

School of Economics and Finance

ECON 350 TOPICS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS

Trimester 2 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Course coordinator: Jaikishan Desai
Office: OGB 311, Phone: x6592
Office hours: Wednesday 10am-12pm.

Administrator: Alice Fong x 5353 (alice.fong@vuw.ac.nz)

Trimester Dates

Teaching Period: Monday 16 July – Friday 19 October
Study Period: Monday 22 October – Thursday 25 October
(Monday 22 October is a public holiday, Labour Day)
Examination Period: Friday 26 October – Saturday 17 November (inclusive)

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 27 July 2012.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 28 September 2012. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late*' including supporting documentation. The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lectures: T, F 9:30 – 10:20 RWW 129
Tutorials: W 13:40 – 14:30 RWW 128
(or Th 13:40 – 14:30 RWW 413 – TBD at 1st lecture)

Readings

Required textbook: Folland, Sherman, Allen C. Goodman, and Miron Stano. *The Economics of Health and Health Care*, 6th or 7th edition, Prentice Hall. (referred to as FGS below)
Links to other readings will be posted on Blackboard (with advance notice)

Course Content

The following topics will be covered in this course. Chapters from the recommended textbook (FGS) are noted for each topic; supplementary readings will be assigned and made available on Blackboard.

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| 1. What is health economics | FGS: Ch. 1 |
| 2. Characteristics of health and healthcare | FGS: Ch. 1, 10 |
| 3. The production of health | FGS: Ch. 5 |
| 4. The demand for health and healthcare services | FGS: Ch. 7, 9 |
| 5. Health insurance: Demand and Supply | FGS: Ch 8-11 |
| 6. The supply of healthcare services | |
| a. Production and cost of healthcare services | FGS: Ch. 6 |
| b. Health care labour markets | FGS: Ch. 16 |
| c. Pharmaceuticals (and medical equipment) | FGS: Ch. 17 |
| d. Types of healthcare providers | |
| i. Physician | FGS: Ch. 15 |
| ii. Hospitals | FGS: Ch. 14 |
| iii. Non-profit firms | FGS: Ch 13 |
| iv. Managed Care | FGS: Ch. 12 |
| 7. Government intervention in health markets | FGS: Ch 18-20 |
| 8. Assessment and evaluation of health interventions | FGS: Ch 4 |
| 9. Health systems around the world | FGS: 22 |

There are 8 tutorials for this course and these will cover a review of microeconomic theory (FGS Chapter 2), review of quantitative methods (FGS Chapter 3), reviews for the mid-term and final exams, and class presentations on health systems.

Course Learning Objectives

Students who pass this course should be able to: (1) demonstrate an understanding of the economic dimension of various health issues relevant to New Zealand; (2) demonstrate the ability to apply the basic tools of economic analysis to analyze health issues in New Zealand; (3) demonstrate a general understanding of the economics of health issues in any context.

Course Delivery

The course will be delivered through classroom lectures and tutorials. Students will be provided handouts of the Powerpoint slides for each lecture and tutorial at the start of the lecture/tutorial, and revised versions of these (based on class discussions and questions) will be posted on Blackboard.

Expected Workload

Students should expect to spend, on average, 10 hours per week on this course (outside classroom lectures and tutorials).

Group Work

Group work is not required for this course, but students are encouraged to form a discussion group on Blackboard.

Materials and Equipment

No additional material is required for this course

Assessment Requirements

The final grade for this course will be based on performance on the following assessments:

1. Class quizzes (one for each topic) (10%)
2. Class presentation (10%)
3. Mid-term test (30%)
4. Final exam (50%)

The mid-term test will be in-class. It is expected that the mid-term test will cover material up to Topic 6a above (Production and cost of healthcare services) but actual coverage will depend on the pace at which we proceed; students will be informed of this a week ahead of the test.

There will be an in-class short quiz following completion of each of the first 8 topics in the course outline. These will take place on the lecture day following completion of a topic and students will be provided advance notice. Together these will make up 10% of the grade. Students will also make a presentation on the health system of one country (countries to be allocated during the course) during class/tutorials and the presentation will make up 10% of the grade.

Quality Assurance Note

Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCom programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

Examinations

Students who enrol in courses with examinations are obliged to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

The final examination for this course will be scheduled at some time during the period from Friday 26 October – Saturday 17 November (inclusive).

Penalties

Class quizzes are required and a missed quiz, for whatever reason, will be scored a 0. Dates for tutorial presentations will be decided upon collectively by the students and once a date is assigned it must be adhered to. A missed presentation will be scored a 0.

Mandatory Course Requirements

Performance on the quizzes, the class/tutorial presentation, the mid-term test and the final exam is the only form of assessment for this course; there are no attendance, or class participation requirements though these are strongly encouraged because course content will deviate from the assigned readings; these deviations are aimed at simplifying technical material in the more advanced literature on health economics.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information on readings, etc. will be posted on Blackboard. These will be announced in the lectures, but please make a habit of checking Blackboard every week.

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General University Policies and Statutes

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>

The University's statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx> (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx

AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Faculty of Commerce Office

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fcom/studenthelp/>

Te Putahi Atawhai

Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/tpa/>