

# Economics 399 Syllabus

## Health Economics

### Fall 2016

Lecture: TR 4:00 – 5:20 pm 302 GER

**Instructor:** Tuan Nguyen  
**Office:** PLC 507  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday 10 – 11 am  
Wednesday 2 – 3 pm  
or by appointment  
**Email:** [tuann@uoregon.edu](mailto:tuann@uoregon.edu) (quickest way to contact me)

**Course Description:** This course examines issues related to the field of health economics. There are four major themes that we will explore:

1. The relevance of economics in health and medical care
2. Demand-side consideration
3. Supply-side consideration
4. Public policy in medical care delivery

**Prerequisites:** EC 201 (recommended)

**Objectives:** The objectives of this course are for the student to:

1. Be able to relate concepts in economics to the field of health and medical care
2. Understand factors that impact the market and the delivery of health
3. Be informed about the ongoing debates regarding health policy in the U.S.

**Course Text:** James W. Henderson, *Health Economics and Policy*. Cengage, 6<sup>th</sup> edition (optional). You are welcome to purchase the 5<sup>th</sup> edition for a cheaper alternative. I will try to make the lecture notes self-contained.

**Canvas:** Canvas contains the syllabus and other relevant course materials. Regular announcements are also posted on Canvas.

**Grading:** Final grades will be based on homework assignments, in-class short quizzes, two midterms, and a final. The final is given only at its stated time. Your course grade will be determined as follows:

**20% HOMEWORKS**  
**10% SHORT QUIZZES**  
**20% MIDTERM 1**  
**20% MIDTERM 2**  
**30% FINAL**

**Homework:** There are four homework assignments in this class. Each assignment will be due at the beginning of class on the indicated date (see schedule below). Late homework will not be accepted. Each homework is worth 4% of your grade.

After each lecture, I will post homework exercises corresponding to the materials in that lecture. Each graded homework assignment will be comprised of the individual homework exercises that are posted on Canvas.

Additionally, there will be a homework due in week 10 that will be counted as an extra assignment to replace your lowest homework score if you choose to turn it in.

**Short Quizzes:** There are seven short quizzes that will be given at the end of seven randomly-selected lectures. I will drop the lowest two scores so that only the top five quizzes count towards your final grades. These quizzes will be very short (10 minutes or less) and will be focused on the content of the lecture during which they are given. The purpose of these quizzes is to encourage you to show up to class and pay attention. Each short quiz is worth 2% of your grade.

**Exams:** There will be two midterms and one final in this class. In the case of a missed midterm due to unanticipated emergency situations, you will be allowed to put the weight of the missed exam on the final exam, provided notification is received as soon as possible and there is verification of the emergency. **There is no make-up final exam.** It is not advisable to take this class if you already know you cannot make one of the scheduled exams.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** Academic dishonesty (from plagiarizing work to cheating on exams) will not be tolerated. Please acquaint yourself with the Student Conduct Code, which is published in the *Schedule of Classes* each term.

Furthermore, please be advised of the following:

- I encourage collaboration on homework assignments, but each individual must turn in his/her own copy of the homework. As a general rule, I should not be able to tell who you worked with when you turn in your homework.
- Homework assignments that look identical to others' work will be penalized.
- Evidence of cheating on quizzes or exams will result in an automatic zero for that quiz or exam and possible referral to the Office of Student Misconduct.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements with me during the first week of the term. Please request that the counselor for students with disabilities (164 Oregon Hall) send me a letter verifying your disability.

**Important Dates:**

Sep 27	Class starts
Oct 6	First homework due
Oct 18	Second homework due
Oct 20	First midterm

Nov 1	Third homework due
Nov 15	Four homework due
Nov 17	Second midterm
Dec 1	Extra homework due
Dec 8	Final Exam (12:30 pm 302 GER)

**Outline of Course Material:**

Weeks 1 & 2	Introduction Using economics to study health issues Analyzing medical care markets
Weeks 3, 4, and 5	Demand for health and medical care Markets for health insurance
Weeks 5, 6, and 7	Managed care The physicians' services market
Weeks 8 and 9	Confounding factors Public policy in medical care delivery
Week 10	Medical reform in the U.S. Final review