



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2008
Course:	Economics 499.79 [Special Topics in Health Economics]	Section:	01
Time:	MWF 13:00 – 13:50	Place:	SA121
Instructor:	Dr. Mingshan Lu		
Office:	SS 440	Tel. no.:	220-5488
Office hours:	W 15:00-16:00	E-mail:	lu@ucalgary.ca

Textbooks:

The Economics of Health and Health Care, 5th edition, by Folland, Goodman and Stano, Prentice Hall Canada.

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

Book(s) on Reserve:

The Economics of Health and Health Care, 5th edition, by Folland, Goodman and Stano, Prentice Hall Canada.

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

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.

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:

Part I The Economics of Health Care

1. Overview: Economics and the Health Care System
2. The Demand for Health and the Production of Health
3. Patient -- the Demand for Health Insurance and Health Services
4. Physician -- Physician Agency and Physician-Induced Demand
5. Hospital -- Ownership and Competition

Part II Financing issues in Health Care

6. The Public and Private Financing and Provisions of Health Care
7. Prescription drug financing
8. Provider Payment and Incentives
9. Risk adjustment in health care markets
10. Equity of health and health care

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

There will be five 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	20%	
Test 1	20%	
Test 2	20%	
Final Examination	40%/3

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. Students who miss the final exam must apply to write a deferred final exam.

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:

Brittany Sargent
 Phone: 220-3911
 E-mail suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)

Nav Thind
 Phone: 220-3913 Office: MSC 251
 E-mail socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.):

www.ucalgary.ca/sue/

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

ML:mi
2007-11-09