

Economics (ECON) 465 - Health Economics

Section	001
CRN	12037, 3 credits
Semester	Spring 2023
Day, Time	Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00-2:15
Location	Brooks Hall Rm 151
Method of instruction	In-Person lectures // virtual office hours
Instructor	Monica Moses
Office	Zoom Room https://wvu.zoom.us/j/99782535759
Email	mmm0110@mix.wvu.edu
Office hours	Wednesdays 9:30am-11:30am & by appointment

Course Prerequisites:

- ❖ ECON 201 - Principles of Microeconomics.
- ❖ ECON 225 - Elementary Business & Economics Statistics OR
- ❖ STAT 211 - Elementary Statistical Inference.

Course Description & Expected Learning Outcomes:

Health economics applies the tools of economics and econometrics to issues of the organization, delivery and financing of health care. Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- ❖ Apply economic concepts and models to decisions about health, health behaviors, and health care;
- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of the role of economics in informing and developing health and healthcare policy;
- ❖ Apply economic concepts and models to describe health disparities;
- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of the demand for health insurance, moral hazard, and adverse selection;
- ❖ Summarize characteristics of healthcare industries, including hospitals, physicians, insurance, and pharmaceuticals;
- ❖ Demonstrate an understanding of the role of government in regulating, financing and delivering health care.

Textbook/Required Materials: *if you need assistance in purchasing course materials please reach out to me*

Bhattacharya, J, Hyde, T & Tu, P, *Health Economics*, Palgrave, 2014.- textbook.
Packback "Bundle" - online platform subscription

Important Dates for Spring Semester 2023:

- ❖ January 6 - General Registration
- ❖ January 9 - On-Campus First Day of Classes
- ❖ January 13 - Last Day to Register, Add New Courses, Make Section Changes, Change Pass/Fail and Audit
- ❖ January 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recess (University Closed)
- ❖ March 3 - Mid-Check Grades Due
- ❖ March 11-19 - Spring Recess
- ❖ April 7 - Spring Holiday (University Closed)
- ❖ April 14 - Last Day to Drop a Class and Last Day to Withdraw from the University
- ❖ April 28 - Last Day of Classes
- ❖ May 1-5 - Final Exams

Modules

- ❖ **1:** Demand for Health and Healthcare
- ❖ **2:** Supply of Health Care
- ❖ **3:** Information Economics
- ❖ **4:** The Industrial Organization of Healthcare Markets and Systems; the Economics of Health Innovation
- ❖ **5:** Health Policy & Analysis

Touching on modules: 6/7: Public & Behavioral Health

Weather or Illness- Related Event on Lecture Days:

In the case of weather-related events, or in the event of illness or sickness on a Tuesday or Thursday with a scheduled lecture, we will our move in-person lecture online to the "Zoom Room". Please use the Zoom link on top of the syllabus in the case of this event. I will communicate this with as much notice as possible via eCampus/email, usually at least given the night before.

Tentative Class Schedule - Subject to Change*

Any supplemental material will be linked in our course eCampus page in the supplemental reading folder

RR - required reading/before class that day*

BHT - Bhattacharya, Hyde, Tu 2014 textbook

Week	Module #	Day	Date	Topic & Required Readings (denoted RR*)
1	1	Tues	10-Jan	<p style="text-align: center;">First Day Introduction to Course Materials RR* BHT Ch. 1: Why Health Economics?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 2: Demand for Health care</p>
		Thurs	12-Jan	
2	1	Tues	17-Jan	<p style="text-align: center;">Finish Ch. 2 in-class exercises*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 3: Demand for Health: the Grossman Model</p>
		Thurs	19-Jan	
3	1	Tues	24-Jan	<p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch 4: Socioeconomic Disparities in Health</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 7: Demand for Insurance</p>
	3	Thurs	26-Jan	
4	3	Tues	31-Jan	<p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 8: Adverse Selection: Akerlof's market for lemons</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 9: Adverse Selection – Rothschild-Stiglitz Model</p>
		Thurs	02-Feb	
5	3	Tues	07-Feb	<p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 11: Adverse Selection – Moral Hazard</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT CH. 2 & CH. 10: Empirical Evidence of Adverse Selection & Moral Hazard</p>
		Thurs	09-Feb	
6	2	Tues	14-Feb	<p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 6: The Hospital Industry</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 6: The Hospital Industry</p>
		Thurs	16-Feb	
7	2	Tues	21-Feb	<p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 5: Physician Services</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 5: Physician Services</p>
		Thurs	23-Feb	
8	4	Tues	28-Feb	<p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 12: Pharmaceuticals & Economics of Innovation <i>Leave end of class time to discuss group project</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">RR* BHT Ch. 13: Healthcare Spending Supplemental Reading: JAMA Paper</p>
		Thurs	02-Mar	

