



## Department of Economics Course Outline

		<b>Term:</b>	Fall 2013
<b>Course:</b>	Economics 679 [Health Economics I]	<b>Section:</b>	01
<b>Time:</b>	MW 12:30 – 13:45	<b>Place:</b>	EDC 384
<b>Instructor:</b>	Mingshan Lu		
<b>Office:</b>	SS 440	<b>Tel. no.:</b>	403-220-5488
<b>Office hours:</b>	MW 11:30-12:30 or by appointment	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:lu@ucalgary.ca">lu@ucalgary.ca</a>

### Required Textbook:

None.

### Books on Reserve:

The Economics of Health and Health Care, 6th edition, by Folland, Goodman and Stano, Prentice Hall Canada.

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

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.

Lisa I. Iezzoni, *Risk Adjustment for Measuring Health Care Outcomes*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Health Administration Press, 2013.

### Blackboard:

This course will make extensive use of Blackboard - students who are registered in this course can log on at <https://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login/>. All lecture notes will be posted on the course Blackboard. Please note that Blackboard features a class e-mail list that I will use to make important announcements regarding homework, examinations, etc. It is your responsibility to ensure that Blackboard uses the e-mail address of your choice.

**Description:**

Health care industry is a multi-billion dollar industry; it is largely complex and constantly evolving. Health care reform is one of the most critical and challenging issues facing countries around the world; countries including Canada are experimenting with various approaches to make the existing system work more efficiently. These on-going efforts will generate profound impacts on all sectors in the health care industry for many years to come.

This course introduces students to the fundamental tradeoffs and principles common to global health care systems. Students will learn how to apply basic economic concepts, theories, and analytical tools to understanding the special features of health care markets as well as the role of government interventions. Specifics of health care financing policy and reforms from the Canadian health care system as well as other systems that are of particular interest will be discussed. 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.

This course is geared to students with significant research interests in the fields of health economics, health services research, and health care policy. It is designed to help students to explore, select and develop their own research focuses.

**Course Outline:**

	<i>Topics to cover (tentative; subject to changes)</i>
Week 1	Introduction: Canadian Health Care System
Week 2	Why is Health Care Industry Different?
Week 3	RAND Health Insurance Experiment
Week 4	Efficiency
Week 5	Equity
Week 6	Does Treatment Work? – Determinants of Health
Week 7	Physicians: Payment Systems and Economic Incentives
Week 8	Hospitals
Week 9	Payment Systems and Economic Incentives
Week 10	Reading Days; Midterm
Week 11	Comparative Health Systems and Health Care Reform
Week 12	Term Project Class Presentation
Week 13	Term Project Class Presentation

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

There will be one midterm, as well as a term project which includes a class presentation and term paper. There is no final examination.

Grading weights will be as follows:

Class Participation	25%
Midterm (November 13 <sup>th</sup> )	35%
Term Project Class Presentation	15%
Term Paper	25%

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 blackboard.

As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will apply:

A+	90 – 100	B	73.5 - 76.4	C-	60 - 63.4
A	83 – 89.9	B-	70 - 73.4	D+	56.5 - 59.9
A-	80 - 82.9	C+	66.5 - 69.9	D	50 - 56.4
B+	76.5 - 79.9	C	63.5 - 66.4	F	0 - 49.9

Please note that there will not be makeup midterm. Unless you have a documented health problem or family emergency, if you fail to take a test, your score for the missed test will be zero. Grades of assignments handed in past the due date will be reduced by 50%. If for a legitimate reason you do miss the midterm, the weight will be shifted to the term project presentation and term paper.

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.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

Emergency Assembly Location –Scurfield Hall Atrium

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