

ECON 3630 01 Health Economics & Policy
Lecture: Tu/Th 01:30PM - 03:35PM Admin 306

Basic Information

Instructor: Erin Vernon, PhD

Email: vernoner@seattleu.edu

Office Hours: Thurs 1:30-2:30 or by appointment. Please don't hesitate to request an in person or Zoom appointments with me.

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versions can be used but be wary that the chapter numbers will not match up and some of the data/information may be outdated.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

Course Logistics

(to be discussed in detail in first session)

- Each week's module will have a "Week X To Dos" list. If you complete that checklist, you know you are good to go for the week in terms of requirements.
- There will be a great deal of in-person discussions, small group work and discussion board post requirements on sensitive topics. Please remember to be empathetic and respectful in your comments and posts.

Grading

Weekly In Class Problems	40%
Opp Cost of Health Assignment	5%
CEA Analysis Assignment	10%
Medicare Assignment	10%
Policy Analysis	20%
Final Exam	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

Every week will have a portion of time set aside for groups to work on problem sets. Depending on the week this will be from 2-8% of your grade. The work will be both quantitative and qualitative in nature and, at times, have a presentation component. Although most of this work can be done in class, there may be a couple of times where additional homework is required for completion. 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 (**this must be done prior to the next class for credit**).

Assignments

There will be 4 written assignments throughout the course with each being worth 5-15% of your grade. Detailed assignment requirements will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class well before the due dates.

- A. Examining the opportunity costs of a personal health change
- B. Critically analyzing a peer reviewed cost-effectiveness analysis article
- C. Assessing potential next steps for Medicare's upcoming insolvency
- D. Analyzing a major health-related issue in the US and proposing an evidence-based policy to help address

Exam

There is only one final exam that covers the more technical aspects of the course. Reviewing the in-class problem sets is the best way to prepare for the exam. There will also be a practice exam that will match the format and content of the final so there will be no surprises in terms of content.

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; phone: 206.296.2824) University Resources and Policies

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 in it.

University Mission

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

Tentative Class Schedule as of 03/22/22

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.

Date	Day	Topic	Readings*	Major Deliverable
29-Mar	Tues	US Medical Care & Using Economics	Ch 1 & Ch 2 (exclude elasticity part)	
31-Mar	Thurs	Analyzing Medical Care Markets	Ch 3, Colander	Week 1 Probs
05-Apr	Tues	Econ Evaluations	Ch 4	Opp Cost of Health Change Due (Part 1)
07-Apr	Thurs	Econ Evaluations	Ch 4, Cawley	Week 2 Probs
12-Apr	Tues	Demand for Health Care	Ch 2 (elasticity), Ch 5	
14-Apr	Thurs	Demand for Health Care	Ch 2 (elasticity), Ch 5	CEA Analysis Due Week 3 Probs
19-Apr	Tues	Social Determinants of Health & Inequality	Assigned Readings	
21-Apr	Thurs	Social Determinants of Health & Inequality	Assigned Readings	Week 4 Probs
26-Apr	Tues	Health Insurance	Ch 7	
28-Apr	Thurs	Managed Care	Ch 8	Week 5 Probs
03-May	Tues	Managed Care & Physicians' Service Market	Ch 8 & Ch 9	Policy Topic Proposal Due
05-May	Thurs	Hospitals, Guest Speaker	Ch 9 & Ch 10	Week 6 Probs
10-May	Tues	Hospitals	Ch 10	
12-May	Thurs	Hospitals	Ch 10 & Assigned readings	Week 7 Probs
17-May	Tues	Medicare & Medicaid	Ch 12 & 13	
19-May	Thurs	Medicare & Medicaid	Ch 12 & 13	Week 8 Probs
24-May	Tues	Pharmaceuticals	Ch 11	Medicare Assignment Due
26-May	Thurs	Medical Care Systems Worldwide	Ch 14	Week 9 Probs
31-May	Tues	Medical Care Systems Worldwide	Ch 14	
02-Jun	Thurs	Lessons for Public Policy	Ch 15, 16	Policy Assignment Due Week 10 Probs
08-Jun	WED	FINAL EXAM 12:00 – 1:50		Opp Cost of Health Change Due (Part 2)

*No text appendix reading required unless explicitly stated.