

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 456/643
Health Economics
Fall 2020

Instructor: Emmanuelle Piérard

Office Hours: To be scheduled weekly online on demand

Email: emma.pierard@uwaterloo.ca or email me through D2L.

Reading week: October 10th-18th 2020. There will be no 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, 1st edition, McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 2010, 434 p.

This book is out of print but is available as an e-copy through the W store. While I will follow the general structure of Hurley, other readings are added; references have been posted on Desire2Learn. These are compulsory readings.

Readings Available on LEARN

I will post class announcements, notes and other relevant material on Learn/D2L (learn.uwaterloo.ca).

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Discussion posts	Weekly. Best 10 out of 12	20%
Weekly questions	Weekly. Best 8 out of 10	40%
Paper Proposal	Wednesday October 7th	10%
Final Paper	Friday December 14th	25%
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Total		100%

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)
Comparative Health Care systems
Long Term Care

Expectations

For the term paper, 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 will be given feedback on your proposal (worth 10%) and on a draft you must hand in at Week 10 (no points allocated to this) prior to handing in your term paper on December 14th.

You are expected to write a one-page answer to a question that requires applying the week's material. Your best 8 grades out of 10 papers will count towards your final grade in the class.

You are also expected to participate in weekly discussion online. Your best 10 grades out of 12 discussions will count towards your final grade.

Late Work

You have one slip day to use during the term: you can hand in one weekly paper, the term paper proposal or the term paper 1 day late, no questions asked. Please hand it in through email and let me know that you are using your slip day. For any work that is later than 1 day (or in cases in which you already have used your slip day), you will be penalized by 5%.

[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 / 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.

