

HONR-2580-01 Crafting Social Policy

Basic Information

Instructor: Erin Vernon, PhD

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

Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday 10:15 – 11:55

Classroom: Administration 326

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

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

(earlier editions are fine)

Supplemental current event articles and possible videos will also be posted on Canvas within that particular week's module.

Course 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)

- Given this is an upper level economics elective, we immediately build off of the material you learned last quarter in your microeconomics course. We will apply economic concepts to understand and evaluate the highly complicated US health care system.
- 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.

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

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 in the Learning Center, Loyloa 100, (206) 296-5740. Disability-based adjustments to course expectations can be arranged only through this process.

Title IX

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)

Grading

Weekly Problems & Discussions (4-12% per wk)	55%
Cost Effectiveness Analysis Assignment	10%
Medicare Assignment	10%
Integrated Group Policy Project	25%
International & Academic Policy Analysis	10%
Policy Evaluation Proposal	5%
Final Presentation	10%

Grading Scale (percentage based)

A	100–94 [Superior]
A–	93.99–90
B+	89.99–87
B	86.99–83 [Good]
B–	82.99–80
C+	79.99–77
C	76.99–73 [Adequate]
C–	72.99–70
D+	69.99–67
D	66.99–63 [Poor]
D–	62.99–60
F	59.99 or less [Failing]

Weekly Problems

Each week will have problem sets and/or discussion post requirements. Many of these problems will be worked on in class while a few of them will require a bit of work outside of class. The work will be both quantitative and qualitative in nature and at times require a presentation component. Specific details on the requirement for the week will be announced at the start of each week. If you miss a class, you will be responsible for making up the work individually in a timely manner.

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

You will be required to critically analyze and evaluate a peer-reviewed cost-effectiveness study of your choosing. Detailed requirements will be posted when we get to this material.

Medicare Assessment

You will be required to discuss your assessment of next steps to address Medicare's upcoming insolvency.

Integrated Policy Group Project (G)

The final requirement is a group assignment integrated across your three courses. For this course, there will be an International & Academic Policy Analysis (10%), Policy Evaluation Proposal (5%), and Policy Presentation (10%).

Tentative Class Schedule as of 03/21/22

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

Week	Topic	Reading*	Deliverables
Week 1	US Medical Care: A System in Transition & Analyzing Medical Care Markets	CH 1 – 3 (no ch2 elasticity), Colander Article	>Week 1 Probs
Week 2	Economic Evaluations	Ch 4	>Week 2 Probs
Week 3	Demand for Health & Medical Care	Ch 2 (elasticity), Ch 5	>Week 3 Probs >CEA Analysis
Week 4	Social Determinants of Health & Inequality	Assigned Readings	>Week 4 Probs
Week 5	The Market for Health Insurance & Medicaid	Ch 7 & Ch 13	>Week 5 Probs >I&A Analysis (G)
Week 6**	Managed Care, Physicians Market, Medicare	Ch 8, 9, 12	>Week 6 Probs
Week 7	Pharma & Hospitals	Ch 11 & 10	>Week 7 Probs >Medicare Assessment
Week 8	Hospitals & Medical Systems Worldwide	Ch 10 & Ch 14	>Week 8 Probs >Policy Evaluation (G)
Week 9	Medical Systems Worldwide & Lessons	CH 14, Readings	>Week 9 Probs
Week 10***	Symposium Work		>Symposium Thurs June 2 (G)

*Appendix readings are not required

**Also includes Tues group meetings outside of class time

***No class this week. Tues: Symposium Rehearsals (Ruppert) & Thurs: Symposium

(G) Signifies integrated group assignment