

William Foster
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Class is held in
Burnham Hall
Room 308

Office Hours: Tuesday after class

Health Economics
ECONOMICS 215, 3 CREDITS

“America's health care system is neither healthy, caring, nor a system.”
— Walter Cronkite

This course will cover supply and demand for health services, the role of insurance in the health care industry, public policy issues, cost and quality regulation.
Previously listed as ECON 354. Prerequisite(s): ECON 120

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Use cost-benefit analysis to evaluate health related topics.
- Apply economic principles to the production of health and health capital.
- Use economic tools to analyze health insurance markets.
- Understand the basics of the health care labor market.

Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance and class participation will make up 10% of the grade. Lectures will be crucial for understanding the material. There will be an article assignment and a book presentation project in addition to online quizzes and three exams.

The required texts for this course are:

The Economics of Health and Health Care (7th Edition)

Sherman Folland, Allen C. Goodman, Miron Stano
ISBN-13: 978-0132773690

Irrationality in Health Care

What Behavioral Economics Reveals About What We Do and Why
Douglas E. Hough
ISBN-13: 978-0804777971

YOUR FINAL GRADE WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE FOLLOWING:

| | EACH | | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|------|---|-------|
| ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION | 10% | = | 10% |
| ONLINE QUIZZES | ?? | = | 15% |
| ARTICLE SUMMARY/REACTION | 7.5% | = | 7.5% |
| BOOK PRESENTATION | 7.5% | = | 7.5% |
| MIDTERM EXAMS | 20% | = | 40% |
| FINAL EXAM | 20% | = | 20% |

BLACKBOARD: Blackboard is an instrumental part of this course. You can access UIC's Blackboard system at: <https://blackboard.uic.edu/webapps/login/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Check here for periodic announcements about the course.

COURSE DOCUMENTS: This will include several different types of documents relating to the course.

SYLLABUS: This will be permanently stored here.

INCOMPLETE LECTURE NOTES: I will regularly provide lecture notes from class. I will leave holes in them for you to fill in. Often these holes will represent the most important information of the lecture. Occasionally, however, there will be NO NOTES AVAILABLE. Not all lectures will be done with PowerPoint.

QUIZZES: Your online quizzes will be given through the Blackboard system.

MY GRADES: You will have access to your current grades through this system.

DISCUSSION BOARDS: I have created one general discussion board. This is for students to talk to other students about the course. This is not for communication with me. I will not look at this board.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism is “the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work”¹. If you are suspected of plagiarizing, you will be brought up on charges by the university. If you are found guilty you may be dismissed from the university.

1. **The Random House Dictionary.** (2010). In *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Retrieved August 19, 2010, from Encyclopædia Britannica Online: <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/491056/The-Random-House-Dictionary>

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with Faculty Contact Sheets for this class need to present them to the instructor as soon as possible. Other students requiring reasonable accommodations, as covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to open up a DRC file and discuss needed accommodations. Questions and requests for reasonable accommodations should be directed to DRC, 1190 SSB, phone (312) 413-2183 or email drc@uic.edu.

Planned Lecture Topics and Class Schedule

(Subject to Change)

| Week | Date | | Title | | Chapters |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------|--|-------|----------|
| 1 | January 14, 2014 | ----- | Introduction | ----- | Ch. 1 |
| | January 16, 2014 | ----- | Microeconomic Tools | ----- | Ch. 2 |
| 2 | January 21, 2014 | ----- | Statistical Tools | ----- | Ch. 3 |
| | January 23, 2014 | ----- | Cost-Benefit Analysis | ----- | Ch. 4 |
| 3 | January 28, 2014 | ----- | Production of Health | ----- | Ch. 5 |
| | January 30, 2014 | ----- | Production, Cost, Technology of Care | ----- | Ch. 6 |
| 4 | February 4, 2014 | ----- | Demand for Health Capital | ----- | Ch. 7 |
| | February 6, 2014 | ----- | Consumer Choice and Demand | ----- | Ch. 9 |
| 5 | February 11, 2014 | ----- | *****MIDTERM REVIEW***** | ----- | |
| | February 13, 2014 | ----- | *****MIDTERM***** | ----- | |
| 6 | February 18, 2014 | ----- | Demand and Supply of Health Insurance | ----- | Ch. 8 |
| | February 20, 2014 | ----- | Assymetric Information and Agency | ----- | Ch. 10 |
| 6 | February 25, 2014 | ----- | Health Insurance Markets | ----- | Ch. 11 |
| | February 27, 2014 | ----- | Managed Care | ----- | Ch. 12 |
| 7 | March 4, 2014 | ----- | Hospitals and Long-Term Care | ----- | Ch. 14 |
| | March 6, 2014 | ----- | The Physician's Practice | ----- | Ch. 15 |
| 8 | March 11, 2014 | ----- | Health Care Labor Markets | ----- | Ch. 16 |
| | March 13, 2014 | ----- | Pharmaceuticals | ----- | Ch. 17 |
| 9 | March 18, 2014 | ----- | *****MIDTERM REVIEW***** | ----- | |
| | March 20, 2014 | ----- | *****MIDTERM***** | ----- | |
| 10 | March 25, 2014 | ----- | *** SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS *** | ----- | |
| | March 27, 2014 | ----- | | ----- | |
| 11 | April 1, 2014 | ----- | Social Insurance | ----- | Ch. 21 |
| | April 3, 2014 | ----- | Comparative Health Care Systems | ----- | Ch. 22 |
| 12 | April 8, 2014 | ----- | Health System Reform | ----- | Ch. 23 |
| | April 10, 2014 | ----- | The Health Economics of Bads | ----- | Ch. 24 |
| 13 | April 15, 2014 | ----- | Topics TBA | ----- | |
| | April 17, 2014 | ----- | | ----- | |
| 14 | April 22, 2014 | ----- | Book Presentations | ----- | |
| | April 24, 2014 | ----- | | ----- | |
| 15 | April 29, 2014 | ----- | Book Presentations | ----- | |
| | May 1, 2014 | ----- | *****FINAL REVIEW***** | ----- | |
| FINAL | Friday, May 9, 2014 | ----- | ***** FINAL EXAM AT 8 AM***** | ----- | |