

**Department of Economics  
Dalhousie University  
ECO5231 – Health Economics  
Winter 2015**

**Instructor:** Prof. Courtney Ward

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday 11:30 am to 1:30 pm by appointment  
Each week I book appointments on a first come first serve basis.  
You can access my current availability in real-time by booking  
an appointment using the following scheduler:  
<https://www.timetrade.com/book/Z77LN>

**Course objectives:**

This course introduces students to the role of economics in health, health care, and health policy. It is meant to be a survey of major topics in health economics and is designed to introduce you to the issues, theory and practice of health economics. Topics include the economic determinants of health, the role of moral hazard and adverse selection on the market for health insurance, the role of the government in health care, and health care reform.

The course is structured in two parts. The format of the first part of the course is lecture based with a more theoretical focus. The second part of the course is designed as a research seminar with a focus on leading research in the field of health economics.

**Course materials:**

Required readings are posted on the course website and are summarized in the course reading list. There is no assigned textbook for the course but you may find the following textbooks useful:

Health:

Sherman Folland, Allen Goodman and Miron Stano, *The Economics of Health and Health Care* (Prentice Hall), 6<sup>th</sup> edition.

Jeremiah Hurley, *Health Economics* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson), 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Jones, Andrew, *Applied econometrics for health economists: a practical guide*, Radcliff Publishing.

Empirical methods:

Angrist, Joshua D. & Jörn-Steffen Pischke, *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion*. (Princeton University Press).

## Grading Scale:

A+	90-100	A	85-89	A-	80-84		
B+	77-79	B	73-76	B-	70-72	F	(<70)

The scale is determined by the Faculty of Graduate Studies, which stipulates that graduate students must achieve a minimum of a B- grade in all classes required of their degree program.

## Grade allocation:

Your final grade will be based on:

- 2 in class exams (worth 30% each)
- 1 presentation and 1 written literature review of an assigned journal article (worth 30% total)
- Structured class participation and discussion (worth 10% in total).

Details of each component are discussed below.

### Exams (written component)

Exam 1: February 10<sup>th</sup>

Exam 2: April 7<sup>th</sup>

### Presentations and Written Literature Review (oral + written component)

Presentations will run over the course of the semester depending on choice of topic. Each of you will choose a journal article corresponding to your topic of interests (we will discuss possible topics in class). In addition to your class presentation, you are required to submit a written literature review of the topic associated with the journal article. Your presentation slides will be submitted on the date of presentation and the written review will be submitted on the following week. Both the presentation slides and the written review will be submitted electronically and in hard copy. The electronic copies will be posted on the course website for the benefit of everyone.

More details on the format of both the presentation and written literature review will be provided once topics and journal articles have been selected.

### Structured class participation (oral component)

For each presentation week/topic following the midterm break, you will be required to research and prepare a *short* verbal summary of at least one related article (not already on the syllabus). To avoid replication you will post the chosen article's reference information to the course website before class. Your chosen article cannot already be listed on the discussion board (i.e. time is of the essence). In class, be prepared to summarize the article orally.

### Missed Material:

To be excused from class due to illness, you must notify me of your illness immediately on the date of absence.

If you miss an exam due to illness, then you will need to schedule a make up exam with me. The make up exam will have both an oral and written component. If you will be absent for your presentation, notify me immediately and we will reschedule.

**Academic misconduct:**

At Dalhousie University, we respect the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect. As a student, adherence to the values of academic integrity and related policies is a requirement of being part of the academic community at Dalhousie University.

**What does academic integrity mean?**

Academic integrity means being honest in the fulfillment of your academic responsibilities thus establishing mutual trust. Fairness is essential to the interactions of the academic community and is achieved through respect for the opinions and ideas of others. "Violations of intellectual honesty are offensive to the entire academic community, not just to the individual faculty member and students in whose class an offence occurs." [\[Intellectual Honesty section of University Calendar\]](#)

**How can you achieve academic integrity?**

- make sure you understand [Dalhousie's policies on academic integrity](#)
- give appropriate credit to the sources used in your assignment such as written or oral work, computer codes/programs, artistic or architectural works, scientific projects, performances, web page designs, graphical representations, diagrams, videos, and images
  - Use RefWorks to keep track of your research and edit and format bibliographies in the citation style required by the instructor - <http://www.library.dal.ca/How/RefWorks>
- do not download the work of another from the Internet and submit it as your own
- do not submit work that has been completed through collaboration or previously submitted for another assignment without permission from your instructor
- do not write an examination or test for someone else
- do not falsify data or lab results

*[these examples should be considered only as a guide and not an exhaustive list]*

**What will happen if an allegation of an academic offence is made against you?**

I am required to report a suspected offence. The full process is outlined in the [Discipline flow chart](#) and includes the following:

- Each Faculty has an Academic Integrity Officer (AIO) who receives allegations from instructors
- The AIO decides whether to proceed with the allegation and you will be notified of the process
- If the case proceeds, you will receive an INC (incomplete) grade until the matter is resolved
- If you are found guilty of an academic offence, a penalty will be assigned ranging from a warning to a suspension or expulsion from the University and can include a notation on your transcript, failure of the assignment or failure of the course. All penalties are academic in nature.

**Where can you turn for help?**

- If you are ever unsure about ANYTHING, contact myself or the TA
- [Academic Integrity website](#)
  - Links to policies, definitions, online tutorials, tips on citing and paraphrasing
- [Writing Center](#)
  - Assistance with proofreading, writing styles, citations
- [Dalhousie Libraries](#)
  - Workshops, online tutorials, citation guides, Assignment Calculator, RefWorks
- [Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service](#)
  - Assists students with academic appeals and student discipline procedures.
- [Senate Office](#)
  - List of Academic Integrity Officers, discipline flow chart, Senate Discipline Committee

**Other Important Notes:****Student Accessibility Services**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register as quickly as possible at the Student Accessibility Services if they wish to receive academic accommodations. To do so please phone 494-2836, email [access@dal.ca](mailto:access@dal.ca), drop in at the new Mark A. Hill Accessibility Centre or visit our website [www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca](http://www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca). Students are also reminded that, for your convenience, all forms are now available on their website.