

Spelman



Health Economics

SECO 370-01 CRN (94843)

TTH 2:25 PM - 3:40 PM EST

Tapley Hall 308

Fall 2024

Professor Suneye Rae Holmes

Office Hours: MWF from 2 - 4 PM in Giles 405

Email: sholmes@spelman.edu

Prerequisites: N/A but ECO 242 is strongly encouraged.

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce upper-level undergraduate students to the sub-discipline of health economics, primarily through applying core microeconomic theories. The provision and production of healthcare have different characteristics and incentives from other consumer goods. In this course, we will investigate various aspects of the domestic health system over time, assess the implications of different policies, and master different economic techniques in healthcare markets. Particular scholarship will focus on research by and health outcomes of Black women in the Americas.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Apply basic microeconomic theory formulas to evaluate health outcomes and policy proposals.
- Explore the daily choices made to optimize health outcomes on social media (current) and reflect on historical decision-making.
- Form relevant and appropriate research questions specific to the field of health economics.
- Interpret statistical health data and identify the primary sources of such information.
- Communicate effectively in written, spoken, or graphical form about problems specific to health economics.

Course Materials

Required Textbooks:

Bhattacharya, J., Hyde, T., and Tu, P. (2014) *Health Economics*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan Publishers.

ISBN (print): 978-1-137-02996-6

ISBN (ebook): 978-1-137-02997-3

Washington, Harriet A. (2006) *Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation from Colonial Times to the Present*. New York: Anchor Books.

ISBN: 978-0-7679-1547-2

Selected readings to be provided digitally by the instructor:

Owens, Deidre Cooper. (2017) *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology*. Athens: The University of Georgia Press.

ISBN (ebook): 978-0-8203-5134-6

Roberts, Dorothy. (1997) *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction and the Meaning of Liberty*. New York: Vintage Books.

ISBN (paperback): 978-0-679-75869-3

ISBN (ebook): 978-0-8041-5259-4

Expectations

Students are expected to :

- Use their Spelman College email address for official communication with the instructor and submission of graded or ungraded work online.
- Review the relevant modules in Canvas and subsequently adopt regular habits of reading the textbook chapters and completing any Pre-Class activities before each class meeting.

- Respectfully interact with the instructor and peers with the acknowledgment that there is much diversity - seen and unseen - in a college classroom of Black women.
- Review and adhere to posted deadlines and submission policies.

The instructor is expected to :

- Meet and welcome students wherever they are in their economic education, whether they are majors or new to the discipline.
- Grade assignments within seven days of the assignment deadline
- Post and adhere to holding office hours on multiple days for at least 2 hours at a time each week to accommodate and encourage engagement and further inquiry
- Provide content that demonstrates fair attention to topics regardless of personal beliefs
- Regularly integrate under-represented perspectives of economic thought and thinkers.

Course Technologies

This course's webpage will be housed entirely online in a virtual environment. Canvas is the College's learning management system (LMS) where you can access course modules, instructions for graded assignments and your grades.

Throughout the semester, you will participate in a blend of individual and group activities. As such, the minimum technology requirements are :

- A reliable internet connection with 512 Kbps bandwidth, at minimum
- [System Requirements](#) as determined by Spelman Technology Services (STS)

Technology Help

For questions or issues related to Moodle, the mySpelman portal, or Office 365, contact the Spelman Technology Services (STS) Desk at 404.270.5400 or stsservicedesk@spelman.edu.

Course Activities & Assignments

This course is divided into several learning modules on Moodle grouped by chapters in the BHT textbook. Each module may contain any of the following types of graded tasks : **Discussion Posts; Homework, Presentations, Exams**, and the **Final**.

1. Canvas **Discussion Posts** are responses to prompts and/or media shares relating current events to health theory or discussion responses to assigned readings. Students will be expected to post a response and/or reflection after reading an assigned chapter but before the lecture. This comprises 15% of the course grade.

