

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 256
Health Economics
Fall 2017
MWF 10:30am-11:20am – EV3 1408

Instructor: Emmanuelle Piérard

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Office Hours: Wednesday 12-3pm

Email: emma.pierard@uwaterloo.ca. When emailing the instructor, the subject line of the email must contain ECON 256. 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, the final, etc. through email.** Please use this address rather than the D2L one.

Course Description

Why are some people healthy and others not? Why is health different from other goods and services? How do the many stakeholders interact in health care markets? Why do countries have different health care systems? This course introduces students to how the theories and tools of economics can be used when examining health, health care, and health care policies. Concepts such as supply and demand, uncertainty, and utility will be introduced in the context of health and health care markets. While international institutions may be discussed, the course will emphasize Canadian health care markets. (from undergraduate calendar)

Prerequisites: ECON 101 or ECON100/COMM103

Required Text

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

This book is on reserve at DP. Other readings could be added during the term; references will be posted on Desire2Learn.

Readings Available on LEARN

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

Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Midterm 1	Friday October 6 th	20 or 25%
Midterm 2	Monday November 6 rd	20 or 25%
Midterm 3	Monday December 4 th	20 or 25%
Short paper 1	Monday October 16 th	15%
Short paper 2	Monday November 20 th	15%
Total		100%

Topics covered (chapter numbers refer to Hurley):

Introduction to Health Economics, Health and Health Care Systems (Chapter 1)
Review of the basics of markets (Chapter 3)
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: Comparative health care systems, long term care, pharmacare and other current issues related to health economics (references to be posted on D2L)

Expectations

The midterms will be given a weight of 20% for the worst and 25% each for the best 2 marks (individually), for a total of 70% of your final grade.

You will write two short papers, each 5-8 pages in length, on topics related to current issues in health economics. Three weeks prior to the due date, 2 possible topics will be posted on D2L. You will be expected to choose one and write a paper using the concepts covered in class. All sources you use to write these papers (textbook, articles, others) must be cited in a bibliography at the end of your paper. If you cite someone else's ideas, you should note this within your text. More details on what is expected for these papers and proper citation methods will be posted on D2L, as well as marking rubrics.

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 one midterm and have a relevant medical certificate, the weight of the missed test will be transferred to the two other midterms equally (the two midterms you write will be worth 35% each). You must provide supporting documentation within 48 hours of the day of the midterm. If you miss two or more tests and have documentation to justify your absences, you will have to write a “final” on the day of deferred exams in December that will be worth 50% (if you miss 2 midterms) or 70% (if you missed all 3 midterms) of your mark. The economics department’s policy on deferred exams is here: <https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/undergraduate/resources-and-policies/deferred-final-exam-policy>

Late Work

If you hand in your papers late, you will lose 5% per calendar day that it is late.

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 AccessAbility 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). This is the University’s policy.

Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy

Deferred Final Exam Policy found at

<https://uwaterloo.ca/economics/undergraduate/resources-and-policies/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 xt 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), Anishinaabe 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.