9	5	Tues	07-Mar	<p align="center">RR* BHT Ch. 15-18: Health Policy Conundrum; Achieving Universal Coverage; Beveridge national health care, Bismarck social healthcare, & American health insurance models; <i>Supplemental Reading: OECD Report</i></p>
		Thurs	09-Mar	<p align="center">RR* BHT Ch. 15-18: Health Policy Conundrum; Achieving Universal Coverage; Beveridge national health care, Bismarck social healthcare, & American health insurance models;</p>
			14-Mar	<p align="center">Ch. 19 slides and supplemental materials will be posted before spring break for you to read and look over on your own time before the end of break! NO LECTURES THIS WEEK – UNIVERSITY BREAK</p>
			16-Mar	<p align="center">RR* BHT Ch. 19: Population aging and the future of health policy</p>
10	5	Tues	21-Mar	<p align="center">Policy analysis and health systems comparisons TBD</p>
		Thurs	23-Mar	
11	5	Tues	28-Mar	<p align="center">Policy analysis TBD</p>
		Thurs	30-Mar	
12	6	Tues	04-Apr	<p align="center">RR* BHT Ch. 20: Public Health The economics of health externalities</p>
		Thurs	06-Apr	<p align="center">RR* BHT Ch. 20: Public Health The economics of health externalities</p>
14	7	Tues	11-Apr	<p align="center">RR* BHT Ch. 23: Behavioral Health Prospect Theory</p>
		Thurs	13-Apr	<p align="center">RR* BHT Ch. 23: Behavioral Health **with special guest visit from the Director Behavioral Economics and Situational Testing (BEAST) Lab. This lecture date is subject to change.</p>
15	5	Tues	18-Apr	<p align="center">***lecture placeholder for special guest speaker in healthcare sometime throughout the semester***</p>
		Thurs	20-Apr	<p align="center">In-class day to work with groups on policy projects (may coordinate to work via Zoom but must check-in with me)</p>
16	5	Tues Thurs	25-Apr 27 -Apr	<p align="center">Policy Brief/Analysis Presentation Day Policy Brief/Analysis Presentation Day</p>
17		Weds	May 3	<p align="center">Last Office Hours Session of the semester</p>
17		Fri	May 5	<p align="center">Scheduled Final Exam Day (no scheduled final for this class) Final Policy Group Analyses due by 12pm Friday, 5/5/23 Final Grades Completed by 11:59pm of Saturday evening 5/6/23</p>

Course Breakdown:

Element	Points	Final Course Weight
Written Assignment #1 Module 3	100	10%
Written Assignment #2 Module 2	100	10%
Written Assignment #3 Module 4	100	10%
Written Assignment #4 Module 5	100	10%
Written Assignment #5 Module 6 or 7	100	10%
Weekly Packback (16 deadlines)	10 points weekly	15%
Policy Group Project	100	35%
	750 total points	100%

Midterm Grades

Midterm grades will be due March 3rd and tentatively reflect 26% of your overall course grade (7 packbacks & 2 written assignments).

Determination of Letter Grades:

Letter grades will be assigned based on the total points earned on the exams. Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale. In borderline cases, I will consider class attendance and class efforts in determining grades.

Grade	Points	Percentage
A+ =	735-750	98%-100%
A =	675-734	90%-98%
B =	600-674	80%-89%
C =	525-599	70%-79%
D =	450-524	60%-69%
F =	0-449	0%- 59%

Final Group Policy Project:

The final project is a policy brief related to one of the topics covered during the semester. More detail about the project is provided in a separate document on eCampus. The deliverables for the final project are an abstract, an outline, the written policy brief/analysis, presentation slides, and a group presentation of the brief. The deliverables will be due throughout the semester. There will be a final evaluation of each other as group members and you will review the efforts' of each individual efforts out of 10. This will influence your final grades (not as a group, but as individuals). The total project is worth 100 points with points allocated as follows:

Portion of Assignment	Points Worth	Due Date
Abstract	10 points	Thurs. March 30, 2023
Outline	15 points	Tues, April 11 th , 2023
Slides	10 points	Tues. April 25 th 2023 && && Thurs. April 27 th 2023

Presentation	15 points	Tues. April 25 th , 2023 && && Thurs. April 27 th , 2023
Written Policy Brief/Analysis	50 points	12pm on Friday May 5 th , 2023
Group Member Evaluation	~	12pm on Friday May 5 th 2023
	100 total points	Grades finalized by Friday night 5/5

Writing Assignments

More instruction and details on these assignments will be posted throughout the semester as these are assigned in eCampus. These will be submitted into Packback for grading. The point of these assignments is to summarize the objectives and most important issues in each topic of health economics studies.

