

ECON 3301: Economics of Health Course Syllabus

University of Texas at Arlington, Fall 2016

Course materials can be found on Blackboard: elearn.uta.edu

Course Details

Course Time/Place: TTH 5:30 – 6:50, COB 243
Instructor: Christy Spivey
Email: cspivey@uta.edu
Office Phone: 817-272-1218
Office: COB 328
Office Hours: TTH 3:30 – 5:00PM, or by appointment



Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes

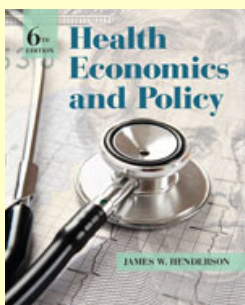
This course will provide you with an overview of the field of Health Economics. It will prepare you to:

- Analyze the consumption and determinants of health and medical care spending from an economic perspective.
- Analyze the benefits and costs of various healthcare policies and reforms around the world.
- Explain the impact of the third-party payor system on the health care industry.
- Explain the pricing structure of the physician services, hospital services and pharmaceutical industries.
- Appreciate the importance of and apply the basic principles of economic evaluation in healthcare.
- Recognize and evaluate the relevance of behavioral economics techniques in health and healthcare.

Prerequisites

ECON 2306 Principles of Microeconomics

Recommended Book
Henderson, James W.,
Health Economics and
Policy, 6th edition.



*“Learning results from
what the student does
and thinks and only
from what the student
does and thinks. The
teacher can advance
learning only by
influencing what the
student does to learn.”*

-Herbert A. Simon, Nobel
Laureate

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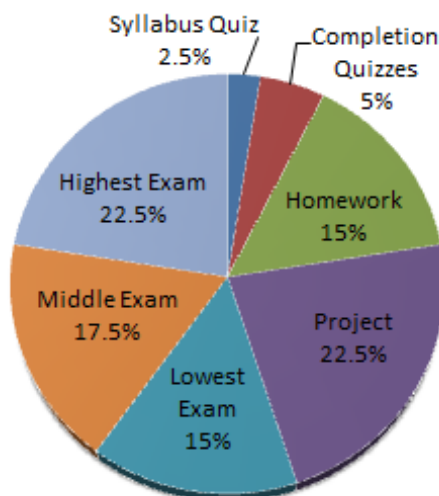
Other Readings

Several required articles are posted on Blackboard.

Assessment

Your grade will be determined by a syllabus quiz, three (optional) graded homework assignments, five completion/extra credit quizzes, a project, and three exams. The percentage of total points will be allocated as follows:

Syllabus Quiz	2.5%
Completion Quizzes (1% each):	5%
Homework (5% each):	15%
Project:	22.5%
Lowest Exam:	15%
Middle Exam:	17.5%
Highest Exam:	22.5%



Your letter grade will be determined by the percentage of total points earned as follows:

A	90% and above
B	80 – 89.99%
C	70 – 79.99%
D	60 – 69.99%
F	below 60%

You may wonder over the course of the semester if there will be a curve. The answer is almost certainly no, but if there is one, it is likely to be very small. So, you should absolutely not depend upon it. I do not determine this until the end of the semester after the final exam. In other words, I do not curve individual assignments. I only assign incompletes in the course for documented health/family emergencies. Please do not ask me to assign an incomplete if you intend to drop the course but forget to do so.

Please use the [grade calculator](#) posted on the Welcome page in Blackboard to determine your assessment progress throughout the semester.

Assignments

Each course topic on the Blackboard course menu contains a Learning Module, which is basically a “Cliffs Notes” version of the text readings, with some additional material that we will be covering thrown in. Within each learning module, you will find one Blackboard page for each subtopic, which may contain text, graphics, videos, and links to webpages. The Learning Modules and the posted articles are the most important readings!

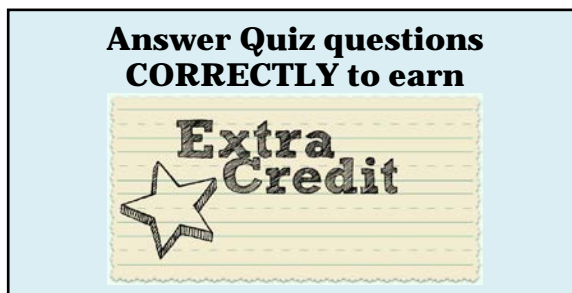
Syllabus Quiz

The Syllabus Quiz will be given through Blackboard. Thus, you can complete it at home while looking at the syllabus. The goal is to familiarize yourself with course policies and to make sure you can use the grade calculator. Answers will be available on Blackboard after the due date. Therefore, no late submissions are accepted.

Completion Quizzes on Blackboard

Several completion quizzes will be given through Blackboard throughout the semester, based either on material covered in class or on the assigned readings and documentary. They are for a completion grade only. Note that you will not be given credit for skipped questions. So, if you answer all questions on time, you will get 100%, regardless of whether you have answered them correctly. Late quizzes will **NOT** be accepted. They must be submitted (not just begun) by the specified deadline. Answers will be available on Blackboard after the due date. You should complete these on your own, without collaboration.

