



Econ 334 - 950
Health Economics
Syllabus - Summer 2025

Instructor: Syeda Jahirin Aktari
Email: syedajahirin.aktari@siu.edu
Office: Faner 4126
Office Hours: Wednesday 10.00 am – 12pm (or by appointment)

Read Carefully:

There will be NO time extensions on homework assignments, quizzes, and exams unless you provide a doctor's note that you were sick or a note for any other family emergency. You are given exact dates and times of the homework assignments, quizzes, and exams, so please plan your time accordingly.

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

Issues such as the demand for healthcare and health insurance, the role of government in determining healthcare policy, provider behavior, and hospital competition will be explored. Motivations for individual health behaviors in the context of economic models will also be studied. Topics of special interest are the tradeoffs between the quality and quantity of healthcare, healthcare costs and financing, and social welfare outcomes. Valuable insights into the economic, ethical, and social issues associated with this rapidly changing industry will be gained.

At the end of the course, a successful student should be able to:

- understand the factors underlying the demand and supply of health and medical services,
- understand the factors underlying the demand and supply of health and medical services,
- understand the healthcare market,
- understand the role of the government in the healthcare industry,
- understand models regarding the regional coordination of hospital facilities and services.

Contact Information:

For any course-related questions or inquiries, please feel free to email me at the provided address. I aim to respond to all emails promptly. If you wish to attend office hours, please email me in advance to schedule a meeting. This will help ensure we have adequate time to address your concerns. Additionally, we can arrange office meetings if needed for more detailed discussions.

Course Materials:

- Health economics and policy by James A Henderson, 8th Edition, Cengage Learning-Required
- Health Care Economics by Paul J. Feldstein, 7th Edition, Cengage Learning-Recommended
- The Economics of Health and Healthcare by Folland, Goodman, and Stano, 7th Edition, Prentice Hall
- Health Economics by Charles E. Phelps, 5th Edition, Pearson

Course Structure: For each module you will find the following items posted on D2L.

- A set of written lecture notes and in some cases with relevant appendices.
- A set of practice exercises with answers. These exercises will not be graded. However, I urge you to work through them to master the materials for HomeWorks, quizzes, midterm, and final exam.
- A set of homework problems. These exercises will be graded and count towards your grade. They should be submitted via D2L by taking a clear picture or scanned copy of your solutions. Please submit all your homework in PDF format. The due dates will be posted on D2L.
For **iPhone users**: the **NOTE** app on your phone can take pictures and convert it into a single pdf. **Android users**: Download **CAMSCANNER** for free for the same task. You don't need a premium account to scan documents into PDF files.
- I recommend that you go to D2L at least four times a week to check for updates

Quizzes: There will be two quizzes. The quiz time and dates will also be posted on D2L. Each quiz will be available on D2L at a specific time and date, and you will have one hour to complete it. It is your responsibility to be available and prepared to take these quizzes at the posted dates and times. In case of schedule conflicts, it is your responsibility to inform me at the earliest possible time.

Homework: There will be graded homework assignments assigned each week starting from 06/10/2024. The due dates will be posted on D2L. Each homework should be submitted via D2L (e-mail) by taking a clear picture or scanned copy of your solutions before the due date. Please submit all your homework in PDF format. These homework assignments will give you a chance to practice and improve your understanding of the class materials. Late homework will never be accepted.

Exams: There will be two exams in the course, a midterm, and a final exam. The exam time and dates will be posted on D2L. Midterm and Final will be available on D2L at specific times and dates, and you will have one hour to complete them. It is your responsibility to be available and prepared to take these exams at the posted dates and times.

Point Distribution		Tentative Dates	Time
Homework Assignments	20%	Weekly	Submitted on D2L
Quizzes	20%	Quiz 1 (June 24th) Quiz 2 (July 22nd)	Submitted on D2L
Midterm 1	30%	Tuesday (July. 8 th)	TBA*
Final Exam	30%	Thursday (July 31 st)	TBA*

Grading Policy:

Homework.....	20%
Quizzes.....	20%
Midterm	30%
Final	30%

Grading Scale

Grading Scale	
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% or less	F

Make-up policy: If you miss a quiz, the score for that quiz will be **zero. No make- up Quiz.** Whenever you face extraordinary circumstances (family or medical emergency) and cannot sit for one of the exams, it is your responsibility to notify me ahead of time to arrange for make-up exam.

Mathematics: The math requirements for this course are as follows:

- The ability to graph a linear equation in two-dimensional space.
- The ability to solve two equations in two variables for points at which both equations are true.
- A solid understanding of the information provided by the derivative of a function; the short answer is the slope of a function at a point.
- The ability to differentiate simple equations.

The former two ideas are essential. The latter two ideas will be used occasionally. A good way to prepare for the technical aspects of the course, particularly if you do not have a technical background, is to review the first two chapters of: Pre MBA- Analytical Primer: Essential Quantitative Concepts for Business Math by Regina Trevino, Ed. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

**This syllabus is subject to change.
All changes will be duly noted via D2L announcements.**

Course Outline:

Week 1:

- Introduction to Health Economics
- Microeconomics Tools for Health Economics
- Appendix: Mathematical Preliminaries

Week 2:

- Utility and Health
- Appendix: Review of the Model of Consumer Choice

Week 3:

- Demand for Healthcare

Week 4:

- Healthcare Production and Costs

Week 5:

- The Market for Hospital Services

Week 6:

- Asymmetric Information and Agency

Week 7:

- Demand and Supply for Health Insurance

Week 8:

- Review and final exam

