

ECON 3630 01 Health Economics & Policy  
Lecture: M/W 3:40-5:45 PM, PGT 204

### **Basic Information**

Instructor: Erin Vernon, PhD

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Office Hours: Tu 9:15-10:15; W noon-1:00 or by appt

Office: Pigott 522

Text: Henderson, James W., Health Economics & Policy. 7th ed. Cengage. 2018.

Print ISBN: 9781337106757, 1337106755; eText ISBN: 9781337668279, 1337668273

Note: Older versions can be used but be wary that the chapter numbers will not match up and some of the data/information may be outdated.

Supplemental academic articles & current event articles will also be posted on Canvas within that particular week's module.

### **Course Description & Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Recognize and describe the relevance of economics to medical care.
- Be able to evaluate economic examples as they relate to personal incentives, voluntary exchanges, and to recognize the key concept of opportunity cost within the context of health care issues.
- Be able to identify the drawbacks and limitations of standard economic models within these applications
- Apply economic reasoning to specific health care issues and identify appropriate benchmarks of performance or success.
- Be able to describe the key considerations driving demand for health care today
- Understand how the supply of health care has evolved in the US and analyze the changing roles for health practitioners, hospitals, insurance companies and the government

### **University Mission**

Seattle University is dedicated to educating the whole person, to professional formation, to empowering leaders for a just and humane world.

### **Academic Honesty**

I expect that you will abide by the University's Academic Honesty Code. "Seattle University is committed to the principle that academic honesty and integrity are important values in the education process and that violations in the area should be dealt with in the appropriate manner." (Undergraduate Bulletin)

If you are not sure whether your particular action is acceptable according to the Academic Honesty Code, you should check with me before engaging it.

## Grading

In Class Problems	15%
Opp Cost of Health Assignment	10%
CEA Analysis Assignment	10%
Medicare Assignment	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	25%
Presentation	15%

## Grading Scale (percentage based)

A = 94-100	B- = 80-83	D+ = 67-69
A- = 90-93	C+ = 77-79	D = 64-66
B+ = 87-89	C = 74-76	D- = 60-63
B = 84-86	C- = 70-73	F = 0-59

**In Class Problems** –Almost every class will have a portion of time set aside for groups to work on problem sets. The work will be both quantitative and qualitative in nature. Full participation in these activities is expected. Groups or individuals not engaging in the problem sets or being obnoxious during these activities and/or the lectures will be graded down. If you are absent, please contact me for makeup problem sets to do on your own for makeup (**this must be done prior to next class for credit**).

**Assignments** – There will be 3 written assignments throughout the course with each being worth 5-10% of your grade. Detailed assignment requirements will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class well before the due dates.

**Exams** – There are two exams: a midterm and a final. Reviewing the in class problem sets is the best way to prepare for the exams. I do not offer make-ups unless you have a University approved absence. The dates of the exams are on the last page in this syllabus. The final is cumulative but will consist mainly of the post midterm material. I will advise you on the specific subjects from the earlier material that will be fair game for the final exam.

Please note for both of the exams, only pencils and a **basic** calculator will be allowed. Cell phones and all other electronic devices will NOT be allowed.

**Presentations** - The final component of your grade will involve students in groups of 4-5 presenting to the class on an important issue within health care. Similar to the assignments, specific details on this portion of the course requirement will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class.

### **Academic Resources**

- Library and Learning Commons(<http://www.seattleu.edu/learningcommons/>)  
(This includes: Learning Assistance Programs, Research [Library] Services, Writing Center, Math Lab)
- Academic Integrity Tutorial (found on Canvas and SU Online)

### **Academic Policies on Registrar website(<https://www.seattleu.edu/redhawk-axis/academic-policies/>)**

- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Grading Grievance Policy
- Professional Conduct Policy (only for those professional programs to which it applies)

### **Notice for students concerning Disabilities**

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (including an ‘invisible disability’ such as a learning disability, a chronic health problem, or a mental health condition) that interferes with your performance as a student in this class, you are encouraged to arrange support services and/or accommodations through Disabilities Services staff located in Loyola 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.

### **Notice Regarding Religious Accommodations**

It is the policy of Seattle University to reasonably accommodate students who, due to the observance of religious holidays, expect to be absent or endure a significant hardship during certain days of their academic course or program. Please see, Policy on Religious Accommodations for Students (<https://www.seattleu.edu/media/policies/Policy-on-Religious-Accommodations-for-Students---FINAL.PDF>).”

### **Office of Institutional Equity**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) prohibits discrimination based on sex in educational programs or activities that receive Federal financial assistance. This prohibition includes sexual misconduct, which encompasses sexual harassment and sexual violence. Seattle U remains committed to providing a safe and equitable learning, living, and working environment. Seattle U offers emergency, medical, and other support resources,

as well as assistance with safety and support measures, to community members who have experienced or been impacted by sexual misconduct.

Seattle U requires all faculty and staff to notify the University's Title IX Coordinator if they become aware of any incident of sexual misconduct experienced by a student.

For more information, please visit <https://www.seattleu.edu/equity/>. If you have any questions or concerns, you may also directly contact the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Equity (email: [oiie@seattleu.edu](mailto:oiie@seattleu.edu); phone: 206.296.2824) University Resources and Policies

### Tentative Class Schedule as of 09/13/19

Please note that the daily topics and related reading material are subject to change as the class progresses. The exams, however, will remain as scheduled barring some unforeseen major occurrence.

		<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings*</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
25-Sep	Wed	US Medical Care & Using Economics	Ch 1 & Ch 2 (exclude elasticity part)	
30-Sep	Mon	Analyzing Medical Care Markets	Ch 3, Colander	
02-Oct	Wed	Econ Evaluations	Ch 4	Opp Cost of Health Change Due (Part 1)
07-Oct	Mon	Econ Evaluations	Ch 4, Cawley	
09-Oct	Wed	Demand for Health Care	Ch 2 (elasticity), Ch 5	
14-Oct	Mon	Demand for Health Care	Ch 2 (elasticity), Ch 5	CEA Analysis Due
16-Oct	Wed	Health Insurance	Ch 7	
21-Oct	Mon	Managed Care	Ch 8	
23-Oct	Wed	Exam 1		Exam 1
28-Oct	Mon	Physicians' Service Market	Ch 9	
30-Oct	Wed	Hospitals	Ch 10	
04-Nov	Mon	Hospitals	Ch 10	
06-Nov	Wed	Pharmaceuticals	Ch 11	
11-Nov	Mon	Veteran's Day (No class)		
13-Nov	Wed	Medicare & Medicaid	Ch 12 & 13	
18-Nov	Mon	Presentations & Medicare/Medicaid	Ch 12 & 13	
20-Nov	Wed	Presentations & Medical Care Systems Worldwide	Ch 14	
25-Nov	Mon	Presentations & Medical Care Systems Worldwide	Ch 14	Medicare Assignment Due
27-Nov	Wed	Thanksgiving (No class)		
02-Dec	Mon	Presentations & Lessons for Public Policy	Ch 15, 16	
04-Dec	Wed	Presentations & Lessons for Public Policy	Ch 15, 16	Opp Cost of Health Change Due (Part 2)
11-Dec	Wed	FINAL	4:00-5:50PM	

\*No text appendix reading required unless explicitly stated.