

ECON 3330.001: ECONOMICS OF HEALTH
SPRING 2016, TR 1:00–2:15 p.m., CB3 1.306

Senior Lecturer: Luba Ketsler

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Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10:15am – 11:15am. You can also see me by 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. We will have informal presentations throughout the semester.

Requirements:

Students will be expected to present in groups on various healthcare topics, complete the assigned readings, and attend and participate in class discussions. Also, this course will focus on improving research skills – each student will be required to submit **three seven-page (minimum)** papers on health care issues. All research must be cited, but the citation method you use is your choice.

*Throughout the semester we will have a few pop quizzes (approximately 4, 2 full points each). These points will be added to your lowest test grade.

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) Categorize, compare and contrast key elements of the health care economy and its impact on the greater US economy
 - (5) Employ marginal benefit-cost analysis within the context of individual consumer and/or producer behavior.
 - (6) Discuss economic models as related to market-driven behavior and/or public policy.
 - (7) Improve writing and critical thinking skills.
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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. 6th Edition, Cengage Learning

Tentative Course Outline *(Subject to change)*

August 23:

- Go over syllabus and structure of the course

August 25:

- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 1: Introduction
- **Paper #1 is assigned – Due back on September 15th**

Week of August 30th:

- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 2: Health and Medical Care
- Presentations assigned for September 6th and September 8th

Week of September 6:

- Presentations
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 3: Cost and Benefit Analysis
- Assign presentation for September 13th

Week of September 13:

- **Paper 1 due on September 15th!**
- Presentations
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 4: Health Care Systems and Institutions
- Assign presentations for September 22nd

Week of September 20:

- **Paper #2 will be assigned today– Due back on October 13th**
- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 5: The Demand for Medical Care
- Presentations
- Assign presentations for September 29th

Week of September 27:

- Text: Santerre & Neun: **Chapter 6: Conventional Model vs. Nyman Model only: ppt pages: 1-43**
- Presentations

Week of October 4:

- Discuss chapter material

*****OCTOBER 6th*****

MIDTERM EXAM – WILL COVER CHAPTERS 1-6

Week of October 11:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 2 is due on October 13th ! |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Go over Midterm |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assign presentations for October 18th and October 20th |
- **Speaker (?)**

Week of October 18:

- Presentations
 - Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 8: Structure, Conduct, Performance, and Market Analysis: Pages 208-232
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assign presentation for October 27th |
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Week of October 27:

- **Paper #3 will be assigned today – Due back on November 17th**
 - Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 9: Government, Health, and Medical Care
 - Presentation
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assign presentation for November 3rd |
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Week of November 1:

- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 10: Government as Health Insurer
 - Presentation
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assign presentation for November 10th |
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Week of November 8:

- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 11: The Private Health Insurance Industry
- Presentation

Week of November 15:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper #3 is due November 17th! |
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- Text: Santerre & Neun: Chapter 12: The Physician Services Industry

Week of November 22:
Fall Break – No Classes

Week of November 29:

- Review of the semester. Conclusions and discussion.

***** TEST #2 – DECEMBER 1st – WILL COVER CHAPTER 8-12 *****
TEST WILL BE HELD DURING CLASS TIME

Grading Policy

Grades will be based on class participation, a midterm exam, and a final. In addition, there will be 3 required short research papers (minimum 7 pages each), which will focus on the major issues associated with health care. In terms of the participation grade: every week, students will be assigned to do a presentation. Students must provide me with their topic a few days beforehand for approval. Presentations should focus on economic issues associated with healthcare. As mentioned in a previous section, throughout the semester we will have a few pop quizzes (approximately 4, 2 full points each). These points will be added to your lowest test grade.

Class Participation	10% (This includes presentations)
Midterm	15% (October 6)
Test #2	15% (December 1)
Short Essays	<u>60%</u> (There is a total of 3 essays -- 20% each)
	100%

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.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.