

**Department of Economics
Dalhousie University**

ECO2231 – Health Economics
Fall 2009

Instructor:

Prof. Courtney Ward **Room C13**
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 9 to 12

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 an introduction to the ongoing debate over health care policy. Topics include the economic determinants of health, the market for medical care, the market for health insurance, the role of the government in health care, and health care reform.

Course materials:

Required: Sherman Folland, Allen Goodman and Miron Stano, *The Economics of Health and Health Care* (Prentice Hall), 5rd edition.

The text will be available at the campus bookstore. Additional readings may be required and will be available on the course home page as we progress through the course.

Course Website:

The course should also be listed under the course section of your my.dal.ca page. Access to the course website requires enrolment in the course. Please check the website frequently for new announcements. You may also post comments or questions to your colleagues or to me.

A note on my e-mail policy: I will try to reply to e-mail within 24 hours during the semester (not including weekends). However, I will only reply to e-mails that can be answered in a couple of sentences (office hours are a better forum for detailed discussion) and I will not reply to questions that can be answered by simple referral to the syllabus.

Prerequisites: Eco 1101/1102

Prerequisites are strictly checked and enforced and must be completed before taking a course. By taking this course you acknowledge that you will be removed from the course at anytime if you do not meet all requirements set by the Department of Economics.

Grade allocation:

The course will have 2 in class midterms worth 20% each, 2 writing assignments worth 15% and a final exam worth 25%. The remaining 5% will be awarded for class participation.

Midterm 1: October 9th

Midterm 2: November 13th

Writing Assignment 1: due October 2nd

Writing Assignment 2: due November 30th

Further details on the writing assignments will be distributed in class.

Final Exam: in class, December 7th

Missed Material:

If you miss a test due to illness the portion of your grade for that test will be added to the final exam. There will be no makeup tests.

Assignments are due in class at 1:35pm on the due date. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Academic misconduct:

Students should note that copying, plagiarizing, or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Any student caught engaging in such activities will be subject to academic discipline ranging from a mark of zero on the assignment, test or examination to dismissal from the university as outlined in the academic handbook. Any student abetting or otherwise assisting in such misconduct will also be subject to academic penalties.

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, drop in at the new Mark A. Hill Accessibility Centre or visit our website www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca. Students are also reminded that, for your convenience, all forms are now available on their website.

Pandemic H1N1 Influenza Advisory in relation to Academic Continuity

In the event of an escalation of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus, the University may need to authorize Academic Units to change elements of class schedules and/or evaluation plans as outlined in course syllabi. Any change is intended to support the primary goal of reducing the risk of spreading a pandemic influenza among students, faculty and staff.

Although it is difficult to predict the severity of the pandemic, the University is committed to minimizing the impact on student's academic progress. Therefore, every effort will be made to provide students with options for continued learning and for continued fair evaluations.

Changes may include but are not limited to:

- Adjustments to course assignments;
- Changes to the dates of exams;
- Arrangements for alternative evaluations for students affected by H1N1 influenza virus;
- Adjustments to work terms;
- Modification of marks awarded for participation;
- Adjustments to attendance policies.

Any alternative plan made in individual courses may be superseded by University-wide or Government measures to reduce the spread of the pandemic H1N1 influenza virus.

Detailed Course Outline:

1. The Economics of Health and Health Care. Why Health and Economics?

* Text, ch.1

2. Review of Microeconomic and statistical tools for the course.

* Text, ch.2, 3

3. Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programs

*Text, ch. 4

4. The Demand for Health and Medical Care

* Text, ch. 5, 7, (9)

5. Prices, Insurance and Consumer Behaviour

* Text, ch. 8, 10, (11)

6. Physician Behaviour and the Supply of Medical Care

* Text ch. 15,16

7. Technological Change

*Text, ch. 6

8. The Pharmaceutical Industry

* Text, ch 17

9. Equity , Efficiency and Need

* Text, ch.18, 19, 21

10. The Canadian Health Care System and Health Care Systems Around the World

* Text, ch 12, 22

11. Special Topics: Obesity, Smoking, Mental Health, HIV/AIDs
