UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Department of Economics
Course Outline

		Term:	Fall 2008
Course:	Economics 379 [The Economics of Health]	**Section:**	01
Time:	MWF 12:00 – 12:50	**Place:**	ST 132
Instructor:	Dr. M. Lu		
Office:	SS 440	**Tel. no.:**	220-5488
Office hours:	MW 10:00-10:50	**E-mail:**	lu@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):
Folland, Goodman and Stano, *The Economics of Health and Health Care*, 5th edition, Prentice Hall Canada.

Book(s) on Reserve:
Folland, Goodman and Stano, *The Economics of Health and Health Care*, 5th edition, Prentice Hall Canada.

Lu, M. and J. Egon (eds.), *Financing Health Care: New Ideas for a Changing Society*, 1st edition, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, 2008.

Culyer, Anthony J. & Joseph P. Newhouse (eds.), *Handbook of Health Economics (Volume 1A).* Elsevier, 2000.

Culyer, Anthony J. & Joseph P. Newhouse (eds.), *Handbook of Health Economics (Volume 1B).* Elsevier, 2000.

Newhouse, J. P., *Free for all? Lessons from the RAND Health Insurance Experiment*. Harvard University Press, 1993.

Evans, Robert, STRAINED MERCY: *The Economics of Canadian Health Care*, Toronto: Buttersworth, 1984.

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Blackboard:
This course will make use of Blackboard - students who are registered in the course can log on at http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login

Course Outline:

1. Review of micro-economics and statistics tools	Chapters 2-3
2. Economic Evaluation	Chapter 4
3. Overview	Chapter 1
4. Production of Health and Demand for Health Capital	Chapters 5, 6, 7
5. Demand and Supply for Health Insurance	Chapter 8
6. Consumer Choice and Demand	Chapter 9
7. Asymmetric information and agency	Chapter 10
8. Physician behaviour	Chapter 15
9. The Organization of Health Insurance Market	Chapter 11
10. Managed Care	Chapter 12
11. Not-for-profit Firms and Hospitals	Chapters 13
12. Pharmaceutical Industry	Chapter 17
13. Government Interventions and Issues in Canadian Health Care	Chapters 19, 20, 21, 22

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

There will be four assignments, two tests, and one final examination. Assignments and their due dates, as well as the dates of the three tests will be provided on the course web site.
The coverage of each test is the material covered during the weeks preceding it, but generally not including the most recent chapter. The coverage of the final is the entire class.

Grading weights will be as follows.

Assignments	10%
Test 1	25%
Test 2	25%
Final Examination	40%

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Exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis. The course grade is calculated using the weights indicated above, then converted to letter grades. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	96-100	B	73-76	C-	60-62
A	87-95	B-	70-72	D+	55-59
A-	80-86	C+	67-69	D	50-54
B+	77-79	C	63-66	F	0-49

Students are expected to work on the homework assignments independently. There will not be makeup tests. Unless you have a documented health problems or family emergencies, if you fail to take a test, your score for the missed test will be zero. Grades of assignments handed in after class on the due dates will be reduced by 50%. If for a legitimate reason you do miss a test, or two tests, the grade for the rest of the course will be given greater weight. That is, if you miss one test worth 20%, then the average score on the remainder of the course will be divided by .80. If you miss two tests, the remainder of the course scores will be divided by .60.

If, for some reason, the distribution of grades determined using the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, *at the instructor's discretion*, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Non-programmable calculators will be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations, but will not be required.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 2 hours held in a classroom.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:
Pamela Weatherbee
Phone: 220-3911
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Students' Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)
Teale Phelps Bondaroff
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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.):
www.ucalgary.ca/sue/

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Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor within *fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.
- Make-up or deferred examinations will not be given. Students who are unable to write a midterm because of illness, family emergency or religious observance will have the midterm weight shifted to the final. Appropriate documentation is required in all cases.
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

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2008-06-10