

ECON 418: Health Economics

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Department of Economics

Dr. Bryan Buckley

Spring 2024

119 David Kinley Hall

Meeting Time:

- Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 PM until 10:50 PM

Communication:

E-mail: bbuckley@illinois.edu

Zoom Office Hours:

- Use Canvas to register for a time.

Catalog Description:

Economic analysis of the health care industry to explain the demand for and supply of medical care. Includes analysis of behavior of consumers, producers, and insurers; and public policies to regulate the industry and to provide services for the poor and elderly. (3 Hours) Prerequisite: ECON 302

Course Outcomes:

- Become familiar with trends in data in the health care industry.
- Model health care markets in competitive and imperfectly competitive frameworks.
- Discuss arguments for natural monopoly within health care products.
- Develop the economic model for insurance and the problems of adverse selection and moral hazard.
- Discuss the role of government in addressing market failures and analyze the actions of government interventions in health markets from a public choice perspective.
- Discuss current health care reform and the changes it has created in health care markets.

Course Format:

This course will be lectures which will discuss elements from the reading and go into examples and deeper analysis. There will be readings from articles which will be provided online. The grade in the class will come from three exams, several online assignments and writing assignments that will come throughout the semester.

Student Assessment:

Final scores will be rounded to the nearest integer. There is no curve in this class.

Grade Weights

- Assignment Average (25%)
- Course Participation (10%)
- Highest-Scoring Midterm (20%)
- Lowest-Scoring Midterm (10%)
- Final Exam (35%)

Plus/Minus Grade Cutoffs

A+ ≥ 97	90 > B+ ≥ 87	80 > C+ ≥ 77	70 > D+ ≥ 67	60 > F
97 > A ≥ 93	87 > B ≥ 83	77 > C ≥ 73	67 > D ≥ 63	
93 > A- ≥ 90	83 > B- ≥ 80	73 > C- ≥ 70	63 > D- ≥ 60	

Assessment Policies

Assignment Average:

- Canvas lesson assignments must be submitted by 11:00 PM on their due dates. No exceptions will be made for technological problems. Start homework with enough time before the deadline to accommodate potential issues.
- Canvas lesson assignments can be repeated until the due date. The highest score will be kept for grading.
- Canvas lesson assignments will be available for practice after their due dates. The scores on these assignments will be worth 70% of the credit of the original assignment. The practice score will replace the original assignment score if and only if it is greater than the original score.
- Writing assignments turned in after their due dates will be penalized. Writing assignments in formats that cannot be opened will count as late based on the time the readable assignment is turned in. This period will include the time it takes to tell the student that the file is unreadable.
- The lowest online assignment score will be dropped when calculating the average for the Assignment score.

Course Participation:

- Course participation will be assessed through attendance and comments made during lectures.
- Attendance will represent 25% of this score and will be based on the percent of class times the student was present for of the 25 scheduled class days after the last day to add. There will be two allowed absences. Students who do not miss are eligible for extra credit for days attended above 25.
- Comments during lecture can include statements or questions that advance the current discussion. Comments are expected on a weekly basis. There are 13 scheduled weeks of the course after the last day to add. A minimum of one comment per week is required for full participation. The percentage of weekly comments out of 13 will represent 75% of the course participation score. Additional comments above 13 will be eligible for extra credit.

Midterm Exam Policy:

- Midterm Exams 1 and 2 will be taken in-person and during the regularly scheduled lecture time.
- There are no make-ups for missed exams.
- If an exam is taken, then the grade will count towards the student's grade.
- If a student misses one of the two midterm exams, the weight from the missed midterm exam will be redistributed to the final exam using the following system:
 - One missed midterm exam: Final Exam Weight 45%
 - Two missed midterm exams: Final Exam Weight 65%
- For each midterm taken, 0.25 points will be added to your score in the course.
- No outside materials are permitted which includes, notes and textbooks. Cell phones are not permitted in the exam room.
- All requests for grading corrections must be submitted before the following exam.

Final Exam Policy:

Students must take the final exam. The Provost prohibits students from taking final exams before the final exam week. The only exception to this is with a Dean-approved excuse.

