



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Fall 2012
Course:	ECON 679 (01) Health Economics I	Section:	01
Time:	T 08:30-11:30	Place:	SS 545
Instructor:	Dr. H. Emery		
Office:	SS 554	Telephone:	403-220-5489
Office Hours:	T 11:30-1:30 or by appointment	E-mail:	hemery@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s): None

Book(s) on Reserve: None, all readings for the course will be posted to the course Blackboard

Course Outline:

This course provides an overview of topics in health economics. The aim of the course is to introduce students to economic principles and techniques which are of use in analyzing and planning health policy, in particular the delivery of health services, and for understanding the health behaviour of individuals. The course will be run as a combination of lectures and seminar discussions. A list of topics to be covered over the term can be found below.

Expected Schedule of Topics – Fall 2012

Week 1	Introduction to the economics of health and health care The nature of health care, markets and market failure
Week 2	Introductory material (cont'd)
Week 3	From theory to measurement -- measuring and valuing health outcomes
Week 4	Economic Epidemiology
Week 5	No lecture, Thanksgiving
Week 6	An Economics Perspective on the Determinants of Health and How to Improve Population

Week 7	Health Care Finance and Health Care Delivery in Canada and other Countries
Week 8	The Economics of Health Care Finance
Week 9	Economics of Health Care Service Delivery
Week 10	Cost Drivers and Sustainability: Health Care Finance and Health Care Expenditures
Week 11	Cost Drivers and Sustainability: Technoloby and Pharmaco-economics; Paying Doctors
Week 12	Debates over private versus public delivery, and private and public finance in Canada
Week 13	Wrap-up; Class Evaluation

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Due Dates	% of Final Mark	Evaluation Method
#1: Sept. 25	20%	Media Excitement (3 to 5 pages) - you will identify and summarize one article from a newspaper or widely read periodical that has gained considerable attention from the public. In addition to the summary, you will critique the piece assessing the quality of the economic argument and the extent to which the claims are based on economic evidence.
#2 Tuesday Nov. 13	30%	What Can Health Services Research Gain from Health Economics? Choose a research topic, or research area, where the published work has not been carried out by economists. You will want to pick a well defined topic since you will need to find 5 to 10 articles published on this topic over the last 5 years. Where possible, choose the work considered to be “seminal” or exemplary of the highest quality for the area. Summarize the major findings, sources of evidence and policy implications of the work. Next you will assess what the underlying economics of the work appears to be. After that, you will identify key economic insights with respect to research program design (e.g. sampling), and/or data analysis, and/or interpretation of evidence that are missing from the work. Finally you will describe how you would do a study

		that addresses the claims that you have previously made.
#3: During Final Exam period Dec.10- 19	30%	Final Examination
#4	20%	Class Participation – based on attendance, interactions/contributions in class, and demonstrated familiarity with course readings.

Late Assignments:

- **Assignments are due on the specified date by 9 AM. Students who hand in assignments late will be penalized 10% per day for handing in late. Assignments that are handed in 7 calendar days or more after the due date will be refused and the students assigned a score of zero for the assignment.**
- **Students may hand in assignments late without penalty under the following circumstances:**
 - **The student has discussed the timelines with course instructor in advance of the due date and the course instructor has granted an extension**
 - There is a valid health or family emergency such as is discussed under the University regulations for deferral of final examinations. Students may be required to provide the Course Coordinator with such documentation related to illness and/or emergency as is discussed and required in the University regulations pertaining to deferral of final examinations. This information can be found in the University Calendar.

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

A+	95 – 100	B	73 - 76	C-	60 - 62
A	85 - 94	B-	70 - 72	D+	56 - 59
A-	80 - 84	C+	67 - 69	D	50 - 55
B+	77 - 79	C	63 - 66	F	0 - 49

Non-programmable calculators WILL be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

There might be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting two hours.

NOTE:

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.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333
Emergency Assembly Point: Professional Faculties Food Court
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