

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 643/743
Health Economics
Winter 2018
Friday 8:30am-11:30am - PAS2084

Instructor: Emmanuelle Piérard

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Office hours: Wednesday 9:30am-12:30pm

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

This course covers the economics of health and health care, with an emphasis on the Canadian health care system. We will cover equity and efficiency issues, the funding of health care, market failures pertaining to health care, determinants of health, the demand for health and health care and measures of health status and quality of life.

Evaluation: Participation in class (15%)

Presentation of a published article from the reading list (15%)

Research paper (30 or 40%; due in class, week 10/week of March 23rd)

Final exam (40 or 30%; scheduled at the end of the term – it will be a take home exam)

The relative weights of the research paper and final exam will vary depending on which formula is better for each student individually. You must do the readings every week prior to class (you will be assigned to read, on average, 5 refereed articles or working papers a week); the references to the readings will be posted on D2L ahead of time. Participation in class will not only be evaluated on the number of your interventions in class, but also on their quality. You must read the assigned readings in advance, in order to have time to digest the material. Starting in week 5 (a week before submitting your research proposals, see below), you will be expected to discuss your progress and problems you have encountered while doing the research paper.

You will be expected to present one paper from the reading list to the class. Presentations should last approximately 30 minutes (no more than 45 minutes.)

The research paper must be original and show your aptitudes in handling data. You can use data sources available from the library or other sources (e.g., if you have access to data from the RDC on campus, you can use these). You must submit a brief description of your topic, a brief bibliography and the source of your data by week 6 (the week of February 9th). This should be about 2 pages long. You will present your paper to the class during the 10th week of classes

(March 23rd). The paper must include the usual sections found in a research paper (introduction, review of the existing literature, your methods/model, data, results and discussion, conclusion). I expect the papers to be on average 20-25 pages long (not including tables, appendices, etc.). If this paper is used for other purposes (work or other course you are taking), this must be discussed and agreed upon prior to week 4 by all parties.

Topics covered:

Week 1: The nature of health care as an economic commodity

Week 2: Efficiency and equity in health care

Week 3: Health care financing and insurance

Week 4: Funding and remuneration of health care

Week 5: Modeling the Supply Side: Hospitals

Week 6: Modeling the Supply Side: Models of physician behaviour

Week 7: Modeling the Supply Side: Pharmaceuticals

Week 8: The demand for health and health care

Week 9: Utility and health-related quality of life measures

Week 10: Paper presentations

Week 11: Determinants of health (I)

Week 12: Determinants of health (II)

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.