

Economics 379(L01) The Economics of Health

Instructor:	Prof. Mingshan Lu	Lecture Location:	ST 139
Phone:	403-220-5488	Lecture Days/Time:	MWF 10:00-10:50
Email:	lu@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	SS328		
Office Hours:	F 11:00-12:00 or by appointment	Winter 2019	

Course Description:

This course is a general introductory course in health economics. Students will learn how to apply economic analysis tools to understanding the economics of health and health care markets. This highly interactive course is designed to help student to establish a conceptual framework to evaluate health care system and policy, to be able to understand and participate in evidence-based decision making in health care.

All students with an interest in health economics, health services research, and health policy are encouraged to enroll; background in health care field or advanced economics is not required.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand and apply basic economic concepts and theories in health care: such as opportunity cost, economic efficiency, asymmetric information, moral hazard, etc.
2. Understand the role of government in health care industry and able to apply it: when and in which direction the government should intervene the markets, as well as how to evaluate the impact of relevant government's policies on markets.
3. Understand consumer and provider decision making and behavior in the health care market.
4. Understand how to analyze the economics incentives of different payment mechanisms.
5. Apply economic analysis to real world issues related with health and health care you encounter in the future.

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Economics 201/203, or with consent of the instructor.

Recommended Textbook(s):

The Economics of Health and Health Care, 8th edition, by Folland, Goodman and Stano, Prentice Hall Canada. (Earlier edition is fine too.)

Books on Reserve:

Folland, Goodman and Stano. *The Economics of Health and Health Care*, Prentice Hall (latest edition)

Hurley, J, (2010). *Health Economics*, 1st ed, McGraw-Hill.

Phelps, Charles E. *Health Economics*. Routledge; 6 edition (Dec 11 2017).

Barbara McPake, Charles Normand, Samantha Smith, Anne Nolan. *Health Economics: An International Perspective*, Routledge; Newest Edition.

Thomas E. Getzen. *Health Economics and Financing*. John Wiley & Sons; Newest Edition

Zweifel, Peter, Breyer, Friedrich, Kifmann, Mathias. *Health Economics*, Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg. Newest Edition.

Paul J. Feldstein. *Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective*. Health Administration Press; Newest edition

Culyer, A.J. & J.P. Newhouse (eds) *Handbook of Health Economics (Vol. 1A and 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.

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

Drummond, Michael F., Bernard O'Brien, Greg Stoddart, and George Torrance. *Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes*. Oxford University Press: 1997.

Joshua D. Angrist and Jörn-Steffen Pischke, *Mastering 'Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect*, Princeton University Press: 2014.

Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, *Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty*. Publicaffairs: 2012

Desire2Learn:

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

There will be two tests, as well as a term paper project (which includes presentation & discussion at a class mini-conference, and a final report). There is no final examination.

Grading weights will be as follows.

CLASS PARTICIPATION	20%
TEST 1 (tentatively: February 15 th 2018)	25%
TEST 2 (tentatively: March 29 th 2018)	25%
TERM PROJECT	30%
	100%

Grade for class participation is based on attendance, interactions/contributions in class discussions, and demonstrated familiarity with course readings. Details on term project requirements will be discussed in Day 1 of the class; detailed instructions will be posted on the course D2L website.

Grading Scale

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

Students must receive a passing grade on CLASS PARTICPATION and TERM PROJECT to pass the course as a whole.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during his office hours.

Tests and exams will involve multiple choice questions. Non-programmable calculators WILL NOT be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

The exact date for the in-class midterm will be announced at least one week in advance.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the remaining grading determinants (i.e. course participation, test taken, and term project); otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty, see Calendar K.4

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, , see Calendar K.5

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Academic Accommodations:

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Student Organizations:

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca and Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:

<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580 or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support>.

Evacuation Assembly Point:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The assembly point for this classroom is Scurfield Hall - Atrium.

Safewalk:

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. **Call 403-220-5333.**

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device information:

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note-taking only.

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2018-10-15