

ECON 3301-001. HEALTH ECONOMICS

MW 5:30 - 6:50pm

COB 239

Fall, 2011

Instructor: Don Blackburn

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Office Hours: MW 5:00 – 5:25pm, TTh 8:00 – 8:25pm, or by appointment

Course Prerequisites: ECON 2306. PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS

Course Objectives:

This course will provide an overview of the field of Health Economics. At the end of the course you will have an understanding of the determinants of health status, the impact of economic forces on the health sector, the demand for and the supply of health services, the role of competition, new organizational entities, and the changing regulatory climate. Recent trends and issues will be discussed.

Student Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to:

- Analyze the production and consumption of health and medical care from an economic perspective.
- Explain the structure of the physician services, hospital services and pharmaceutical industries.
- Compare the health care system in the United States to health care systems in other countries.
- Explain the impact of the third-party payor system on the health care industry.
- Identify the role of government in the health care industry.
- Analyze the benefits and costs of reforms to the health care system in the United States.

Text: Health Economics: Theories, Insights, and Industry Studies, 5th Edition, Rexford E. Santerre and Stephen P. Neun.

Course Outline:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 – Health and Medical Care: An Economic Perspective
- Chapter 3 – Cost and Benefit Analysis
- Chapter 4 – Health Care Systems and Institutions
- Chapter 5 – The Demand for Medical Care
- Chapter 6 -- The Demand for Medical Insurance: Traditional and Managed Care Coverage
- Chapter 7 – Medical Care Production and Costs
- Chapter 8 – Structure, Conduct, Performance, and Market Analysis
- Chapter 9 – Government, Health, and Medical Care
- Chapter 10 – Government as Health Insurer
- Chapter 11 – The Private Health Insurance Industry
- Chapter 12 – The Physician Services Industry
- Chapter 13 – The Hospital Services Industry
- Chapter 14 -- The Pharmaceutical Industry
- Chapter 15 – The Long-Term Care Industry
- Chapter 16 – Health Insurance Reform

Current events will be introduced during the semester as appropriate.

Chapters in the text may not be covered in numerical sequence. This outline may be adjusted during the semester because of class progress or time constraints. Announcements will be made in class for any changes.

Exam Dates and Content:

Exam 1. Wednesday, September 21, 2011. Chapters 1-4.

Exam 2. Wednesday, October 12, 2011. Chapters 5-8.

Exam 3. Wednesday, November 2, 2011. Chapters 9-12.

Final Exam. Monday, December 12, 2011, 5:30-8:00pm. Chapters 13-16, Current Events, Comprehensive Materials.

These dates and content may be adjusted during the semester. Announcements will be made in class for any changes.

Grading and Methods of Evaluation:

Scantron 882-E or 882-ES forms are required for each quiz and exam. You are responsible for providing these forms and a #2 pencil for marking the forms. You may use a calculator for any quiz or exam but may not share a calculator.

Class Participation: Class participation and daily quizzes are 20% of your grade. Daily quizzes may be announced or unannounced. The two lowest quiz grades may be dropped.

Exams: Four exams will be given. Exams 1-3 and the Final Exam are each 15% of your grade.

Class Project: A class project is 20% of your grade. The project will be discussed and assigned in class. The project may be individual or team effort. No more than two students may work as a team on a project submission. If two students work on a project submission, both will receive the same grade for the project.

Cell phones, iPods or other music devices, pagers, recording devices, and computers are not allowed in class. They must be turned off or silenced and not be on the desk surfaces. Cell phones and music devices may not be used as calculators.

Grades: A = 89.50-100 B = 79.50-89.49 C = 69.50-79.49 D = 59.50-69.49 F = 59.49 and below

Make-up Exam Policy: Daily quizzes will not be made up. If you miss an exam for a valid reason, you may substitute the Final Exam grade for the missed exam. **YOU MAY SUBSTITUTE THE FINAL EXAM SCORE FOR ONLY ONE MISSED EXAM DURING THE SEMESTER.** If at all possible, notify me **BEFORE** the exam class. I reserve the right to determine validity of and require documentation proof for the absence excuse.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend each class and are expected to **arrive on time** and come to each class having read the text materials for that class and with any other assignments completed. Students who miss a class are responsible for securing any and all coursework missed.

Blackboard: This class will use Blackboard, an electronic learning software platform, for the distribution of course information. Go to <http://elearn.uta.edu/> to log in. Be sure to check the class Blackboard site on a regular basis for announcements and other material related to class.

Grade Grievances: You have one calendar year from the date the grade is assigned to initiate any grievance. The normal academic channels are instructor, department chair, academic dean, and the Provost.

Drop Policy: It is the student's responsibility to complete the course or withdraw from the course in accordance with University Regulations. Students are strongly encouraged to verify their grade status before dropping a course.

College Policy: Students who have not paid by the census date and are dropped for non-payment cannot receive a grade for the course in any circumstances. Therefore a student dropped for non-payment who continues to attend the course will not receive a grade for the course. Emergency loans are available to help students pay tuition and fees. Students can apply for emergency loans by going to the Bursar's Office.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. The Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22 describes scholastic dishonesty as

Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give an unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.

Americans with Disabilities Act: If a student requires an accommodation based on disability, the student should meet with the instructor in his/her office during the first week of the semester. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide “reasonable accommodation” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

Student Support Services: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. They include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Bomb Threats: If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb threat, be aware that UTA will attempt to trace the phone call and prosecute all responsible parties. Every effort will be made to avoid cancellation of presentations or tests caused by bomb threats. Unannounced alternate sites will be available for these classes. Your instructor will make you aware of alternate class sites in the event that your classroom is not available.