ECON 3330: ECONOMICS OF HEALTH
SPRING 2011, TR 1:00–2:15 p.m., SOM 2.103

Senior Lecturer: Luba Ketsler
E-mail: luba.ketsler@utd.edu
Phone number: 972-883-6465
Office: GR 3.412
Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays: 9:45 – 10:45 am. You can also see me by appointment
TA: Chunyu Chen, GR 2.822. E-mail: cxc067000@utdallas.edu. Contact for appointment.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

Successful completion of Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (ECON 3310) is advised. Please feel free to contact me about any concerns you may have related to this class.

Course Description/Requirements

This course is an introduction to the field of health economics. We will study the health care industry –government programs, legal issues, and international comparisons. The course will be organized as a seminar. The instructor will introduce topics and guide discussions. Students are expected to **actively participate** in the discussions, regarding literature from economics, politics, medical sociology, and ethics.

Requirements:
Students will be expected to compile and present articles for discussions, complete the assigned readings, and attend and participate in class discussions. We will be doing informal debates in class every week. Each student will be required to introduce and moderate a debate. Also, this course will focus on improving writing skills – each student will be required to submit five three-page papers on health care issues. Each paper will be critiqued and then returned to the student for revisions. This process is aimed to improve your research and writing skills.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

(1) Knowledge of various issues pertaining to the health care industry.
(2) Provide you with various concepts and tools that can be used to better understand health care problems.
(3) Discuss the probable consequences of government regulation and market competition on the operation and performance of the health care industry.
(4) Improve writing and critical thinking skills.

Course Materials

- Links to readings available online are listed within the syllabus
- Readings not available online will be distributed during the course of the semester, along with additional material.

Suggested Textbook to purchase:

Health Economics: Theory, Insights, and Industry Studies by Rexford E. Santerre and Stephen P. Neun. 5th Edition, Cengage Learning

---

Tentative Course Outline *(Subject to change)*

Week 1 (January 17):

- Go over syllabus and structure of the course
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 1: Introduction
- Assign articles
- **Paper #1 is assigned – Due back in 1 week on January 24th**

Week 2 (January 24)

- **Paper #1 is due back today**
- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 2: Health and Medical Care

Week 3 (January 31)

- **Paper #2 is assigned – Due back in 2 weeks on February 14th**
- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 3: Cost and Benefit Analysis

Week 4 (February 7):

- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 4: Health Care Systems and Institutions

Week 5 (February 14)

- **Paper #2 is due back today**
- **Paper #3 will be assigned today as well – Due back in 3 weeks on March 6th**
- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 5: The Demand for Medical Care

Week 6 (February 21)

- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Text: Santerre & Neun: **Chapter 6: Pages 155- 162 ONLY**
- Review for next week's midterm

*****Week 7 (February 28) *****
MIDTERM EXAM – WILL COVER CHAPTERS 1-6

Week 8 (March 6)

- Go over Midterm
- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- **Paper #3 is due today**
- **Paper #4 will be assigned today as well – Due back on March 27th**
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 8: Structure, Conduct, Performance, and Market Analysis: Pages 208-232

Week 9 (March 13)
SPRING BREAK – no classes

Week 10 (March 20)

- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 9: Government, Health, and Medical Care

Week 11 (March 27)

- **Paper #4 is due today**
- **Paper #5 will be assigned today – Due back on April 10th**
- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 10: Government as Health Insurer

Week 12 (April 3)

- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 11: The Private Health Insurance Industry

Week 13 (April 10)

- **Paper #5 is due today**
- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 16: Health Insurance Reform

Week 14 (April 17)

- Discuss articles
- Assign articles
- Debates

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS

Overview of selected healthcare systems:

http://www.libraryindex.com/pages/1862/International-Comparisons-Health-Care-OVERVIEWS-SELECTED-HEALTH-CARE-SYSTEMS.html

Week 15 (April 24) – Last day of Class

- Review of the semester. Conclusions and discussion.

***** TEST #2 – MAY 1st – WILL COVER CHAPTER 8-11, & 16 *****

Grading Policy

The grade will be based on class participation, a midterm exam, and a final. In addition, there will be five required short essays (3 pages each), which will focus on the major issues associated with health care. In terms of the participation grade: every week, approximately 3 to 4 students will be assigned to find articles (2 articles each) that they must present in class for discussion. These articles must be given to me the day before class.

Class Participation	10% (This includes article presentations)
Midterm	20% (February 28)
Test #2	20% (May 1)
Short Essays	50% (There is a total of 5 essays)

The grades will be assigned as follows:

96-100% A+	84-87 B+	72-75 C+	60-64 D+	
92-95 A	80-83 B	68-71 C	56-59 D	
88-91 A-	76-79 B-	65-67 C-	52-55 D-	0-51 F

Course & Instructor Policies

Make-up Exams: No make-up exams will be allowed except in the case of a medical condition or family emergency. In the case of a medical condition, a doctor's note is necessary.

Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit work assigned for this course.

Late Work: Late papers will earn a grade of zero.

Class Attendance: Highly Recommended.

Classroom Citizenship: I expect students to be attentive during class and to actively participate in class discussions. You are expected to listen respectfully to me and to other students when speaking.

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Field Trip Policies
Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System,* and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty, any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the deal will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)
disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with

Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.