2. **Homework** points are accumulated by submitting a PDF of your work into Canvas. **Homework** is assigned from the Required Textbook (BHT) and is 5% of the student's overall course average.

Plagiarism or paraphrasing the publisher's key (which is widely available online) will result in an automatic zero grade.

Failure to submit work as a PDF will also result in a 5-point deduction and a requirement to resubmit in the correct format.

3. **Presentations** will be required of individuals or of groups of students to engage their reading and understanding of various academic articles on various topics surrounding Health Activism throughout the semester. The **Presentations** grade will consist of not only presenting in front of others, but also providing valuable, critical feedback and engagement beyond a summary, i.e., being a discussant. **Presentations** are 30% of the student's course average. A rubric for in-class Presentations will be posted to Canvas.
4. At least two **Exams** will be on paper and in class. Questions will cover material from the required textbook, assigned readings, and lectures. Exams are 30% of the course average. If time permits for a third exam, then the lowest exam grade will be dropped.
5. The structure of the **Final** will be a submitted paper and presentation akin to the short presentations described above. The date of the final is **Tuesday, December 5th, from 10:30A - 12:30P**. Papers Topics will be assigned after the second Exam, and a comprehensive rubric will be posted on Canvas. The **Final** is 20% of the student's course average. Students are expected to present in person on the date of the final; if absent, a formal excuse from the OUS is needed in advance.

General Rules on Discussion Posts

Students must read and respond to a prompt on the course Canvas page for grading at various times during the term. You are expected to relate the post to course materials using formal citations in APA format. Engagement with other students will only improve your grade!

Grading Policy

Weighted Components :

Homework	5%
Discussion Posts	15%
Presentations	30%
Exams	30%
Final Paper + Presentation	20%
Total	100%

Grading Scale :

A Note on Rounding: Any assignment grade will be rounded up if within .5 points of the next numerical score (Ex. 79.5% becomes 80%). The course average will be increased to the next letter grade if within 1 point (Ex. 89% becomes 90% an A-)

	A (95% - 100%)	A- (90% - 94%)
B+ (86% - 89%)	B (84% - 85%)	B- (80% - 83%)
C+ (76% - 79%)	C (74% - 75%)	C- (70% - 73%)
D+ (60% - 69%)	D (55% - 59%)	
	F (below 55%)	

Course Schedule Subject to change with advance notice from the instructor

<u>Week</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Module</u>	<u>Chapters</u>	<u>Activity</u>
1	Aug 15	Empirics of Demand	--	1	Assign Reading Groups
2	Aug 20 & 22	Models & Empirics	Demand for Healthcare	2	
3	Aug 27 & 29	Models & Empirics	Demand for Healthcare	2	HW Ch 2
4	Sept 3 & 5	Grossman	Presentations	3	Presentation & Discussion 1 on MA Intro
5	Sept 10 & 12	Grossman	Demand for Healthcare	3	HW Ch 3
6	Sept 17 & 19	Health Disparities	Presentations	4	Grossman Presentation 2
7	Sept 24 & 26	--	Demand for Healthcare; Presentations	2-4	Discussion 2 on MA Ch 1
8	Oct 1 & 3	--	--	--	Exam 1; Presentation 3 on MA Ch 1
9	Oct 10	Physician Labor	Supply of Healthcare	5	--
10	Oct 15 & 17	Physician Labor	Supply of Healthcare	5	HW Ch 5
11	Oct 22 & 24	Hospitals	The Hospital Industry	6	HW Ch 6
12	Oct 29 & 31	Insurance	Demand for Insurance	7	Discussion 3 and Presentation 4 on assigned MA chapters
13	Nov 5 & 7	--	--	5-7	Exam 2
14	Nov 12 & 14	Adverse Selection		8	--
15	Nov 19	Adverse Selection & Moral Hazard		8 & 11	HW Ch 8 & Ch 11
16	Nov 26 & 28	Moral Hazard		11	Discussion 4 and Presentation 5 on MA chapter 7
17	Dec 3	--		8 & 11	Exam 3

Student Access Statement

Spelman College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation to participate in class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, you should contact the [Student Access Center \(SAC\)](#) as soon as possible. You must be appropriately registered to receive any academic accommodation with the SAC. The SAC works with students confidentially and does not disclose any disability-related information without their permission. SAC is a clearinghouse on disability issues and partners with faculty and all other student service offices. For further information about services for students with disabilities, please contact the SAC at (404) 270-5289 or via email at sac@spelman.edu.

