

Course Title: Health Economics

Instructor: Ali Jalali, Office: Bldg. 72 No. 30, Email: ali.jalali@economics.utah.edu

Office Hours*: Wednesday 4:00 - 5:30pm

Prerequisites: See University General Catalog: <http://www.catalog.utah.edu>

Textbook: There is no required textbook for this course. Those who prefer to have a textbook on hand as a reference the following are recommended: [1]Sloan, F. A., & Hsieh, C. R. (2012). *Health Economics*. MIT Press; [2 - for a more advanced students] Zweifel, P., Breyer, F., & Kifmann, M. (2009). *Health economics*. Springer Science & Business Media.

Course Outline[†]:

Introduction and Basics of US Health Care	week 1
Topic 1 [Health Care Expenditures]	week 2 - 3
Topic 2 [Health Care Markets and Institutions]	week 4 - 5
Topic 3 [Economic Valuation of Life and Health]	week 5
First Exam (tentative date)	June 14 th
Topic 4 [Decision Models for Health Care Evaluation]	week 6 - 7
Topic 5 [Production of Health]	week 8 - 9
Topic 6 [Forms of Delivery of Medical Care]	week 10
Topic 7 [Political Economy of Health]	week 11
Review & Catch-up	week 12
Final Exam (TBD).....	1 day

Course Description: This course is designed to provide an introduction to health care markets and institutions in the United States from an economic perspective. Diagrammatic and mathematical tools of economic analysis will be introduced during lectures to assist in student's understanding of such markets. Our aim in the course is to apply foundational theories, key concepts and ideas from relevant economic literature on ongoing debates in the finance and delivery of medical care in the U.S., with special attention on empirical methods of evaluating health care programs and medical decisions. Our provisional aim is to develop students' critical thinking capacity and ability to apply opposing economic perspectives in analyzing health care issues. Constructive debates through directed discussion led by the instructor along with the use of a variety of resources for each topic, including academic articles, news articles and selected chapters from texts will be utilized. All readings will be posted on CANVAS. Students are encouraged to read course materials for each week prior to class meeting. Not all technical concepts from the assigned readings will be important for class performance, however part of the mission of the course is for students to synthesize material covered in these readings in order to retain a profound understanding of the course subject.

[†]The 'Course Outline' is tentative and subject to change. We may or may not cover all topics listed.

*If the scheduled office hours conflict with your course schedule, you are encouraged to email me in advance (minimum 48hrs prior) to set up an appointment.

Grading & Policy: Course grades will be determined by a weighted average of the following: Midterm Exam (35%), Quantitative Assignments (10%), Final Exam (45%), Article Summaries (10%).

Article Summaries: All students are required to submit 5 article summary for selected readings throughout the semester. Articles must be chosen from readings posted on CANVAS. The instructor will provide advance notice and instruction online via CANVAS announcements. The length should not exceed one page single-spaced or two pages double-spaced. The purpose of these summaries are to allow the instructor to assess students' comfort in retaining the main ideas from the readings. Therefore, students are encouraged to indicate what was confusing or difficult to understand in order to help inform guided discussions during lecture. Other assignments or classwork may be included as part of the article summary grade at the discretion of the instructor.

Quantitative Assignments: A quantitative assignment will be assigned during Week 7 that will ask you to apply the quantitative methods learned during topics 3 and 4 to produce a cost-effectiveness analysis using a Markov model. The assignment as well as the due dates will be posted on CANVAS.

MHA Student Competencies Addressed: This is a core course in the first year MHA program.

Competency	Level of Learning	Assessment Method
Strategic & Analytical Thinking: Analyze situations taking into consideration diverse controllable and uncontrollable factors	Novice	Students will demonstrate analytic skills in oral discussion, article summaries, and CE assignment
Communication: Ability to speak and write clearly and effectively	Advanced Beginner	Students will demonstrate effective written communication skills through CE assignment, article summaries, and exams
Business Knowledge & Skills: Understand and use financial and accounting information	Competent	Questions on Midterm and Final exams related to CB and CE methods
Business Knowledge & Skills: understand the fundamental principles of health care organization	Advanced Beginner	Midterm and Final exam questions related to these principles
Leadership & Ethics: Ability to be flexible and adaptable, and think creatively in a changing environment	novice	Align financial incentives for ethical practice; think creatively and lead change by engaging in crucial conversation in class

Communication: Students are responsible for keeping up-to-date on class announcements and material posted on CANVAS and in class. Failing to read course announcements and assignments posted online is not a valid excuse for incomplete tasks or assignments.

Academic Conduct: As a University of Utah student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic policy [Policy 6-400: Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities], the Student Code of Conduct and the University's Scholastic Standards. All academic work and behavior must meet the standards described in the Student Code and the Scholastic Standards found at: <http://www.deanofstudents.utah.edu/conduct> and <http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php> Lack of knowledge of the Student Code is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the Scholastic Standards should be directed to the instructor.

Extra Help: Do not hesitate to come to my office during office hours or by appointment to discuss a topic from a lecture or any aspect of the course. You also may want to consider the ASUU tutoring services. Information is available at: <http://www.tutoringcenter.utah.edu>. If you need writing assistance, you are encouraged to visit the University Writing Center. The Writing Center is located on the 2nd floor of the Marriott Library in room 1171. For more information visit: <http://www.writingcenter.utah.edu>.

Students with Disabilities: The Department of Economics is dedicated in providing equal opportunities for success and reasonable accommodations to Disabled Students as guided by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and University policy. 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. Please visit the Center for Disability Services' website for more information: <http://www.disability.utah.edu>.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct: Please read the following University statement on 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, veterans 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)."

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend classes regularly. A student who incurs an excessive number of absences without medical documentation will not be allotted any special resources from the instructor to make up for those absences or related course material or content.

Addressing Gender Inclusion: It is your right to be identified by your correct name and pronouns. I support people of all gender expressions and gender identities and welcome students to use whichever pronouns or names that best reflect who they are. In this spirit, I expect all students to also use the correct pronouns and names of classmates. Please inform me if my documentation reflects a name different than what you use and if you have any questions or concerns please contact me after class, by email, or during office hours.

Important Dates:

Class Begins	May 17 th
Class Ends	August 2 nd
First Exam	June 14 th
Final Exam	TBD