

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON 456: Topics in Health Economics**  
**Winter 2022**

Instructor: Emmanuelle Piérard

Class: Wednesdays 10-11:20 am online – – *please note that this class is taught online only using a combination of synchronous meetings set on this day and time and asynchronous lectures posted on D2L*

Office Hours: Mondays 12:30-3:30 pm or by appointment

Email: emma.pierard@uwaterloo.ca

***Reading break: February 19-27, 2022 – No class or office hours that week, although I will be available by appointment***

**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.

**Course Learning Outcomes**

- Identify the different stakeholders in the health care system, their objectives and the constraints they face, using economic models
- Describe the different sources of market failure in health and health care that justify governmental intervention
- Critically evaluate the tradeoffs between different types of equity and efficiency in setting priorities in a health care system
- Write concise reports that examine a health economics problem and formulate arguments based on economic theory to contribute to the scientific debate in the field
- Using data and econometrics, analyze a health economics problem

## Required Text

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

This book is out of print but is available as an e-copy through the W store. I have also uploaded a file on Desire2Learn (D2L) on how to purchase an e-copy. While I will follow the general structure of Hurley, other readings may be added; references will be posted on D2L. These are compulsory readings.

## Readings Available on LEARN

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

## Course Requirements and Assessment

Assessment	Date of Evaluation	Weighting
Participation	Weekly. Best 10 out of 12	10%
Written assignments	Bi-Weekly. Best 5 out of 6	50%
Paper Proposal	Wednesday February 2nd	10%
Term paper	Wednesday March 30th	30%
<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: Mental health care; Long term care; Comparative Health Systems or topics according to students' interests.

## **Expectations**

Bi-Weekly Written assignments: You are expected to write a no longer than 5 pages answer to a question that requires applying the week's material. Your best 5 grades out of 6 papers will count towards your final grade in the class (10% each for a total of 50%). All papers will be submitted on D2L.

Participation: You are expected to participate in weekly Q&A sessions online during class time. These sessions will be used to answer any questions you may have about the material. You are expected to submit at least one question per session. If you cannot attend the Q&A sessions, they will be recorded and the recordings will be posted on D2L. You are expected to watch these videos when attending is not possible. You can earn 1% for each session in which you participate by submitting a question **and** attended (synchronously or asynchronously), up to a maximum of 10%.

Instead of submitting a question on Wednesday January 5th, please introduce yourself on the discussion board to get 1 point.

Term paper: You are expected to write a paper that makes use of data and econometrics. The topic should be related to health economics. You should have a sense of your topic and the data you will be using by the time you submit your paper proposal on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. You can hand in a draft of your paper 3 weeks before the due date (by March 9<sup>th</sup>) to get feedback on it – this is optional.

## **Late Work**

You have one slip day to use during the term: you can hand in one weekly paper or your term paper 1 day late, no questions asked. Please hand it in the dropbox and let me know in the comment box 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) and for which you cannot submit documentation that would justify an extension, you will be penalized by 10% per day that you are late.

## **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.

### **Academic freedom at the University of Waterloo**

Policy 33, Ethical Behaviour states, as one of its general principles (Section 1), “The University supports academic freedom for all members of the University community. Academic freedom carries with it the duty to use that freedom in a manner consistent with the scholarly obligation to base teaching and research on an honest and ethical quest for knowledge. In the context of this policy, 'academic freedom' refers to academic activities, including teaching and scholarship, as is articulated in the principles set out in the Memorandum of Agreement between the FAUW and the University of Waterloo, 1998 (Article 6). The academic environment which fosters free debate may

from time to time include the presentation or discussion of unpopular opinions or controversial material. Such material shall be dealt with as openly, respectfully and sensitively as possible.” This definition is repeated in Policies 70 and 71, and in the Memorandum of Agreement, Section 6

### **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

### **Intellectual Property**

Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo.

Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and

- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student's educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner's permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

### **Chosen/Preferred First Name**

Do you want professors and interviewers to call you by a different first name? Take a minute now to verify or tell us your chosen/preferred first name by logging into WatIAM.

Why? Starting in winter 2020, your chosen/preferred first name listed in WatIAM will be used broadly across campus (e.g., LEARN, Quest, WaterlooWorks, WatCard, etc). Note: Your legal first name will always be used on certain official documents. For more details, visit [Updating Personal Information](#).

### **Important notes**

- If you included a preferred name on your OUAC application, it will be used as your chosen/preferred name unless you make a change now.
- If you don't provide a chosen/preferred name, your legal first name will continue to be used.

### **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.