

Department of Economics
Dalhousie University
ECO2231 – Health Economics
Winter 2011

Contact:

Professor: Courtney Ward

Lectures:	Tuesday	10:05 – 11:25	LSC P4258
	Thursday	10:05 – 11:25	Rowe 1016

Office hours: Tuesday 11:30 - 2:30 (by appointment) 6220 University Ave, C13

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), 6th edition.

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

Course Website:

The course webpage is listed under the course section of the “my.dal.ca” page. Access to the course website requires enrolment in the course. Please check the website frequently for new announcements.

A note on my e-mail policy: (1) **I will only reply to e-mail addressed to courtney.ward@dal.ca** (not to the internal e-mail on the OWL website). (2) **I will try to reply to e-mail within 24 hours during the semester** (not including weekends). As to e-mail etiquette: 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 10% each and a final exam worth 40%.

Midterm 1: February 17th

Midterm 2: March 24th

Writing Assignment 1: due in class at 10:05am February 3rd

Writing Assignment 2: due in class at 10:05am March 10th

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

Final Exam: TBA

Missed Material:

Missed Exams: There is a very strict policy concerning any missed exam. Only original medical notes, complying with university guidelines on illness will be considered. If an exemption is not granted, a grade of zero will stand. If an exemption is granted, the weight of the midterm will be allocated to the final.

Late Assignments: Assignments are due in class at 10:05am on the due date. Out of respect for those students who do submit assignments on time, late assignments will be refused in every case (i.e. there are **no** exceptions to this policy).

The grading scheme for this course is as follows:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
90-100	85-89	80-84	75-79	70-74	65-69	62-64	58-61	55-57	50-54	<50

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.

Please note the Department of Economics Statement on Academic Integrity posted on the course website. As part of an academic community it is your responsibility to be aware of appropriate conduct. Any academic offence will be reported and acted upon immediately by Dalhousie administration.

Student Accessibility Services

All student requests for either academic accommodation or non-academic accommodation are to be directed to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA), previously known as Student Accessibility Services. Website: www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca. Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act.

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
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