

**HCAD 5333-050. HEALTH ECONOMICS**

MW 6:00 - 10:00pm

University Center of Dallas, 301 N. Market Street, Dallas, TX 75202

Summer 2, 2018

**Instructor: Don Blackburn**

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Phone Number: 817-272-3061 (Economics Department Office)

Office: COB 240B

Office Hours: MW 5:30 – 6:00pm at the classroom, or by appointment

**Course Description:** An economic perspective on a variety of timely health policy issues, including: health expenditures, public and private insurance, incentives, provider education and labor markets, hospitals, prescription drugs, malpractice, externalities, long-term care, the Internet, and various proposals for reform.

**Course Prerequisites:** ECON 5311 or equivalent. Restricted to Graduate Health Care Administration majors.

**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, organizational entities, and the changing regulatory climate, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. Recent trends and issues will be discussed.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this class the student should 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 and markets from an economic perspective.
- Explain the impact of the third-party payor system on the health care industry.
- Identify and analyze 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:**

The Health Care Handbook: A Clear and Concise Guide to the United States Health Care System, 2nd Edition, Elisabeth Askins, M.D. and Nathan Moore, M.D., Academic Publishing Systems, Washington University School of Medicine, 2014. (Required)

**Other Requirements:**

Cell phones are never allowed in class. They must be turned off or silenced and not on desk surfaces during class.

Other electronic devices are not allowed in class, except for class-related purposes.

**Course Text Outline:**

Askins and Moore text:

Chapter 1 - Health Care Systems and Delivery

Chapter 2 - Insurance and Economics

Chapter 3 - Quality, Technology, and Medical Malpractice

Chapter 4 - Research, Pharmaceuticals, and Medical Devices

Chapter 5 - Policy and Reform  
Chapter 6 - Health Care Providers

Other Sources:

Using Economics to Study Health Issues  
Economic Analysis Techniques and Tools  
Demand and Supply for Health and Healthcare  
Economic Market Models  
Preexisting Conditions

Other materials will be introduced and used in class as appropriate. Current events will be introduced during the semester as appropriate.

Chapters in the texts may not be covered in numerical sequence. The Course Schedule below identifies the areas of study by week. This schedule may be adjusted during the semester because of class progress or time constraints. Announcements will be made in class for any changes.

**Major Assignments and Examinations:**

A Mid-Term Examinations plus the Final Examination will be given.  
Each student must prepare and give a class presentation as part of a group.

**Attendance:**

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required but attendance is a critical indicator in student success. 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.

As the instructor of this section, I expect each student to attend each class, arrive on time, and come to each class having read the text and having read or viewed other material for that class and with any other assignments or assessments completed. I have elected to take attendance at class meetings but will not factor attendance into the grade.

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 or other tool. This date is reported to the Department of Education for federal financial aid recipients.

Should any official request for your attendance be made, I will reply to that request based on my class attendance records.

Students who miss a class are responsible for securing any and all coursework or announcements missed. It is my suggestion that each student make an arrangement with one or two other students for securing all coursework or announcements missed. I will not provide this information.

**Grading and Methods of Evaluation:**

**Grades:** A = 90-100   B = 80-89.99   C = 70-79.99   D = 60-69.99   F = Below 60

**Exams:** A Mid-Term Exam plus the Final Exam will be given. The Mid-Term Exams and the Final Exam are each 30% of your grade (60% total). Dates for the Mid-Term Exam and the Final Exam are:

Mid-Term Exam : Monday, 7/23/2018  
Final Exam: Wednesday, 8/8/2018

The content of the Mid-Term Exam and of the Final Exam are dependent on class progress and may be adjusted during the semester. Announcements will be made in class for any Exam changes.

**Make-up Exam Policy:** If you miss the Mid-Term Exam for a valid reason completely and totally beyond your control, you may be allowed to substitute the Final Exam percentage grade for the missed Mid-Term Exam percentage grade. This is not a guarantee that you may miss the Exam and receive a grade other than zero (0) on it. I reserve the right to determine validity of and require documentation proof for the absence excuse to be valid and accepted. If at all possible, notify me before the exam class if you must

miss the Mid-Term Exam, but in no case later than the next class period. **You must take the Final Exam.**

**Class Presentation:** A class presentation on a chosen subject is 40% of your grade. Students will be in self-selected teams. The subjects of presentations will be announced in class and each team of students will select a subject. Class presentations will be during the last two (2) weeks of the semester.

**Blackboard:** This class will use Blackboard, an electronic learning software platform, for the distribution of course information, including grade results during the semester. 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:** Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current University Catalog.

**Drop Policy:** **ABSOLUTELY NO DROPS AFTER THE OFFICIAL LAST DAY TO DROP.** 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.

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. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. 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/>).

**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.

**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)** <http://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](http://www.uta.edu/disability).

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)** [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://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 [uta.edu/eos](http://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](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX) or contact Ms. Michelle Willbanks, Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-4585 or [titleix@uta.edu](mailto:titleix@uta.edu)

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code in their courses by having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. 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. Additional information is available at <https://www.uta.edu/conduct/>. Faculty are encouraged to discuss plagiarism and share the following library tutorials <http://libguides.uta.edu/copyright/plagiarism> and <http://library.uta.edu/plagiarism/>

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.

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:** 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>.

**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/>

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online 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.

**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 or emergency 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. Please see <https://www.uta.edu/policy/procedure/7-6>.

**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](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Bomb or Other Threats:** If anyone is tempted to call in a bomb or other 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.

### **Course Schedule:**

An Excel spreadsheet for this schedule will be posted in Blackboard for this course. This schedule is subject to change. Announcements will be made in class for any changes and revised spreadsheets will be posted in Blackboard. **The spreadsheets in Blackboard will supersede this schedule if different.**

#### **Week 1**

Introductions; Syllabus; Using Economics to Study Health Issues; Analyzing Medical Care Markets; Economic Analysis of Health Care; Demand and Supply for Health and Healthcare; Choose Projects and Project Teams; Work on Projects

#### **Week 2**

Demand and Supply for Health and Healthcare; The Market for Health Insurance; Managed Care; Review for the Mid-Term Exam; Work on Projects

#### **Week 3**

Mid-Term Exam; The Physicians' Services Market; The Hospital Services Market; Work on Projects

#### **Week 4**

The Hospital Services Market; The Market for Pharmaceuticals; Confounding Factors; Policies to Enhance Access; Policies to Contain Costs; Work on Projects; Project Presentations

#### **Week 5**

Long-Term Care; Medical Care Reform in the United States; Work on Projects; Project Presentations; Review for the Final Exam; Final Exam

*"As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. - Donald C. Blackburn"*