

Syllabus for HIMT 365

Contact Information



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If you would like to chat via Skype, please email the instructor some suggested times to set up an appointment for a Skype call.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the structure of health care markets in the United States. You will evaluate the impact of the health care system in the United States on the competing goals of broad access, high quality, and affordability. You will also identify how consumers and providers respond to changes in incentives, and develop an appreciation for opposing views on health care reform. Topics covered include supply and demand modeling; cost-benefit analysis; the role of private and government health insurance; physician, hospital, long-term care, and pharmaceutical markets; and implications of the Affordable Care Act. Learning resources such as lectures, readings, and assessments are sequenced and organized to support authentic learning.

The course consists of 15 lessons.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of the course, you should be able to do the following:

- Describe the institutional structure of health care markets in the United States.
- Analyze how health care outcomes are influenced by changing market forces, social forces, and government forces.
- Explain the benefits and drawbacks of using cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis to guide evidence-based medicine.
- Explain how the provision and use of medical care are influenced by traditional insurance, cost-sharing measures, managed care restrictions, and consumer-driven health plans.

- Explain how government insurance programs affect participants, medical providers, and private insurance markets.
 - Describe the different types of medical care data and how those measurements are driven by reimbursement and quality measurement needs.
 - Evaluate the impact of health care reform from both the free-market and government-interventionist perspectives.
 - Explain the impact of the major elements of the Affordable Care Act.
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Course Materials

- Feldstein, J. F. (2015). Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective. Chicago, IL: Health Administration Press. 6th ed.
 - ISBN 10: 1567936962
 - ISBN 13: 9781567936964
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Course Activities and Assessments

You will be asked to read chapters from your textbook, view the instructor's lecture videos (commentaries), participate in discussions, and complete quizzes, exams, and practice exercises.

Discussions

Your first discussion assignment will be to introduce yourself to your fellow classmates. Other discussions will ask you to answer specific questions or offer you an opportunity to review content in preparation for an exam.

All discussions are completed in the discussion area of the course. Each discussion assignment requires one original post and two reply posts.

Discussion Details

There will be two discussion assignments in which you will analyze a health care topic from an economic perspective. Following your initial posting, you will then be asked to critique a posting from one of your classmates.

For each discussion, you will receive up to 15 points based on the quality and effort of your initial posting and up to 10 points based on the quality and effort of the critique. All postings should be prepared in a professional, academic manner in order to receive full credit.

Please do not attach files to the discussion area. Rather, I would encourage you to prepare your postings using a word-processing program and then cut and paste your work into the body of the posting. This will make it easier to access the postings and provide you with a backup file in case there is a technical problem that causes you to lose your work.

Practice Exercises

I've recorded myself working through a number of problems and questions for you to use as practice. In the practice exercises, I present a number of exercises, give you some time to work through them yourself, and then offer solutions. The practice exercises will be needed to prepare for quiz and exam questions; not doing them will cause you to do poorly on those assignments.

Quizzes

The quizzes consist of most long answer questions, and the types of questions asked expect that you have more than just a surface-level understanding of the material.

Exams

The two exams in this course will consist of essay questions, which will be made available during the semester in the Content area.

Course Outline

- Lesson 1: Introduction to Health Economics
 - Lessons 2a–f: Demand; Supply; Market Equilibrium; Elasticity; Market Efficiency; Practice Exercises
 - Lesson 3: Market Inefficiencies
 - Lesson 4: Cost-Benefit Analysis; Value of Life;
 - Lesson 5: Cost Effectiveness Analysis
 - Lesson 6: Insurance Basics; Employer-Sponsored Insurance; Cost Sharing; and Managed Care
 - Lesson 7: Medicare and Medicaid and the Uninsured
 - Lessons 8: Review and Exam
 - Lesson 9 and 10: Physician Markets
 - Lesson 11 and 12: Hospital Reimbursement
 - Lesson 13 and 14 Affordable Care Act and Healthcare Reform:
 - Lesson 15: Review and Exam
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Course Policies

Class Participation

Some assignments in this course require that you read each other's work and post a peer reply. Please do not read the work of other students prior to posting your original or first post on any assignment. The reason for this is to encourage original thought and creativity and to avoid what is known as group think. In group think, students seem to follow along with the first posts and reply similarly; this puts an undue responsibility on the person who had the courage to post first, and it may actually reduce the quality of your post if you structure yours like others already there. It is required that you view other students' postings in order to post your peer replies. The instructor reserves the right to grade students differently based on their participation in discussions and their failure to post their work prior to viewing the work of peers.

Late Assignment Submission

Late submission of assignments is discouraged. The instructor reserves the right to take partial or full points off for late assignments. If you are going to be away, it is suggested you get the assignments done and posted ahead of time to avoid losing points for late submissions.

Time Commitment

For each course credit, you are expected to spend a minimum of three hours a week on coursework. Therefore, for a four-credit course, at least 12 hours a week are expected. This is a general guideline which may vary depending on the assignments or quizzes.

Grading

This is how the required work in the course will be graded:

Discussions: 3 x 25 points	75
Quizzes: 6 x 25 points (with the lowest quiz dropped)	125
Exams: 2 x 100 points	200
Total Points	400

Grading Scale

Percentage Range	Grade	Points
90–100%	A	330–400
80–89.9%	B	260–329
70–79.9%	C	190–259
60–69.9%	D	120–189
below 60%	F	0–119