Writing Assignment	Tentative Deadline
Written Assignment #1 Module 3	Tues. Feb. 14 th , 2023
Written Assignment #2 Module 2	Tues. Feb. 28 th , 2023
Written Assignment #3 Module 4	Tues. March 7 th , 2023
Writing Assignment #4 Module 5	Tues. March 21 st , 2023
Written Assignment #5 Module 6 or 7	Thurs. April 20 th , 2023

Packback Deadlines (16 total – 15 must be completed throughout the semester)

Packback	Due Date in Packback
PB #1	Sun. 1/15/23
PB #2	Sun. 1/22/23
PB #3	Sun. 1/29/23
PB #4	Sun. 2/5/23
PB #5	Sun. 2/12/23
PB #6	Sun. 2/19/23
PB #7	Sun. 2/26/23
PB #8	Sun. 3/5/23
PB #9	Sun. 3/12/23
PB #10	Sun. 3/19/23
PB #11	Sun. 3/26/23
PB #12	Sun. 4/2/23
PB #13	Sun. 4/9/23
PB #14	Sun. 4/16/23
PB #15	Sun. 4/23/23
PB #16	Sun. 4/30/30

Packback for Weekly Discussion Questions and Writing Assignments:

Packback is an AI learning platform for inquiry-based discussion, writing assignments, and coaching. The goal of Packback is to gauge where you are at with the materials I will be lecturing on in class. You can find instructions for signing up for Packback in eCampus.

Each Sunday night this semester, you will be required to ask an open-ended question in Packback related to that past week's materials and respond to another student's question. To receive full credit each week for your Packback participation, you will need to post **1 question (5 points)** and **1 response (5 points)** that both need to reach a minimum of **65 curiosity points to receive the full 10 participation points weekly**. There will be 16 deadlines. You will need 15 full weeks of participation to receive full participation credit for Packback. There are 16 deadlines which gives you one "grace" week if you miss a week of Packback, it will not hurt your overall participation if you complete all other Packback weeks for full credit.

In addition, we will use Packback as an AI tool for helping grade your writing assignments. We will use Packback to submit short Writing Assignments 1-5. More instructions will follow at a later date on completing and submitting these assignments in Packback Deep Dive.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Late assignments, with prior approval and discussion with me in extenuating circumstances, although strongly discouraged, may be allowed in very extreme cases. You will be docked 15 percentage points for every 24-hour period for which the assignment is late, beginning ten minutes after the time it is due.

Portfolio Accounts

You will be expected to create a portfolio at portfolio: <https://wvu.portfolio.com/> and this will contribute to the John Chambers College AOL (Assessment of Learning) Qualifications for this higher-level course, required to keep minimum qualifications for a business school certification. Below you will find instructions on this. It will need to be completed at least a month before the end of the year.

- (1) If you already have an account – you will not need to create another. You can post projects/papers from different courses to your single account.
- (2) Before uploading any project or assignment to your account - on privacy setting: go to Me, then select Privacy, and uncheck the box for "Only allow people I'm connected with to view my profile." This allows anyone to view the portfolio created. This needs to be done **prior** to uploading any papers for them to be viewed publicly.
- (3) Each assignment will have a specific code for your where you will download it in your portfolio account. More information on this to come later in the semester.

You will upload all of your finalized course projects, written assignments, and any completed work here. You may also use this account to upload resumes and additional certifications here for your own personal use. This could be useful moving forward as many of you move into your careers and as you may lose access to school accounts, old technology, etc.. I want this to be a beneficial use of your time even though it won't be counted for a grade.

eCampus Materials:

The course website is available through eCampus. Make sure that you know how to access your account on eCampus. All course materials will be posted on eCampus including, but not limited to, the course syllabus, course assessments, course content modules, links to videos and podcasts, required readings, and announcements. I recommend that you check the website regularly.

