

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
College of Management and Economics

Economics 3300 - The Economics of Health and the Workplace
Instructor: B. Ferguson
Lecture: M, W, F 9:30-10:20
MacKinnon 233

Winter 2012

It is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policies regarding academic misconduct, e-mail communication, maintaining copies of out-of class assignments, what to do when you cannot meet a course requirement and the drop date for this semester. To better understand these policies, visit:

<http://www.economics.uoguelph.ca/student-responsibilities-policies.asp>

COURSE OUTLINE

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the economic analysis of health care issues, using the analytical tools developed in intermediate microeconomic theory. Its aim is to show that many current health policy issues can be greatly clarified when they are analyzed as economic problems, and that the basic economic tools used in the study other policy areas also apply to health care issues. It will consider the functioning of the market for medical services, the role of government in that market, current problems in the Canadian health care system, and comparisons between different countries' health care systems. It will also consider proposed reforms of the Canadian system. Students will be expected to keep up, on their own, with current health policy issues as discussed in the newspapers and other media.

Students should note that this is an economics course, and that they will ultimately be evaluated on how well they can apply the techniques of intermediate economic theory to applied problems in health care policy.

Evaluation: There will be one midterm exam, worth 25% of the course grade, to be written in class time on **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15**, on material covered up to the end of the previous week of classes, a final exam worth 50% of the course grade, to be written on **TUESDAY, APRIL 17** and an essay, at least 4000 words in length, on **any health policy topic of the student's choice**, worth 25% of the final grade and due no later than class time on **FRIDAY, MARCH 23**. There will be no deferred midterm exam. Any student who does not write the midterm exam, or who does better on the final exam than on the midterm will have the midterm weight shifted to the final exam. No weight will be shifted from the essay.

Required Textbooks:

The Economics of Health and Health Care (5th. or 6th. Edition) Sherman Folland,
Allen C. Goodman, Miron Stano, pub. Prentice Hall

The textbook is an American book. There are, at present, no acceptable Canadian health economics textbooks. Material on the institutional structure of the Canadian health care system will be made available as the course proceeds. Students should also familiarize themselves with sources of health care data, in particular the website of the Canadian Institute for Health Information (<http://www.cihi.ca/CIHI-ext-portal/internet/EN/Home/home/cihi000001>) and the OECD health topic page.

(http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,3699,en_2649_37407_1_1_1_1_37407,00.html).

You will be asked to complete an evaluation for this course sometime during the last two weeks of classes. The Department of Economics' policy regarding the conduct and use of these evaluations can be found at:

<http://www.economics.uoguelph.ca/course-evaluation.asp>