The University of Maine
School of Economics

ECO 442, ECO 590 and MPH 665 - Health Economics
Fall 2017

Lectures: Tuesdays from 4:10 to 6:40pm
Location for ECO 442 and ECO 590: Hitchner Hall 203
Location for MPH 665: Wishcamper Center 419

Instructor: Dr. Angela Daley
Email: angela.daley@maine.edu
Phone: 207-581-3159
Office: Winslow Hall 307
Office Hours: By Appointment

Teaching Assistant for ECO 442: Arianna Castonguay
Email: arianna.castonguay@maine.edu
Office: To Be Announced
Office Hours: To Be Announced

Course Description

Welcome to health economics, a (relatively) new and exciting field! In this course, we will survey major topics including: the economic determinants of health; the market for health care and insurance; the role of governments. We will focus on the health system in the United States with comparisons to other countries, as well as health system reform. Students will have an opportunity to engage with community members on the latter. We will also consider the economics of risky health behaviors and special topics including: the health endowment; business cycles and health; and socio-economic gradients in health. The course will culminate in a conference during which students will present policy briefs and engage with health-related researchers.

Pre-Requisite: C- or better in Principles of Microeconomics. If you have not taken Principles of Microeconomics, you must complete a tutorial via Blackboard.

This course is worth three credits. Students cannot receive credits for more than one of ECO 442, ECO 590 or MPH 665.

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Use economic models to describe and analyze how individuals, physicians, insurance providers and governments make decisions about health, accounting for the interactions between these entities;
• Explain how health and social policy affect such decision-making;
• Describe health and social policy in the United States, as well as advantages and limitations compared to other countries (e.g. Canada, the United Kingdom);
• Identify the approaches to health system reform and broader implications thereof;
• Work in a collaborative academic setting (e.g. give and receive feedback, engage with community members and health related-researchers);
• Describe a health-related issue using economic tools and propose policy solutions.

Resources

There is no required textbook, however we will draw upon the following:


For students enrolled in ECO 442 and ECO 590, the textbook will be available at the Reserve Desk in the Fogler Library. For students enrolled in MPH 665, it will be available from Firooza Pavri in Wishcamper Center 117.

We will also use articles, which are available from your library and/or Google Scholar. I will announce articles at least one week in advance of covering them in class. Please check Blackboard for updates. All other resources, such as data and articles for the term project, will be available to students online or from the instructor.

Although not required for this course, you might enjoy these podcasts with health and/or economics content.

http://freakonomics.com
http://www.npr.org/podcasts/510308/hidden-brain

Grading

Your overall grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Project</td>
<td>35 Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>50 Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>15 Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>Extra Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 1</td>
<td>5 Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2</td>
<td>5 Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3</td>
<td>5 Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4</td>
<td>10 Percent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 5</td>
<td>10 Percent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your final grade will be assigned as follows:

A (93 to 100 percent); A- (90 to 92.9 percent); B+ (87 to 89.9 percent); B (82 to 86.9 percent); B- (80 to 81.9 percent); C+ (77 to 79.9 percent); C (72 to 76.9 percent); C- (70 to 71.9 percent); D+ (67 to 69.9 percent); D (62 to 66.9 percent); D- (60 to 61.9 percent); F (less than 60 percent).
Term Project

The term project is divided into five parts and will be completed with a partner. I reserve the right to assign different grades within a team (i.e. in case of unequal contributions).

You must submit your work via email by 4:00pm on the due date. Each part of the term project contributes to the next. For this reason, and out of respect for students who complete their work on time, late submissions will not be accepted. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Part 1 due Tuesday, September 12
Part 2 due Tuesday, September 26
Part 3 due Tuesday, October 31
Part 4 due Tuesday, November 7
Part 5 due Tuesday, December 5

Exams

Exams will be held in class on October 17 and November 28. I will provide more information about each exam at least one week in advance.

If you have to miss an exam while representing the University (e.g. athletics, conferences), please let me know as soon as possible and definitely before the exam. If you miss an exam for another reason, you must provide an original note on illness or family loss within 48 hours. If an exemption is granted, you will be required to write a make-up exam. If an exemption is not granted, a grade of zero will stand.

Assignments

There will be two assignments, each of which has equal bearing on the overall grade. They will consist of practice problems to be completed on an individual basis. They are intended to help you prepare for the exams. The details of each assignment will be announced at least one week in advance of the due date.

There will be an extra assignment for students enrolled in ECO 590 and MPH 665. Therefore, your grade will be split between three assignments (i.e. five percent each). The details will be announced at least one week in advance of the due date.

