

# Economics 465 – Health Economics

## Fall 2018 - Department of Economics

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**Instructor:** Mark Showalter  
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**Office Hours:**  
Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:30 am. Also by appointment.

**Required Material:**  
Papers on Learning Suite/Dropbox

**Suggested Materials:**

- A good intermediate microeconomics text (eg. Nicholson).
- A good econometrics text (eg. Wooldridge).
- The Economics of Health and Health Care, 5th Edition by Folland, Goodman, and Stano (FGS).
- Access to a reputable national news source (New York Times, Wall Street Journal, The Economist).

### **Course Description**

This course will explore topics in the economics of health care. There is no good textbook for this class; what exists is typically geared to students with a 110 background. With the preparation of 380, 382 and 388, many students would find using the standard textbooks a bit tedious. So, this course will follow a different format.

The structure of this course will be as follows: I have prepared a list of readings, available in PDF format on Learning Suite and Dropbox. They cover most of the principal areas of a standard course in health economics. The course will consist of reading and discussing these articles and related topics. Each class period, there will be a set of assigned papers that you will be expected to have read carefully by the time you come to class. We will spend the class period discussing the paper and related topics. For the first few weeks, the instructor will “present” the paper in a manner similar to a standard academic seminar: outline the paper, discuss why the paper is interesting and important, review the relevant theory, introduce the data, and analyze the results. This is meant to be an interactive discussion with participation—questions and comments—from all class members. After the first few weeks, I will expect members of the class to lead the discussion in a similar manner which will require a substantial amount of preparation on the part of the presenter(s).

**Prerequisites for the class are essential and if they have not been completed previously, please drop the course.** These include Econ 380 and 378. Much of the discussion of health economics will require topics covered in Econ 382 and Econ 388; these classes are also required, although concurrent registration is acceptable. I am hoping that the class will compensate for its intensity by being a fascinating learning experience for all involved, but that will depend in large part on what effort the class as a whole contributes to the enterprise. **Due to the discussion nature of the class, attendance is mandatory.**

Grading will be as follows:

Quizzes/Participation .....	25 %
Country Report .....	5 %
Term Paper .....	30 %
Final Exam .....	40 %

**Questionnaires/Quizzes:** Before each class period, you need to post a question about the day’s reading on the online system, PackBack.co. Then, each class will begin with a 5 minute quiz on material from the day’s assigned reading. You may use notes (non electronic), but not the paper itself. The six lowest quiz scores will be dropped. There will be no makeup quizzes. After class, you are required to respond to at least one question posted on PackBack.co.

**Participation:** You are expected to attend and participate in the discussion for the full class period. As part of your daily preparation, you are expected to find some link between the assigned papers and either current events or other

relevant academic literature. These links are meant to facilitate class discussion and will be part of the daily quiz. Up to six class periods can be missed during the semester, but arrangements should be made in advance to let the instructor know you will be absent. Approximately three times during the semester you will be responsible with your group (to be determined) to provide the Powerpoint and about 20-30 minutes of discussion of the assigned papers. Please see the instruction sheet posted on Learning Suite on requirements for the presentation.

**Country Report:** At mid-semester, two class periods will be used to review the health care systems in various countries. Groups will be formed to prepare the written report and class presentation for each country. Each student will participate in one of the groups.

**Term paper:** A research paper is required for the course, approximately 10 pages, on some health economics topic. Papers can either be a synthesis of published work, or an original project examining some aspect of health economics. An “A” paper will be of publishable quality for a student journal like “Insight.” You will be required to have the FHSS Writing Lab review your work.

**Final exam:** Monday, December 17, 11:00am-2:00pm, 206 RB

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#### **Honor Code Standards**

In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university.

Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Adherence demonstrates respect for yourself and others and ensures an effective learning and working environment. It is the university’s expectation that each student will abide by all Honor Code standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

#### **Preventing Sexual Discrimination or Harassment**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university, but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

#### **Students with Disabilities**

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere that reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified, documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD Office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures by contacting the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-285 ASB.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Each program at BYU has developed a set of expected student learning outcomes. These will help you understand the objectives of the curriculum in the program, including this class. To learn the expected student outcomes for the programs in this department and college go to <http://learningoutcomes.byu.edu> and click on the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences and then this department. We welcome feedback on the expected student learning outcomes. Any comments or suggestions you have can be sent to [FHSS@byu.edu](mailto:FHSS@byu.edu).

#### **FHSS Writing Lab**

To get help with your paper’s organization, structure, focus, tone, and documentation style, you can go to the FHSS Writing Lab in 1049 JFSB to meet one-on-one with a peer advisor. All advisors are students from our college and are trained in APA, Turabian, and some AMA and MLA.

To prepare for a tutorial, take

- o a copy of the assignment
- o a hard copy of your draft, whatever stage it may be in
- o a list of questions and concerns you have about your paper

Walk in Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or make an appointment online: <http://fhsswriting.byu.edu>. For more information, go to their website or email [fhss-writinglab@byu.edu](mailto:fhss-writinglab@byu.edu)