Diversity Statement

In keeping with the values and mission of Spelman College, a historical institution built for the edification of all women of African descent, the materials presented in this course will provide an atmosphere representative of various perspectives, especially those of Black women in the discipline. This course gives you multiple opportunities to express and experience Spelman's rich cultural diversity as we create knowledge and community. In addition, assignments have been designed to encourage your creative contributions and learn from the information, experiences, and ideas others share.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic dishonesty, or cheating, will not be tolerated. It is your responsibility to act with integrity at all times and to avoid cheating. If you are unsure if something is allowed, ask the instructor beforehand, or do not do it. Please [refer to this document](#) for the College's and this course's policy on Academic Integrity.

Copyright and Fair Use Statement

Copyright laws and fair use policies protect the rights of authors. This class may use copyrighted materials, including articles, music, artwork, etc. These materials are provided for private study, scholarship, or research and adhere to the copyright law of the U.S. (Title 17, U.S. Code). You may copy or download from the course website one copy of the materials on any single computer for non-commercial, personal, or educational purposes only, provided that you do not modify it and use it only for the duration of this course. Beyond this use, no material from the course or website may be copied, reproduced, republished, uploaded, posted, transmitted, or distributed in any way without the original holder's permission. Neither the instructor nor the College assumes any responsibility for individuals who improperly use copyrighted material.

COVID-19 Statement

As Spelman College begins the 2024-2025 academic year amid the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the safety, health, and well-being of students, faculty, and staff are our primary priority. Please follow the College's COVID-19 isolation protocol and exposure guidance to protect yourself and others.

Follow the new CDC guidance. A graphic with instructions for keeping yourself and others healthy has been posted to our course Canvas page.

- Stay home and away from others,
- Seek medical treatment if needed,
- Resume normal activities when symptoms are improving and you are fever-free (without using fever medication) for at least 24 hours.

If you have questions regarding exposure, contact COVID-19 Operations at 404-270-5407. For more information about COVID-19 health and safety, refer to the Spelman COVID-19 Resource Page on spelman.edu.

Safe Behavior in the Classroom: Any student experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 with a suspected or positive diagnosis should not attend class or come to campus. They should call Student Health Services or their health care provider for guidance if they are not residential students. Any student with a positive diagnosis must report this fact to Student Health Services at 404-270-5249.

COVID-19-related class absences fall under the College's excused absence policy. Per the College's protocols, a student who becomes ill during the semester should notify Student Health Services, who will notify the Office of Undergraduate Studies (OUS) of your absence. OUS will notify your professors of your absence. Faculty will be as flexible as possible about attendance due to illness. If you must miss class, please contact your faculty so that you can discuss and devise a plan for keeping up with your coursework. Should your health negatively impact your ability to succeed in any of your classes, speak with your professor who will work with OUS to connect you to support and work through possible options, which may include withdrawal from a class or classes or a Leave of Absence (LOA) from the College.

Fourth Credit Hour Justification

This course assigns work for three hours each week, yet students receive four hours of credit. To earn the fourth credit, you have to engage in outside preparation activity that fulfills the goals of the class, generally 15 hours of parallel or out-of-class group preparation and assignments. For this course, the Final Project is a group initiative that includes documenting group members' responses before submission, responding to suggested deadlines, and providing peer reviews posted in Canvas. Additionally, participation in group work is a collective effort in learning. We are responsible for and above regular class assignments, which enhance student success in the course.

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