Undergraduate students who must miss a final examination should report this fact to the dean of their college as soon as possible. For satisfactory reasons, students may be "excused" by the dean of their college and be examined later by their instructor (<http://www.las.illinois.edu/faculty/advising/incompletes/>). The date of the deferred exam will be scheduled by the Department of Economics and will fall within the first two weeks of the next semester.

Students who do not take the exam during the exam week will receive an ABS grade. Students in this situation may take the deferred final if and only if they have taken at least 1 of the 2 midterm exams. The ABS grade will be replaced by the grade earned with the deferred final.

Statement on Accommodations:

To obtain disability-related academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the course instructor and the Disability Resources Educational Services (DRES) as soon as possible. To contact DRES you may visit 1207 S. Oak Street, Champaign, call 333-4603 (V/TTY), or email a message to disability@uiuc.edu.

Academic Integrity:

“The University has the responsibility for maintaining academic integrity so as to protect the quality of education and research on our campus and to protect those who depend upon our integrity.

Expectations of Students:

It is the responsibility of each student to refrain from infractions of academic integrity, from conduct that may lead to suspicion of such infractions, and from conduct that aids others in such infractions. Students have been given notice of this Part by virtue of its publication. Regardless of whether a student has actually read this Part, a student is charged with knowledge of it. Ignorance is not a defense.”

Readings:

Oster, Emily. (2022, February 17). Lots of Studies are Bad. Parent Data. Retrieved from <https://parentdata.org/lots-of-studies-are-bad/>

Finkelstein et al. (2011) The Oregon Health Insurance Experiment: Evidence from the First Year. *NBER Working Paper*.

Becker and Elias. (2007) Introducing Incentives in the Market for Live and Cadaveric Organ Donations. *Journal of Economic Perspectives Vol 21 Number 3*.

Akerlof (1970) The Market for Lemons: Quality, Uncertainty and the Market Mechanism. *Quarterly Journal of Economics Vol 83*.

Semester Schedule:

All times are in Central Standard Time (CST)

Part 1

Week 1- January 16 and 18

- Lesson 1.1 to Lesson 1.4 and video Trial, Error and the God Complex-by Tim Hartford

Week 2- January 23 and 25

- Lots of Studies are Bad by Emily Oster due by 9:30 AM Tuesday
- Material: Lesson 2.1 to Lesson 2.5

Week 3- January 30 and February 1

- Material: Lesson 3.1 to 3.4
- Reading Assignment: The Oregon Health Insurance Experiment: Evidence from the First Year by Finkelstein et al. due by 9:30 AM Thursday.

Week 4- February 6 and 8

- Material: Lesson 3.5, 3.6 and 4.1 to 4.3
- Reading Assignment: Introducing Incentives in the Market for Live and Cadaveric Organ Donations by Becker and Elías due by 9:30 PM Thursday.

Week 5- February 13 and 15

- Material: Lesson 4.4 to 4.7

Week 6- February 20 and 22

- Review: Lesson 1 to Lesson 4
- Midterm Exam 1 Thursday in class.
- Canvas Assignments due by Thursday at 9:30 AM CST: Lesson 1, Lesson 2 and Lesson 3 Assignments.

Part 2

Week 7- February 27 and 29

- Material: Lesson 5.1 to 5.8

Week 8- March 5 and 7

- Material: 6.1 to 6.3
- Reading Assignment: The Market for "Lemons": Quality Uncertainty and the Market Mechanism by Akerlof due by 9:30 AM Thursday.

Spring Break

Week 9- March 19 and 21

- Material: Lesson 7.1 to 7.3

Week 10- March 26 and 28

- Material: Lesson 7.4 to 7.6

Week 11- April 2 and 4

- Review: Lesson 5 to Lesson 7
- Midterm Exam 2 Thursday in class.
- Canvas Assignments due by Thursday at 9:30 AM CST: Lesson 5

Part 3

Week 12- April 9 and 11

- Material: Lesson 8.1 to 8.3

Week 13- April 16 and 18

- Material: Lesson 8.4 to 8.6

Week 14- April 23 and 25

- Material: Lesson 9.1 to 9.3

Week 15- April 30

- Material: Review Course

Examination Period- Friday, May 3 to Friday, May 10

- Exam Dates and Times announced on Canvas and on UIUC Course Explorer
- Lesson 8 Assignment and Practice (After Due Date) due by 11:00 PM Friday.