

Economics 679(L01) Health Economics I

Instructor:	Prof. Mingshan Lu	Lecture Location:	SS 403
Phone:	403-220-5488	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 14:00-15:15
Email:	lu@ucalgary.ca		
Office:	SS 440		
Office Hours:	TR 11:30-12:30	Winter 2015	

Required Textbook:

None.

Books on Reserve:

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

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

Culyer, A.J. & J.P. Newhouse (eds) *Handbook of Health Economics (Vol. 1A and 1B)*, Elsevier, 2000.

Evans, Robert *Strained Mercy: The Economics of Canadian Health Care*, Toronto: Butterworth, 1984.

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*, 4th Edition, Health Administration Press, 2013.

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> using or through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

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	Reading Week
Week 7	Does Treatment Work? – Determinants of Health
Week 8	Physicians: Payment Systems and Economic Incentives
Week 9	Hospitals
Week 10	Payment Systems and Economic Incentives
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 test, 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	30%
Test (March 31 st , 2015)	35%
Term Project Class Presentation	10%
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. 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.

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.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at 403-220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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://ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support/online-writing-resources>

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