

Syllabus
Economics 326 – Health Economics
DePaul University
Fall 2019

Meeting Time: Tuesday/Thursday 3:10 P.M. to 4:40 P.M., Room 803, 1 East Jackson (DePaul Center)

Instructor: Professor Anthony T. Lo Sasso

Office: Room 6217, 1 East Jackson (DePaul Center)

Office Hours: One hour before class and by appointment

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Course Description and Objectives:

This course provides a comprehensive overview of topics related to workings of health care markets and determinants of health in high-income countries, particularly the U.S. Health economics is a field in applied microeconomics. Upon completion, successful students will have learned the following:

1. Articulate an economic perspective on health and the health care sector based on an understanding of economic rationale and key analytic economic constructs.
2. Describe and apply economic methodological approaches to the study of health.
3. Understand and assess economic decisions of health care consumers, providers, organizations, and the health care system.
4. Critically evaluate and assess implications for health policy based on economic determinants of the demand/supply of health, health care, and insurance.

Required Text:

Health Economics by Bhattacharya, Hyde, & Tu, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Requirements:

1. Students are expected to come to class on time, well-prepared, and ready to actively participate in class discussions. It is expected that students will have read and thought about the assigned materials prior to each class. Not showing up for class means you are not participating!
2. Problem sets (contributes 20% to final grade).
3. In-class Mid-term Exam (contributes 40% to final grade); **October 17th**.
4. In-class Final Exam (contributes 40% to final grade); **November 21st**.

Grading: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = <60

Other Information: Our class D2L site will include course material and supplementary readings throughout the term.

Rules of Classroom Conduct:

1. **Be on time.** Class starts at 3:10 pm. At that time you should all be in your seats and ready to start class.
2. **Laptops, tablets, and smartphones are NOT to be used in class.** You will learn much more by taking notes the “old fashioned” way: with a pencil and a notebook.
3. **No side conversations.** This is distracting to me and to your fellow students. If you have a question, please raise your hand; if you don’t understand something, the chances are good someone else doesn’t either.
4. **Please leave during class for emergencies only.** If you have to leave during class, please try to create a minimal disruption. If you must arrive late or leave early for a particular class, please let me know in advance.
5. **Cell phones off.** If there is an extraordinary reason why you must keep your phone on (e.g., you are awaiting critical medical news) please silence your ringer and let me know in advance that you may receive a call.

Tentative Course Outline

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic/Readings</i>
9/12	Introduction – why health economics? (chap 1)
9/17	Demand for health care (chap 2)
9/19, 9/24	Demand for health: the Grossman model (chap 3)
9/26	Socioeconomic disparities in health (chap 4)
10/1	Labor market for physicians (chap 5)
10/3	Hospital industry (chap 6)
10/8	Demand for insurance (chap 7)
10/10	Adverse selection in real markets (chap 10)
10/15	Moral hazard (chap 11)
10/17	MID-TERM EXAM
10/22	Pharmaceuticals and the economics of innovation (chap 12)
10/24	Technology and the price of health care (chap 13)
10/29, 10/31	Health technology assessment (chap 14)
11/5, 11/7	The health policy conundrum (chap 15)
11/12	Population aging (chap 19)
11/14	Obesity (chap 22)
11/19	Review/Overflow
11/21	Final Exam