In addition, you can earn up to 2 points (out of 100) of extra credit on your final course score by answering questions correctly. You will know how many you answered correctly as soon as you submit each one. The average of the quiz grades (based on correct answers, as if they were being graded for correctness) will be divided by 50, and those points will be added to your final course score.



Graded Homework (Optional)

Several homework assignments (optionally turned in and graded) will be assigned throughout the semester and will be posted on Blackboard. Your completed homework assignment should be uploaded to Blackboard as one document, a Microsoft Word file or PDF file. You can download free software to turn any document into a PDF file here:

<http://www.cutepdf.com/Products/CutePDF/writer.asp>

Since homework is optional, late homework assignments will be NOT be accepted. You may discuss your homework assignments with one another, but you should do your own thinking and turn in your own work. In other words, do not copy someone's work or turn in someone else's work as your own. Doing your own work will help prepare you for exams. I am also happy to help you with homework problems.

If you turn in the homework, it will be graded and count towards your overall grade. While homework is optional to be turned in, it is **essential** that you do and understand the problems in order to do well on exams.

You may turn in 1, 2, or 3 homework assignments. Each counts for 5% of your grade, for a total of 15%, as explained above. For each homework you decide not to turn in, the missing 5% will be redistributed to the next exam. If you turn in none, then your grade will be determined as follows:

Syllabus Quiz	2.5%
Completion Quizzes (1% each):	5%
Project:	22.5%
Lowest Exam:	20%
Middle Exam:	22.5%
Highest Exam:	27.5%

Project

A semester-long, collaborative project based on designing a healthcare system will be the focus of some class time and some of your out-of-class time. The various components of the project are described in a separate document.

Exams

The three exams are not cumulative. The last exam will be given on the day and time the university specifies for final exams, **in our classroom**. It is my policy not to provide the day and time of the last exam. It is your responsibility to find the day and time online AND to confirm it with a classmate. The link to UTA's final exam schedule:

<http://www.uta.edu/records/calendars/final-exams.php>

Please bring a pencil and non-programmable calculator to exams. You do not need to bring a scantron. No makeup exams will be given unless my permission is given BEFORE the exam. You can take a makeup exam early or late ONLY if you have appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, not simply verification you went to the health center). If you do not contact me prior to a missed exam you will receive a zero. Barring extenuating circumstances, makeup exams must be taken before the next class meeting.

If you feel your exam has been graded incorrectly, please submit your issue in writing within one week of receiving the graded exam back, either on the front of the exam or on a separate sheet of paper attached to the exam. Please note the question number you are inquiring about and what you think is wrong.

Course Schedule

The below **tentative** schedule includes the topics to be covered, the readings that go along with the topics, and important dates. You can also find this schedule as a separate document on our course Welcome Page in Blackboard. Refer to the latter for inevitable updates of the schedule throughout the semester.

Economics of Health, Fall 2016				
	Day	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	Thursday	Aug 25	Welcome	
2	Tuesday	Aug 30	Intro & Tools for Health Econ: Utility/Demand Curve	
3	Thursday	Sept 1	Intro & Tools for Health Econ: Elasticity/Regression	sign up for PROJECT topic on Google doc
4	Tuesday	Sept 6	Intro & Market Failure: In-Class Experiment	Syllabus Quiz due 5pm
5	Thursday	Sept 8	Comparative Health Systems; Experiment Debriefing	Completion Quiz 1 due 5pm (Intro and Tools)
6	Tuesday	Sept 13	Meet in Computer Lab (TBD): Work on HW1/Infographic/Read Learning Module 2 and watch documentary "Sick Around the World"	Read Learning Module 2 and watch documentary "Sick Around the World" on own time if not in Lab today
7	Thursday	Sept 15	Comparative Health Systems	HW 1 due 5pm (Regression In Excel, Experiment)
8	Tuesday	Sept 20	Demand for Health	
9	Thursday	Sept 22	Demand for Health	Completion Quiz 2 due 5pm (Comparative Health - documentary/article)
10	Tuesday	Sept 27	PROJECT: Group 1 topic-specific discussion, REVIEW	PROJECT: individual Infographic due 5pm
11	Thursday	Sept 29	EXAM 1	
12	Tuesday	Oct 4	PROJECT: Meet with Group 2	PROJECT: evaluation of peer infographics due
13	Thursday	Oct 6	Demand for Health; Insurance: In-Class Experiment	
14	Tuesday	Oct 11	Insurance	
15	Thursday	Oct 13	Insurance	Completion Quiz 3 due 5pm (Demand for Health)
16	Tuesday	Oct 18	Hospitals, Drugs, Docs	
17	Thursday	Oct 20	NO CLASS, assignment TBD	
18	Tuesday	Oct 25	NO CLASS, assignment TBD	
19	Thursday	Oct 27	Hospitals, Drugs, Docs	
20	Tuesday	Nov 1	Hospitals, Drugs, Docs, REVIEW	HW 2 due 5pm (Insurance)
21	Thursday	Nov 3	EXAM 2	
22	Tuesday	Nov 8	Hospitals, Drugs, Docs	
23	Thursday	Nov 10	Hospitals, Drugs, Docs	
24	Tuesday	Nov 15	Economic Evaluation	
25	Thursday	Nov 17	PROJECT: collaborative work	Completion Quiz 4 due 5pm (Articles - Docs, Hospitals, Drugs)
26	Tuesday	Nov 22	Behavioral Economics	
	Thursday	Nov 24	THANKSGIVING BREAK	
27	Tuesday	Nov 29	PROJECT: collaborative work	Completion Quiz 5 due 5pm (BE articles)
28	Thursday	Dec 1	PROJECT: Presentation	
29	Tuesday	Dec 6	REVIEW	HW 3 due 5pm (Economic Evaluation probs)