Mental Health:

Mental health concerns or stressful events can adversely affect your academic performance and social relationships. WVU offers services to assist you with addressing these and other concerns that you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus at the Carruth Center for Psychological and Psychiatric Services (CCPPS) website: <https://carruth.wvu.edu/>. If you are in need of crisis services, call the CCPPS main number 24/7: (304) 293-4431.

Communication & Engagement:

Communication and engagement in a course are critical to the learning and overall experience a student has throughout a semester. Here are a few ways I plan to help encourage this throughout the next few months!

There is an open-door policy when it comes to communication and my email inbox – you are able to reach out 24/7 about any concerns whatsoever to me; whether it be about class or not. I am a young student (and a human being, as well), so your well-being is a priority over academics. If something is affecting you please reach out to me as soon as possible if you need help or services and I will do my best to accommodate whatever issues might be affecting you and your academic coursework.

Communication is important to make sure we are all on the same page moving forward in the course and to keep everyone on track and engaged with the material. The expectation will be that we use the class as the first mode of contact for any issues/questions, and email as the second form of contact. I will always respond within 1-2 business days via email. I expect the same common courtesy from students when I am emailing that with a follow-up email, or two, they will also reply within a reasonable enough timely manner.

If you would like to meet with me individually and are not available before or after class, or during office hours, and would like to request an individual meeting with me outside of these times, please send me an email with the subject line "REQUEST FOR HEALTH465 MEETING" and we will find availability that works for the both of us.

In addition to all of the above, we will have a master class email list that will include all of the class emails on a Google link that will share the contact information for those of you that are comfortable sharing your information with the class. I feel this will be a good way to connect students with each other to work outside of the 3 hours a week in class on materials and to engage with students who might have similar interests!

Google link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EpX687Y2m5g-v494CWSLy_icZM61gESRTSOG5LzPUxo/edit?usp=sharing

Course Expectations and Personal Guidelines and Conduct:

1. Students should read the assigned chapters of the textbook, and any assigned readings before coming to class each Tuesday and Thursday.
2. Joining class back in person again is a beautiful, wonderful thing - but under the circumstances of changing COVID policy, we must stay up to date on masking regulations and protocol. Please be kind and respectful during this time, and if you are sick wear a mask, Zoom into class, or stay home for that day's lecture and get missed notes from a classmate or me. If you have special circumstances requiring you to need extenuating circumstances surrounding COVID policies, please be sure to let me know and I will accommodate as best I can.
3. Assignments should be turned in on time and any work expected to be turned in late should be communicated with me in advance, as much as possible.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is not mandatory but will be strongly encouraged in this fast-paced, high-level course. You are not required to let me know if you will be missing class, but students are responsible for getting any missed lecture notes or turning in any missed assignments on the day of absence. Please make sure to either speak with a classmate or email me in this circumstance. If I notice you are consecutively missing lectures, I may reach out to check in.

Institutional Policies:

Students are responsible for reviewing policies on inclusivity, academic integrity, incompletes, sale of course materials, sexual misconduct, adverse weather, as well as student evaluation of instruction, and days of special concern/religious holiday statements. The policies can be found here: <https://tlcommons.wvu.edu/syllabus-policies-and-statements>

Business Communications Office:

The Business Communication Center (BCC) will provide live online communication tutoring/consultations Monday through Thursday 9:30-5 and Friday 9:30-2. The BCC assists undergraduate and graduate students with writing, presentations, and learning document design software. To schedule an appointment

- Open portal.wvu.edu
- In the Resources block, select "Navigate"
- Select "Get Assistance"

The BCC promotes excellence in written and oral communication by providing individualized feedback. Consultants act as engaged audience members, providing constructive, encouraging responses designed to help our clients communicate more clearly and effectively. Consultants do not provide proofreading or editing services; rather, the goal is to teach our clients strategies for composing, designing, and revising their own work, as the BCC's larger ambition is to see the Chambers College community improve overall communication skills for the professional workplace.

Changes to Course or Syllabus:

I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus throughout the semester. If changes are made, these will be announced in class and posted on e-campus and made well in advance. I will try to limit any such changes to a minimum. If there is any need for a quicker or slower pace in materials, I will communicate this with you and we will make changes throughout the semester, as need be at a reasonable rate. This will be determined mostly by the speed we get through lectures and in-class exercises and will depend on your preparation coming to class each day.