

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Jason R. Davis  
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**CLASS MEETINGS:** Class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays in room CCC 104 from 11:00 - 12:15. Any changes will be announced in advance, when possible, or posted on the classroom door.

**OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 - 3:00. Additional office hours are available by appointment.

**TEXTS:** The primary text for this course is Health Economics and Policy, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, by James W. Henderson. Additional readings may be assigned throughout the course. Any additional required reading will be announced in class and posted to D2L.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course applies microeconomic theories to analyze the behavior of health and health care markets. Topics will include: supply and demand of health care services, private medical insurance markets, government provision of health care services and/or health insurance, medical care pricing and provider incentives, and health care policy and reform.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

*Economic Content: Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

- Explain how health care outcomes are shaped by consumer choices, provider incentives, and government policy.
- Apply microeconomic techniques to critically analyze and compare competing health care policies.
- Explain how different forms of provider compensation affect provision of care and health care outcomes.

*Communication in the Major: Upon completing this class, students will be able to:*

- describe appropriate economic concepts and elaborate on their meaning in completing written assignments.
- understand and describe the role literature reviews play in academic research.
- organize and complete a literature review on an appropriate academic topic.
- express their ideas through the proper use of appropriate syntax and grammar in completing written assignments.
- deliver a coherent and organized presentation of their ideas in completing class participation assignments.
- speak clearly and precisely in addressing the class in completing class participation assignments.

**EXAMINATIONS:** There will be two take-home exams. These exams will consist of a set of short answer questions and will each count for 25% of your final grade. The exam due dates are:

**Exam 1:** Friday, March 1

**Exam 2:** Friday, April 19

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Participation will count for 10% of your final grade. Specifically, I expect you to be prepared for lectures (read the assigned chapters prior to the lectures), to participate in class discussions regarding lecture material, homework assignments and current events. I also expect students to summarize and discuss current health care topics covered in the media; details will be discussed in class.

**PAPER:** Students will be required to write a paper examining an applied topic of your choice. Students will be required to complete: 1) a proposal and preliminary list of references, 2) a preliminary draft of the paper, to be evaluated by other students in the class, 3) an academic presentation of the paper, and 4) a final draft of the paper. Specific details and due dates will be distributed separately. The grade on the paper will account for 40% of your final grade and will be based on: completion of an acceptable proposal (20 points), participation in the writing workshop (20 points), my assessment of the presentation (40 points), and my assessment of the final draft (80 points). Specific details for the paper assignment will be distributed in class.

**MISSED ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS:** Generally, I will not allow any make-ups for missed assignments and/or exams. If you have a verifiable emergency which prevents you from turning in an assignment or taking an exam, these will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. If possible, you must notify me of such an emergency 24 hours in advance.

**FINAL GRADES:** There will be a total of 400 points possible during the course:

Participation	40 points
Paper Proposal	20 points
Paper Peer Reviews	20 points
Paper Presentation	40 points
Paper Final Draft	80 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total	400 points

I expect the grading scale to be as follows, though I may choose to use a more generous curve, based on the performance of the class.

A	93-100%	372-400 points
A-	90-92.9%	360-371 points
B+	86-89.9%	344-359 points
B	82-85.9%	328-343 points
B-	79-81.9%	316-327 points
C+	76-78.9%	304-315 points
C	72-75.9%	288-303 points
C-	69-71.9%	276-287 points
D+	66-68.9%	264-275 points
D	60-65.9%	240-263 points
F	0-59.9%	0-239 points

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:** The planned schedule of topics and primary reading assignments for the course is listed below.

#### I Introductory Materials

Introduction: Chapter 1

Economic Tools: Chapters 2-3

Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis: Chapter 4

Demand for Health and Health Care: Chapters 5-6

#### II Health Insurance and Provider Markets

Health Insurance: Chapters 7-8, 12-13

Physician Markets: Chapters 9

Hospital Markets: Chapters 10

#### III International Comparisons and Health Care Reform

International Comparisons: Chapter 14

Health Care Reform: Chapter 15