

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON 456/643**  
**Health Economics**  
**Winter 2019**  
**TTh 8:30-9:50, HH1104**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11:20am

Email: [emma.pierard@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:emma.pierard@uwaterloo.ca). When emailing the instructor, the subject line of the email must contain ECON 456 or ECON 643. You can only email the instructor regarding personal issues, e.g. why you will not be able to attend a midterm. **I will not answer any question about the material or the structure of midterms, etc. through email.** Please use this address rather than emailing me through D2L.

**Reading week: February 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2019. There will be no lectures or office hours that week.**

### **Course Description**

This course studies the health care market using tools, theories and concepts used in economics. We will cover the demand for health and health care, Efficiency and Equity Determinants of Health Status, the production of health, insurance markets in the context of health, health care financing and funding and the major actors in the health care sector, physicians, hospitals and the pharmaceutical industry.

**Prerequisites:** ECON 301 or 393; One of ECON 321, 323, STAT 221, 231, 241 or equivalent; Honours students or Economics majors.

### **Required Text**

- Hurley, J. E. Health Economics, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2010, 434 p.

This book is on reserve at DP. While I will follow the general structure of Hurley, other readings will be added during the term; references will be posted on Desire2Learn. These are compulsory readings.

### **Readings Available on LEARN**

I will post class announcements, notes and other relevant material on the Desire2Learn network ([learn.uwaterloo.ca](http://learn.uwaterloo.ca)). Note that the notes posted online are INCOMPLETE.

## Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Midterm 1	Thursday February 7 <sup>th</sup>	20 or 25%
Midterm 2	Thursday March 28 <sup>th</sup>	25 or 20%
Paper Proposal	Tuesday February 12 <sup>th</sup>	10%
Final Paper	Friday April 12 <sup>th</sup>	25%
Poster	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup>	10%
Evaluation by your peers of your poster	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup>	5%
Evaluation of your skills as a poster evaluator	April 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 4 <sup>th</sup>	5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

### Topics covered (chapter numbers refer to Hurley):

Introduction to Health Economics, Health and Health Care Systems (Chapter 1)  
Efficiency and Equity (Chapter 2)  
Demand for and Production of Health (Chapter 5)  
Determinants of Health (Chapter 6)  
Health Care as an Economic Commodity (chapter 7)  
Demand for Health Care (Chapter 8)  
Insurance (Chapters 9 and 10)  
Health Care Finance (Chapter 11)  
Health Care Funding (Chapter 12)  
Physicians (Chapter 13)  
Hospitals (Chapter 14)  
Pharmaceuticals (Chapter 15)  
Time permitting: Methods of Economic Evaluations (Chapter 4) and the Future of Health Economics (Chapter 16) and/or other topics depending on class interests.

### Expectations

The two tests will be given a weight of 25% for the best one and 20% for the worst (individually). Only the material covered since the first test will be tested on the second midterm.

You are expected to analyze data using regression analysis to answer a question related to health economics. Data can be obtained from the library's web site (CANSIM, Odesi) or from external sources (CIHI, WHO, etc.). The paper should contain the usual sections

of a research paper (Introduction, literature review, data, models, results, discussion and conclusion). The marking rubric is posted on D2L.

You are expected to make a poster presentation of your term paper. Poster presentations will take place in class on April 2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>; posters will be randomly allocated between the two dates and you are expected to attend both dates. On the date that you will not present, you will have to evaluate 5 posters that will have been assigned to you.

### **Policy on Missed Tests**

No make-up tests will be provided. Students who do not have a relevant medical certificate will receive a mark of zero on any missed test and their final grade will be computed in accordance with the formula specified above. For students who miss a test (or more) and have a relevant medical certificate for all tests missed, the weight of the missed test(s) will be transferred to a make-up midterm to be written on the day of deferred finals in April. You must provide supporting documentation within 48 hours of the day of the midterm. If you miss both tests and have documentation to justify both, you will have to write a “final” on the day of deferred exams in April that will be worth 45% of your mark. A link to the economics department’s policy on deferred exams is below.

### **Late Work**

If you hand in your paper proposal or your paper late, you will lose 10% per day that it is late (week-ends count). If you are sick on the day of your poster presentation, you still have to submit a poster and to grade others’ posters that were assigned to you. Arrangements to do this outside of regular class time will be made.

### **Policy on remarking of Tests:**

If you feel that your test was not marked properly, you must advise the instructor within 10 calendar days of the test being handed back to the students in class. Note that if you want your test re-graded, I will remark the entire test (your mark may go up or down as a result of this).

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Students who use cell phones during class time will be asked to leave.

The use of recording devices is prohibited during class time. If you have a disability documented by the Accessibility Office that warrants the use of a recording device in class, you must provide the documentation proving this in order to be allowed to record classes.

## **Attendance Policy**

Although presence in class is not required, it is highly recommended to attend classes. If you miss a class, you are responsible for making up for it, whatever the circumstances. I will not answer to emails and phone calls asking for information regarding the material covered in class. During the last 24 hours before a midterm, I will not answer to questions concerning material covered in class if you were absent and did not make a reasonable effort to catch up.

## **Note on the scheduling of midterms and religious holidays**

If a midterm falls on the day of a religious holiday that is not observed by the university and you anticipate this to be a problem, you must consult with the associate dean of the faculty of Arts regarding other arrangements. You have 1 week after the announcement of the date of the midterm/exam to make a request of rescheduling based on these grounds (i.e. you have one week after the first class for midterms and one week after the schedule of the finals is publicized for the final exam). This is the University's policy.

## **Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy**

Deferred Final Exam Policy found at: [Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy](#)

## **Cross-listed course**

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

## **Academic Integrity**

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) webpage and the [Arts Academic Integrity](#) webpage for more information.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to

Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

### **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

Note for students with disabilities: [The AccessAbility Services office](#), located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

### **Mental Health Support**

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

#### **On Campus**

- Counselling Services: [counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca) / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

#### **Off campus, 24/7**

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe](#) app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

**Territorial Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.