.00 - 92.99 A-	70.00 - 72.99 C-
87.00 - 89.99 B+	67.00 - 69.99 D+
83.00 - 86.99 B	63.00 - 66.99 D
80.00 - 82.99 B-	60.00 - 62.99 D-
77.00 - 79.99 C+	≤ 59.99 F

Tentative Schedule

Week	Content
1	Introduction
2	Problems in Health Economics
3	Comparative Health Systems
4	Health Expenditures
5	Cost of Health
6	Production of Health
7	Production of Health
8	Behavioral Economics and Health
9	Recessions and Health
10	Health Insurance
11	Tools of Economic Assessment
12	Tools of Economic Assessment
13	Moral Hazard
14	Cost Sharing

Note: This syllabus is meant to serve as an outline and guide for our course. Please note that I may modify it with reasonable notice to you. I may also modify the Course Schedule to accommodate the needs of our class. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas under Announcements

Last day to add without a permission code: Friday, January 22

Last day to waitlist: Friday, January 22

Last day to add, drop, or audit classes: Friday, January 29

Last day to withdraw from classes: Friday, March 12

Last day to elect CR/NC: Friday, April 9

Last day to reverse CR/NC option: Friday, April 23

University Policies

The Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

University Safety Statement

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Faculty and Students' Responsibilities

“All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.”

Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Policy

The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, status as a disabled individual, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, genetic information or protected veteran's status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services.

Additionally, the University endeavors to provide reasonable accommodations and to ensure equal access to qualified persons with disabilities. Inquiries concerning perceived discrimination or requests for disability accommodations may be referred to the University's Title

IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator:

Director, Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

201 South Presidents Circle, Rm.135

Salt Lake City, UT, 84112

801-581-8365 (voice/tdd)

801-585-5746 (fax)

<https://oeo.utah.edu>

Other University policies such as harassment, withdrawal, and the student grievance process can be found at the website of the registrar.

<https://registrar.utah.edu/handbook/>

Undocumented Student Support Statement

Immigration is a complex phenomenon with broad impact—those who are directly affected by it, as well as those who are indirectly affected by their relationships with family members, friends, and loved ones. If your immigration status presents obstacles to engaging in specific activities or fulfilling specific course criteria, confidential arrangements may be requested from the Dream Center. Arrangements with the Dream Center will not jeopardize your student status, your financial aid, or any other part of your residence. The Dream Center offers a wide range of resources to support undocumented students (with and without DACA) as well as students from mixed-status families. To learn more, please contact the Dream Center at 801.213.3697 or visit dream.utah.edu.

Student Names and Personal Pronouns

Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name as well as "Preferred first name" (if previously entered by you in the Student Profile section of your CIS account). While CIS refers to this as merely a preference, I will honor you by referring to you with the name and pronoun that feels best for you in class, on papers, exams, group projects, etc. Please advise me of any name or pronoun changes (and update CIS) so I can help create a learning environment in which you, your name, and your pronoun will be respected. If you need assistance getting your preferred name on your UIDcard, please visit the LGBT Resource Center Room 409 in the Olpin Union Building, or email bpeacock@sa.utah.edu to schedule a time to drop by.

Academic Dishonesty

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined by the University Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Cheating, Falsification and Plagiarism

Wellness Statement

Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student's ability to succeed and thrive at University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

Veterans Center

If you are a student veteran, the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center located in Room 161 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: <http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/>. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.

LGBT Resource Center

The LGBT Resource Center offers Gender and Sexuality (formerly Safe Zone) trainings for faculty, staff and instructors at the U. You can also schedule one for your office or Department. The aim of the training is to promote inclusive teaching and foster a respectful, safe environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning individuals in our classrooms. For more information about trainings/ workshops, panels and suggesting on how to ask about personal pronouns and preferred student names please go to: <http://lgbt.utah.edu/lgbtrc-programs/trainings.php>. If you plan to indicate that your classroom is a safe zone, please attend one of these trainings.

Learners of English as an Additional Language

If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language and writing development. These resources include: the Writing Center (<http://writingcenter.utah.edu/>); the Writing Program (<http://writing-program.utah.edu/>); the English Language Institute (<http://continue.utah.edu/eli/>). Please let me know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

Students can find the full Student Code of Conduct and Accommodation Policy at:

- a. Student Code: <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>
- b. Accommodation Policy (see Section Q): <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php>

Important to remember

Please familiarize yourself with the College of Social and Behavioral Science Emergency Action Plan (<http://content.csbs.utah.edu/~mli/CSBS%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf>).