Expectations

Treat this syllabus as a contract that you have “signed” by enrolling in the course. You are responsible for remembering all deadlines. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus during the semester, although I will try not to do so. Any changes will be communicated to you via email and/or during class. You are responsible for being aware of these changes. Please refrain from asking me questions that can be answered by reading this document.

I recommend printing any posted PowerPoint slides (several to a page) and bringing them to class to take notes on. However, please realize that the slides and other material posted on Blackboard do not include everything covered in class. It is also important that you read the assigned articles posted on Blackboard. If you are willing to put in the effort, you are likely to succeed in this course. A generally-accepted rule of thumb is that for every hour spent in class, you should spend approximately two to three hours outside of class studying. I want everyone to do well, and everyone is given that opportunity. ***Please ask questions in class and come see me during office hours (or schedule an appointment) if you need further clarification.*** I do not know if you don't understand something unless you tell me!



Communication

I will post documents on Blackboard and email you through Blackboard, ***so please check your university-provided email account daily!*** Please feel free to email me at the address listed above. I check email regularly most Mondays-Fridays, but I cannot guarantee a quick response over the weekend or late at night.

Email is definitely the best way to reach me. If you try to reach me on my office phone, please do not leave a message and expect me to get back to you in a timely manner. I do not check phone messages nearly as frequently as email, as the telephone does not visually indicate that a message is waiting for me. However, feel free to call me, and I will happily talk to you if I am in the office. Phone appointments can be set up with me in advance if a question can't be resolved by email and we are unable to connect in person.

***You can
learn more
about me and
my research
[HERE!](#)***

Attendance

At UTA, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. In this course, attendance will not be a formal part of your assessment. However, I reserve the right to take attendance and use that information to give extra credit or when determining whether to "round up" when determining final grades.

Thus, you are strongly encouraged to attend every class and arrive to class ON TIME (I understand there are legitimate reasons for being late, so please enter QUIETLY if you cannot help being late). You are also expected to silence your cell phone. ***You are responsible for all material covered in class whether you are present or not (including material not covered in the text or on Blackboard). If you miss a class, you should get notes from a classmate and review them BEFORE coming to me for help on that particular topic.*** I will not provide you with class notes beyond what is posted on Blackboard.

However, while UT Arlington does not require instructors to take attendance in their courses, the U.S. Department of Education requires that the University have a mechanism in place to mark when Federal Student Aid recipients "begin attendance in a course." UT Arlington instructors will report when students begin attendance in a course as part of the final grading process. Specifically, when assigning a student a grade of F, faculty report the last date a student attended their class based on evidence such as a test, participation in a class project or presentation, or an engagement online via Blackboard. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Academic Integrity

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

According to the UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, "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 unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

More specifically related to this course, academic dishonesty includes communicating with other students during quizzes and exams; referencing books, notes or "cheat sheets" during quizzes and exams (except when authorized); copying or presenting someone else's work as your own. Violators will automatically receive a grade of zero on the assignment or exam. Anytime a penalty is imposed the matter must be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Administrative Policies

Drop Policy

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Drops can continue through **November 2 for Fall 2016**. **Note: I am unable to sign a drop form after the official deadline.** It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Student Feedback Survey

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Student Support Services

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>.

The IDEAS Center (2nd Floor of Central Library) offers free tutoring to all students with a focus on transfer students, sophomores, veterans and others undergoing a transition to UT Arlington. To schedule an appointment with a peer tutor or mentor email IDEAS@uta.edu or call (817) 272-6593.

Electronic Communication

UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding

financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Disability Accommodations

UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of **a letter certified** by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671 is also available to all students to help increase their understanding of personal issues, address mental and behavioral health problems and make positive changes in their lives.

Non-Discrimination Policy

The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/eos.

Title IX Policy

The University of Texas at Arlington (“University”) is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Emergency Exit Procedures

Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members

and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the event that the university cancels class due to inclement weather, any exam scheduled that day will automatically be scheduled during the next class period. Please check your university-provided email account regularly if bad weather is in the area.

***Emergency Phone Numbers:
In case of an on-campus emergency,
call the UT Arlington Police Department at
817-272-3003 (non-campus phone), 2-3003 (campus phone).
You may also dial 911.***