

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Course Syllabus
CPH 758 – Public Health Economics
Spring 2009

Location: 115 CPH
Time: 6-8:30 Tuesday

Contact information

Instructor: Scott Hankins
101c CPH Building

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Office Hours: Tuesday 5-6pm or by appointment

Webpage: www.uky.edu/~swhank2

Course description

This course is designed to provide graduate students with an understanding of current health policy issues. We will use economics as a tool to analyze health care and health care policy. Topics covered include the production of and demand for health and medical care; information asymmetries between patients, doctors, and payers; health insurance coverage; the effects of managed care (including HMOs) on competition, efficiency, and quality; training and practice of physicians; hospitals; prescription drug pricing; government regulations; Medicare and Medicaid; health care reform. There will be a strong emphasis on empirical problems that researchers must overcome in order to evaluate health policy issues.

Course prerequisites

None

Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Identify the main components and issues of the organization, financing, and delivery of health services and public health systems in the US.
- 2) Evaluate specific health care policies using economics
- 3) Identify potential unintended consequences of a proposed policy
- 4) Use the tools of Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

Textbooks

There is no required textbook, however there are a couple of recommended texts.

- 1) “Health Policy Issues (3rd or 4th edition)” by Paul J. Feldstein
- 2) “Crisis of Abundance” by Arnold Kling
- 3) “The Invisible Safety Net” by Janet M. Currie

Course requirements and learner evaluation

Exams: There will be 2 mid-semester exams and one Final exam. Each will be 30% of the final grade.

Articles: There will be many newspaper/magazine articles assigned as supplements to the textbook. It is expected that you will have read the articles and are prepared to discuss the issues presented in the article and how they relate to the course. 10% of your grade will be based on class participation, i.e. discussing the articles.

Evaluation: Your grade will determined as follows, unfortunately, the university does not allow “+” or “-” grades, this means that if you have an 89 I am limited to giving you a B instead of a B+ (Note: I will not round up just because you ask). Grades will be assigned as follows.

- A = 90% or higher
- B = 75 – 89%
- C = 60 – 74%
- F = < 59%

Instructor expectations

1. I expect you to attend every class session. The components are highly interrelated; missing a class will detract from the learning potential of subsequent sessions.
2. I expect you to be in the classroom and prepared to begin work at the scheduled starting time for each session.
3. I expect you to actively participate in the discussions. This is not the type of class where you can “sit back and listen.”

Academic honesty

Academic honesty is highly valued at the University. You must always submit work that represents your original words or ideas. If any words or ideas used in a class assignment submission do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include, but are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable sources. Please see the University’s policies concerning the consequences for plagiarism.

Accommodations

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible during scheduled office hours. In order to receive accommodations in this course, submit to me a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (www.uky.edu/TLC/grants/uk_ed/services/drc.html). If you have not already done so, please register with the Disability Resource Center for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

Inclement weather

The University of Kentucky has a detailed policy for decisions to close in inclement weather. The snow policy is described in detail at <http://www.uky.edu/MicroLabs/documents/p-weather.pdf> or you can call (859) 257-5684.

Course schedule and topics

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Class	Date	Lecture	Articles	3rd chaps	4th chaps
1	Jan 20	What is Health Econ? What Makes us Healthy?	Man Problem, Surprising secret, So big and healthy..., Live Long? Die Young?, Old but not frail, Diet and Fat, Medical Mystery, Hacking Body's Bacteria, Cancer goes away	1,2	1,2
2	Jan 27	Medical expenditures and health/ rationing	Who gets health care(series), Local Knowledge, Now someone else has to say no, Hospitals build new wings	3-5,17	3-5,18
3	Feb 03	Insurance and Adverse Selection/ moral hazard	Full Price, Faith and credit, Anatomy of hospital bill, Timing births, Women pay more	6,7	6,7
4	Feb 10	Medicare/Medicaid, Managed Care & competition/Gov't mandates	The way we age now, Unhealthy Burden, Note to Medicaid..., Medicare part D	8,9,10, 18,19,28	8,9,10, 19-21, 30
5	Feb 17	Exam 1			
6	Feb 24	Doctors & Hospitals	Awkward Years, Amish, Harlem hospital healed itself, Discounting hospital care..., Hospital found not charitable, Nonprofit fights..., Hospitals try extreme measures, Ferrari pit stop, Hospital weans off pricey tests, Quirk in visa law, Fight over health claims	4,11,12, 14-16	4,11,12, 14-17
7	Mar 03	Med/Mal	In delivery room..., Behind Med/Mal rates, Juries rarely have last word, Tiniest Babies,	13	13
8	Mar 10	Cost/Benefit Analysis	Treat Me, How NIH Misread Hormone Study in 2002, Stupid Cancer Stats, Is there a Dr in the house?		
	Mar 17	Spring Break			
9	Mar 24	Value of life, Organ Transplants	Whose life is worth more?, Pinning down money value of life, Organ transplant centers face scrutiny	27	29
10	Mar 31	Pharmaceuticals, technology, R&D	Most expensive drugs(series), Genetech's big drug, Drug Crazy, Different Rx	23-26	25-28
11	Apr 07	Exam 2			
12	Apr 14	Health Care Reform	Britian stirs outcry, Canada's supreme court, Pricing drugs, Frustration brewing in Canada, Store Clinics, Company Clinics, Children kidney stones	30-34	32-36
13	Apr 21	Foreign Experiences	China's Pride & Malaria, Seeds of reform (China), Japan Cancer, Hookworm, Salt & IQ, China Workers with thin protection, Costly Cure (china)		
14	Apr 28	catch-up			
	May 05	Final Exam			