



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY

ECONOMICS

Econ 364: Health Economics

F. SUMMERFIELD

FALL 2017

Office: NH 508 (Nicholson Hall Tower)

Email: fsummerf@stfx.ca

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 14:15 – 15:15
Tuesday 13:00 – 17:00

Lectures

Tuesday 17:15 – 18:30
Thursday 17:15 – 18:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores issues around health, health care and health policy from the standpoint of economic theory. Basic microeconomic principles will be used to understand the demand for health and healthcare, the supply of healthcare services and pharmaceuticals. We will also use tools from information economics to understand important public policy challenges in the health sector, including moral hazard and adverse selection.

COURSE MATERIALS

LECTURE NOTES

You are expected to attend all lectures and to take your own notes. There is imperfect overlap between the text and lectures

REQUIRED TEXT (BB)

Health Economics, by Bhattacharya, Hyde & Tu (Palgrave MacMillan 2014)

COURSE OUTLINE & READINGS

Introduction	Chapter 1
Part I: Demand for Health	
Health Capital & SES	Chapters 3 & 4
Part II: Demand for Health Care	
Demand for Health Care	Chapter 2
Part III: Supply of Health Care	
Physician Labour Markets	Chapter 5
The Hospital Industry	Chapter 6
Part IV: Innovation and Technology	
Pharmaceutical Industry	Chapter 12
Technology, Pricing and Evaluation	Chapters 13 & 14
Part V: Information	
Demand for Insurance	Chapter 7
Adverse Selection	Chapters 8 & 9
Moral Hazard	Chapter 11
Part VI: Health Policy	
Comparative Systems	Chapters 15 - 18
Part VII: Public Health	
Health Externalities	Chapter 20
Disease and Obesity	Chapters 21 & 22
Part VIII: Health Behaviors	
Deviations from Rationality	Chapters 23 & 24

EVALUATION

Your grade for the course will be determined by the following weighting scheme:

• Short Policy Essays	Due: Oct 5 th , Nov 23 rd	10% each
• Problem Sets	Due: Oct 26 th , Nov 9 th	5% each
• Midterm Exam	In Class: Oct. 19th	30%
• Final Exam	TBA	40%

Exams: Proper medical documentation must be provided for missed exams. The final exam for the course is cumulative and will cover material from the whole term. You are encouraged to work through problems from the textbook as we complete respective chapters. These problems will not be graded, but they provide the best practice for exam questions.

Problem Sets: You must submit your **own** set of answers at the start of the lecture in which they are due. Late problem sets will not be accepted and will receive a mark of zero. If you cannot attend a lecture where problem sets are due, make arrangements to have them submitted by a classmate or submit them early.

Short policy essays: Essays must be comprised of your own unique work. The essay question to be answered will be assigned in class one week prior to the due date. Please note that extensions will not be possible so plan ahead and manage your time accordingly.

General guidelines:

- All sources used should be cited in a bibliography or footnotes
 - Reports must be less than 1000 words so you will need to edit your work carefully to ensure you write concisely.
 - Be sure to make arguments from the point of view of an Economist, a common mistake is to argue your point on a political or moral ground.
 - Assignments should be double spaced in Arial font (size 12) and printed on plain white paper.
 - Print your name, student number, course name and essay number on a separate title page.
 - A component of the grade will include writing clarity, so ensure that you spell and grammar-check your work. Do not trust your computer with this task.
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