You must submit your work via email by 4:00pm on the due date. Out of respect for students who complete their work on time, late submissions will not be accepted. There are no exceptions to this policy.

Assignment 1 due Tuesday, October 3
Assignment 2 due Tuesday, November 21

ECO 590 and MPH 665 Extra Assignment due Tuesday, November 14
**Attendance and Participation**

While not mandatory, attendance and participation are integral to the learning process. You are responsible for everything discussed in class. I do not provide lecture notes for missed classes.

I recommend that you review the appropriate textbook chapters and article(s) prior to class. This will allow more time for thoughtful discussions. You will earn extra credit based on the level and quality of engagement. There will also be opportunities for extra credit with guest speakers, community members and at the conference. The details will be announced at least one week in advance of each opportunity.

Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class. I do not tolerate inappropriate or disruptive behavior.

**Communications**

I will regularly post material to Blackboard and/or communicate via email. Please monitor your accounts regularly. You are welcome to email me with questions that are not better addressed in class or with other resources (e.g. syllabus, lecture notes, Blackboard, past communications, fellow students). Please be concise and professional; use complete sentences in proper English with no spelling mistakes or cryptic abbreviations. I reserve the right to have a 36 hour turnaround time through the week. During weekends, the turnaround time may be up to 60 hours.

**Additional Requirements for ECO 590 and MPH 665**

Students enrolled in ECO 590 and MPH 665 are pursuing a graduate-level course. Therefore, expectations differ in terms of the level and quality of work.

You will use microdata for the term project, instead of aggregated data used by students enrolled in ECO 442. This will require additional time to obtain and prepare the data, as well as a more sophisticated analysis.

As described above, there will be an extra assignment for students enrolled in ECO 590 and MPH 665. Moreover, there will be additional or different questions on the other two assignments and exams.

In terms of attendance and participation, you should review the appropriate textbook chapters and article(s) prior to class. You will be looked upon to initiate and contribute to discussions on a regular basis. You will also mentor to students enrolled in ECO 442.
**Course Outline**

Changes to the outline will be announced in class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, August 29</td>
<td><em>Syllabus and Term Project</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Introduction</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resources: Textbook Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 5</td>
<td><em>Demand for and Production of Health</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resources: Textbook Chapters 5 and 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 12</td>
<td><em>Demand for and Production of Health</em></td>
<td>Term Project Part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resources: Textbook Chapters 5 and 7; Article(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Identification</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resources: Article(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This is mandatory for students enrolled in ECO 590 and MPH 665. It is optional for students enrolled in ECO 442.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, September 19</td>
<td><em>Health Insurance and Consumer Behavior</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resources: Textbook Chapters 8 and 10; Article(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topics</td>
<td>Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tuesday, September 26 | *Health Insurance and Consumer Behavior*  
Resources: Textbook Chapters 8 and 10; Article(s)  
*Physician Behavior and Supply of Health Care*  
Resources: Textbook Chapters 15 and 16; Article(s) | Term Project Part 2 |
| Tuesday, October 3    | *Physician Behavior and Supply of Health Care*  
Resources: Textbook Chapters 15 and 16; Article(s)  
*Review for Exam 1* | Assignment 1       |
| Tuesday, October 10   | *No Class - Fall Break*                                                 |                   |
| Tuesday, October 17   | *Exam 1*  
*Guest Speaker*  
This is an opportunity to earn extra credit via attendance and participation. I will provide more information at least one week in advance. | Exam 1            |
| Tuesday, October 24   | *Efficiency, Equity and Need*  
Resources: Textbook Chapters 19 and 21; Article(s) |                   |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 31</td>
<td><em>Peer Review</em> <em>Comparative Health Systems and Reform</em> Resources: Textbook Chapters 22 and 23; Article(s)</td>
<td>Term Project Part 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 7</td>
<td><em>Comparative Health Systems and Reform</em> Resources: Textbook Chapters 22 and 23; Article(s)</td>
<td>Term Project Part 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tuesday, November 14  | *Engage with Community Members*  
This is an opportunity to earn extra credit via attendance and participation. I will provide more information at least one week in advance.  
*The Economics of Risky Health Behaviors*  
Resources: Textbook Chapter 24; Article(s) | ECO 590 and MPH 665  
Extra Assignment |
| Tuesday, November 21  | *The Economics of Risky Health Behaviors*  
Resources: Textbook Chapter 24; Article(s)  
*Special Topics*  
Resources: Article(s)  
*Review for Exam 2* | Assignment 2 |


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, November 28</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guest Speaker</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This is an opportunity to earn extra credit via attendance and participation. I will provide more information at least one week in advance.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tuesday, December 5</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conference</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Project Part 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In addition to your own presentation, this is an opportunity to earn extra credit via attendance and participation. I will provide more information at least one week in advance.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following statements apply to students enrolled in ECO 442 and ECO 590.

**Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the Student Conduct Code is dismissal from the University.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 207-581-2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved by Student Accessibility Services and have a current accommodation letter should meet with me privately as soon as possible.

**Course Schedule**

In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within the programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

**Sexual Discrimination**

The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (i.e. dating violence, domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

If you want to talk to someone in confidence about an experience of sexual discrimination, please use these resources:

- For confidential services on campus, contact the Counseling Center at 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center at 207-581-4000.
- For confidential services off campus, contact Rape Response Services at 1-800-310-0000 or Spruce Run at 1-800-863-9909.

The following resources are available on campus, however they may have to report the incident to others who can help: Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention at 207-581-1406; Office
The following statements apply to students enrolled in MPH 665.

**Academic Integrity**

Violations of academic integrity include actions that attempt to promote or enhance the academic standing of any student by dishonest means (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, academic misconduct). Student may be accused, charged and penalized for violations as appropriate. Please refer to the Student Conduct Code for definitions and procedures. Additional information is available on the University of Southern Maine website under the Dean of Students. If you have questions about the academic integrity process, please contact the Dean of Students.

The development of original thinking and intellectual honesty are regarded as central to graduate education. In the pursuit of these goals, students continually consult existing work, and it is expected that they acknowledge the debt owed to others by citing all sources.

Plagiarism, which is the use of language, ideas or the organization of ideas without attribution, is a fundamental breach of basic academic principles and is prohibited in all courses. Unless group work is assigned, coursework is normally completed independently. If books, journals, magazines or other sources are reviewed and the ideas or language therein are used, they must be cited. Where specific guidelines are not given, students should consult a reference source on proper notation.

Evidence of plagiarism will result in a grade of F for the assignment and may, at the discretion of the instructor, lead to an F in the course. Further sanctions may be imposed through the Student Conduct Code (e.g. censure, probation, suspension, dismissal).

The case of any student who admits to or is found guilty of a violation of academic integrity will be reviewed by the Student Conduct Code Review Board. The student will be subject to the appropriate sanctions, including expulsion from the University. Copies of the Student Guide to Academic Integrity and Student Academic Integrity Policy are available from the Office of Community Standards, 125 Upton Hall, Gorham, 207-780-5242.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you require an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Center for confidential assistance. Timely notification of an accommodation is essential. For more information, visit http://usm.maine.edu/dsc or call 207-780-4706.
Title IX

The University of Southern Maine is committed to making our campuses safe places for students. Because of this commitment, and our federal obligations, faculty and other employees are considered mandated reporters when it comes to experiences of interpersonal violence (i.e. sexual assault, sexual harassment, dating or domestic violence, stalking). Disclosures of interpersonal violence must be passed along to the University’s Deputy Title IX Coordinator who can provide support and academic remedies for students who have been impacted. More information can be found online at http://usm.maine.edu/campus-safety-project or by contacting Sarah E. Holmes at sarah.e.holmes1@maine.edu or 207-780-5767.

If you want to talk to someone in confidence, the following resources are available on and off campus: University Counseling Services at 207-780-4050; 24 Hour Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-871-7741; and 24 Hour Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-866-834-4357.

Writing Assistance

The Writing Center at Lewiston-Auburn College offers free assistance to all students, faculty and staff at the University of Southern Maine. You can consult with the Center on any type of writing at any stage of the process. Writing Assistants can help with prewriting strategies, organization, integrating source material and the successful communication of your ideas. Face-to face and online appointments are one-to-one, dynamic and student-led, focusing on areas you would like to improve. In addition to writing, the Center also offers tutoring in math, science and technology. To schedule a face-to-face or online appointment, visit https://usm.maine.edu/writingcenter. You can also call 207-753-6513 or just stop by.

Other Resources

For assistance with writing or time management, make an appointment to see a tutor at the Learning Commons in the Portland and Gorham libraries. For more information, visit http://www.usm.maine.edu/learningcommons.

University Health and Counseling Services promotes the well-being of the University of Southern Maine community. For more information, visit http://www.usm.maine.edu/uhcs.