

Economics 450: Health Economics

Summer Session I, 2013
Department of Economics, UNC-Chapel Hill

Contact Information:

Instructor: Forrest Spence

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Office Hours: 9:30-10:30 MWF and by appt.

Website: sakai.unc.edu

Meeting Time: 8:00am-9:30am MTWRF GA 209

Prerequisite: ECON 410

Course Objectives:

This course explores the unique aspects of health and health care markets as they relate to economic theory. In particular, we will focus on the importance of incentives in individual decision making and how incentives affect the structure, conduct, and performance of the health care sector. You will be exposed to economic models of the demand for health, health production, medical care demand, and the demand for and supply of health insurance. By the conclusion of this course, you will be able to understand and discuss the economics of health and the health care sector.

Textbook and Readings:

There is no assigned textbook for this course, but purchasing Folland, Goodman, and Stano, *The Economics of Health and Health Care*, 5th Edition is recommended. The content of course will roughly follow that of this textbook and it will serve as a good resource outside of lecture. Additional readings will be periodically assigned and posted on the course website in advance.

Attendance and Classroom Etiquette:

Attendance is not required, but strongly recommended. Participation comprises 10% of your final grade and exams and homework assignments will be based on the material covered in lecture, making regular attendance critical to doing well in this course. You are responsible for all announcements, assignments, and course material covered in class. If you miss a lecture, you should arrange to copy the notes from one of your classmates. Laptops, cellphones, and other electronic devices must be turned off or silenced before class begins.

Honor Code:

The UNC Honor Code is in effect throughout this course.

Evaluation:

Grades will follow the traditional +/- scale: A = 93-100, A- = 90-92, B+ = 87-89, etc. All grades will be posted on Sakai. Throughout the semester, please verify that the grades inputted are accurate. You will be evaluated based on the following four criteria:

- Participation: 10%

In order to foster a productive learning atmosphere, 10% of your final grade will be determined by your attendance, comments, questions, and attentiveness. Students who regularly attend class and make positive contributions will receive the entire 10 points on their final grade.

- Homework: 20%

There will be approximately four homework assignments assigned throughout the course. Homework is due at the beginning of class (unless otherwise noted). Grades on homework assignments turned in late will be deducted by 50%. You are welcome to work on the homework assignments in groups of up to 3 students, but each group member must turn his or her own copy of the assignment.

- Midterms: 40%

There will be two midterms each worth 20% of your final grade: Friday May 24th and Friday June 7th. Midterms will consist of short answer questions that test your knowledge of the material covered in lecture. There will be no makeup midterms exams. If you miss a midterm for any reason, the weight of the midterm will be added to the final exam.

- Final Exam: 30%

The final exam will be on Tuesday June 18th at 8:00am. It will consist of short answer questions and will be cumulative. If you are unable to attend the final exam at the scheduled time, you are required to provide me with an exam excuse obtained through the Dean's Office.