

Georgia State University – Spring 2018
ECON 4210 - Section 003 – Health Economics
CRN 12434
Aderhold Learning Center, Room 212
Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30pm-2:45pm

Instructor: Professor Jim Marton

Contact Information:

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 12:15pm-1:15pm, and by appt.

Course Website: A course website will be set up on iCollege

Required Text:

Health Economics, 5th Edition. 2013. Charles E. Phelps. Addison Wesley

Purpose of Course & Course Objectives:

This course applies general theoretical principles of economics to the health care sector. The basic approach is to recognize the importance of scarcity and incentives, allowing for differences particular to health. The demand for health and medical care are examined theoretically and empirically. The competitiveness of these markets, the relationship with health insurance and the role of government are explored. Any students with an interest in decisions made by consumers, providers (physicians, hospitals), insurers, or the government in the area of health care with some background in introductory microeconomics would benefit from this course. The objectives of the course are to:

- To give students an overview of the institutions of the health care market in the US.
 - To show students how to use basic economic analysis to examine the incentives created by these institutions and how consumers and producers respond.
 - To use basic economic analysis to examine current policy issues in the health care sector such as private vs. public provision of health insurance, licensure, malpractice reform, and competition among providers (physicians, hospitals, health plans)
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Prerequisite: ECON 2106 Principles of Microeconomics

Point Distribution – Exams, Homework, Attendance:

Exams

There will be three examinations over the assigned material. Each exam is worth 100 points. The exams will be similar in format to the homework assignments and examples we do discuss class.

Homework

Problems from the chapters will be assigned for each week. These homework assignments are worth a total of 60 points. Group work is encouraged, but students should NOT simply copy assignments. Completing the assignments helps your understanding of the material, and the examination questions will be VERY similar to the chapter problems. You will turn in the homework to me on a weekly basis and I will give you full credit if you attempted each problem. If you fail to attempt each homework problem, then you will only receive partial credit.

As a general rule I will NOT accept late homework unless you have a verified excuse for missing class the day the homework is due or you have received permission from me to turn in the homework late beforehand. It is your responsibility to keep track of when the homework is due and make sure you turn it in.

Attendance

While I will not give out formal points for class attendance, there is a strong correlation between classroom attendance and course performance. There will be homework assigned and collected nearly every week, so that is another important reason to attend class.

Summary:

There are a total of 360 points in the class:

Letter Grade	Number Grade	GPA Quality Points	Point Range
A+	97-100	4.3	348-360
A	93-96	4.0	333-347
A -	90-92	3.7	323-332
B +	87-89	3.3	312-322
B	83-86	3.0	297-311
B -	80-82	2.7	287-296
C +	77-79	2.3	276-286
C	73-76	2.0	265-275
C -	70-72	1.7	251-264
D	60-69	1.0	215-250
F	0-59	0.0	0-214

Grading Policy and Academic Honesty:

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to be familiar with Georgia State University's Policy on Academic Honesty (Section 409). Here is a link to Section 409:

<http://www2.gsu.edu/~wwwfhb/sec409.html>

Grading Policy:

To be fair to all of the students in the class, I must insist that the following exam policies be followed. There will be no make-up exams. Special exam times will be arranged only for a student with *substantive and unavoidable reasons* for missing the regular time. Anyone who must miss an exam should notify me as soon as possible, but at least three days before the scheduled exam time. The only exceptions to this rule will be a verified, serious illness or serious family emergency. Even in this case, students should notify me of the illness *prior to the exam*.

I cannot postpone exams because of deadlines or exam dates in other courses. Such actions would not be fair to other students in the class who likely also face pressure from work in other classes but take the exams at the scheduled time anyway.

AYS Career Services & Student Life Office:

The Andrew Young School provides career support & leadership development services to all current AYS students and alumni. Students are invited to attend our career events and workshops, and individualized career counseling appointments can be arranged either with Dr. Maggie Tolan, the Director of Career Services, or with University Career Services in the Student Center. Career Services can help students with resume writing, interviewing, job searching, internship development, and networking. To see what career panels, career fairs, and events are available this semester, please visit: <http://career.aysps.gsu.edu/>. The office also supports all AYS student clubs and organizations – so read about the various groups within the college, and join one today: <http://career.aysps.gsu.edu/organizations/>. Make the most of your education by utilizing these great resources. *The AYS Career Services & Student Life office is located on the ground floor of the Andrew Young Building, in room G47-51.*

Course Calendar:

Class Meeting	Date	Material Covered
Class 1	M, Jan 8	Ch 1 Intro
Class 2	W, Jan 10	Ch 1 Intro (1/12 last day to add /drop classes)
NO CLASS – MLK Day	M, Jan 15	NO CLASS – MLK Day
Class 3	W, Jan 17	Ch 2 / 3 Turning Medical Care into Health
Class 4	M, Jan 22	Ch 2 / 3 Turning Medical Care into Health
Class 5	W, Jan 24	Ch 2 / 3 Turning Medical Care into Health
Class 6	M, Jan 29	Ch 4 Demand for Medical Care: Theory
Class 7	W, Jan 31	Ch 4 Demand for Medical Care: Theory
Class 8	M, Feb 5	Ch 5 Demand for Medical Care: Evidence
Class 9	W, Feb 7	TEST 1
Class 10	M, Feb 12	Ch 5 Demand for Medical Care: Evidence
Class 11	W, Feb 14	Ch 6 / 7 Physicians
Class 12	M, Feb 19	Ch 6 / 7 Physicians
Class 13	W, Feb 21	Ch 8 / 9 Hospitals
Class 14	M, Feb 26	Ch 8 / 9 Hospitals (February 27th last day to withdraw)
Class 15	W, Feb 28	Ch 10 Health Insurance
Class 16	M, March 5	Ch 10 Health Insurance
Class 17	W, March 7	Ch 10 Health Insurance
NO CLASS – spring break	M, March 12	NO CLASS – spring break
NO CLASS – spring break	W, March 14	NO CLASS – spring break
Class 18	M, March 19	Ch 11 Managed Care
Class 19	W, March 21	TEST 2
Class 20	M, March 26	Ch 11 Managed Care
Class 21	W, March 28	Ch 11 Managed Care
Class 22	M, April 2	Ch 12 Medicare / Medicaid
Class 23	W, April 4	Ch 12 Medicare / Medicaid
Class 24	M, April 9	Ch 13 / 14 Malpractice, Externalities
Class 25	W, April 11	Ch 13 / 14 Malpractice, Externalities
Class 26	M, April 16	Ch 15 Regulation and Public Policy
Class 27	W, April 18	Ch 15 Regulation and Public Policy
Class 28	M, April 23	Ch 16 International Comparisons
FINAL	W, April 25, 1:30pm-4pm (in our regular room)	TEST 3 (semi-cumulative)

- The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary.
- Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at Georgia State. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out the online course evaluation.
- Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought. This should be done within the first few weeks of class.