

**The University of Maine
School of Economics**

**ECO 442 – Health Economics
Fall 2019**

Instructor: Dr. Angela Daley
Email: angela.daley@maine.edu
Phone: 207-581-3159
Office: Winslow 307
Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:00pm Eastern

I will be available by email and Zoom during these hours. Office hours will begin on September 3 and end on December 12. There will be no office hours on September 5, September 26, October 15, November 7 or November 28.

Teaching Assistant: Liam Sigaud
Email: liam.sigaud@maine.edu
Office: Economics Lab, Winslow Hall 205
Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00pm

Liam will be available by email and Zoom during these hours. Office hours will begin on September 10 and end on December 12. There will be no office hours on October 15 or November 28.

To contact me or Liam by Zoom during office hours, the Meeting ID is 288-296-555.
The link is <https://maine.zoom.us/j/288296555>.
You may access the link on Blackboard, which is our Learning Management System (LMS):
Office Hours and Synchronous Zoom Activities.

Other: UMaine Online Support Services
Email: umaineonline@maine.edu
Phone: 1-877-947-4357
Office: Chadbourne 100
Hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 7:00pm Eastern

Course Description

In this course, we will survey major topics in health economics including: the economic determinants of health; the market for health care and insurance; the role of government. We will focus on the health system in the United States with comparisons to other countries, as well as health system reform. As a special topic, we will consider the economics of risky health behaviors.

This course is worth three credit hours. It satisfies the General Education requirement in Social Contexts and Institutions.

Prerequisite: C- or better in ECO 120 or permission

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;
- Identify the goals and issues in health system reform;
- Work in a collaborative academic setting (e.g. engage with peers, give and receive feedback);
- Describe a health-related issue using economic tools and consider policy implications.

Materials and Methods

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

Folland, S., Goodman, A.C. and Stano, M. (2017). *The Economics of Health and Health Care* (8th edition). Routledge.

I will provide readings and other resources on the LMS. I will regularly update the LMS and contact you via your maine.edu email. Please monitor your accounts.

You are welcome to email me or Liam with questions that are not better addressed by reviewing the syllabus and LMS, talking to peers, etc. We will respond during office hours. Otherwise, the turnaround time may be up to 36 hours on weekdays and 60 hours on weekends.

In addition to the LMS and your maine.edu email, you will be required to use Kaltura and Zoom. For help with course platforms, visit:

<https://online.umaine.edu/tech-support/>
<https://umaine.edu/it/>
<https://umaine.edu/citl/faculty-support/kaltura/>
<https://umaine.edu/citl/faculty-support/zoom/>

Grading

Your overall grade will be determined as follows:

Term Project	35 Percent
Take-Home Exams	40 Percent
Presentation and Activity on Comparative Health Systems and Reform	15 Percent
Participation	10 Percent

Your overall 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

More information about the term project is available on the LMS. It must be completed with a partner. You can connect with potential partners on the *Introduction to Peers* discussion board on the LMS. I reserve the right to assign different grades within a team in case of unequal contributions.

The term project is divided into five parts, the due dates and relative weights of which are listed below. Out of respect for students who complete their work on time, and because each part of the term project contributes to the next, late submissions will not be accepted, except in extreme circumstances with the appropriate documentation.

Term Project Part 1	5 Percent
Due Sunday, September 22 by 11:59pm Eastern	
Term Project Part 2	5 Percent
Due Sunday, October 6 by 11:59pm Eastern	
Term Project Part 3	5 Percent
Draft of Policy Brief due Sunday, November 3 by 11:59pm Eastern	
Peer Review Exercise due Sunday, November 17 by 11:59pm Eastern	
Term Project Part 4	10 Percent
Due Sunday, November 24 by 11:59pm Eastern	
Term Project Part 5	10 Percent
Due Tuesday, December 10 by 11:59pm Eastern	
Synchronous Zoom Activity on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00pm Eastern	

Our Zoom Meeting ID is 288-296-555. The link is <https://maine.zoom.us/j/288296555>. You may access the link on the LMS: *Office Hours and Synchronous Zoom Activities*.

During the synchronous Zoom activity, there will be a brief discussion of your term project. You will be expected to answer questions from myself and your peers. Please arrange to be available on this day and time. Both team members must participate. You

must notify me at least one week prior to the activity if you are unable to participate. A make-up assignment may be completed in extreme circumstances with the appropriate documentation.

Take-Home Exams

There will be two take-home exams, which must be completed on an individual-basis. I will provide more information about each exam at least one week prior to the due date.

Out of respect for students who complete their work on time, and because you will have one week to complete each exam, late submissions will not be accepted, except in extreme circumstances with the appropriate documentation.

Take-Home Exam 1 due Sunday, October 27 by 11:59pm Eastern	20 Percent
Take-Home Exam 2 due Sunday, December 8 by 11:59pm Eastern	20 Percent

There is no final exam in this course.

Presentation and Activity on Comparative Health Systems and Reform

Presentation due Sunday, November 10 by 11:59pm Eastern	10 Percent
Synchronous Zoom Activity on Wednesday, November 13 at 7:00pm Eastern	5 Percent

Our Zoom Meeting ID is 288-296-555. The link is <https://maine.zoom.us/j/288296555>. You may access the link on the LMS: *Office Hours and Synchronous Zoom Activities*.

As part of the module on Comparative Health Systems and Reform, you will prepare a presentation using Kaltura, then upload it to the LMS. This will be completed on an individual-basis. I will provide more information about the presentation at least one week prior to the due date. Out of respect for students who complete their work on time, and because you will have at least one week to complete the presentation, late submissions will not be accepted, except in extreme circumstances with the appropriate documentation.

Your presentations will form the basis of a synchronous Zoom activity on Wednesday, November 13 at 7:00pm Eastern. Please arrange to be available on this day and time. There are no partial marks. You will earn five percent for participating in the activity, or zero for not. You must notify me at least one week prior to the activity if you are unable to participate. A make-up assignment may be completed in extreme circumstances with the appropriate documentation. The make-up assignment will be graded, possibly resulting in less than the five percent that can be earned by participating in the activity.

Participation

You will earn up to two percent of your overall grade in each of the following five areas, for a total of 10 percent:

- Familiarize yourself with the course platforms (e.g. the LMS, Kaltura, Zoom), as they will be used to foster participation. This must be demonstrated throughout the course.
 - 0 – Has poor familiarity with course platforms
 - 1 – Has some familiarity with course platforms
 - 2 – Has good familiarity with course platforms

- Create an introductory video using Kaltura, then upload it to the *Introduction to Peers* discussion board on the LMS. This should be completed during the first week of the course.
 - 0 – Did not create introductory video on time
 - 1 – Created introductory video on time, with some effort
 - 2 – Created introductory video on time, with good effort

- Complete the questions that are embedded in course videos. There will be questions embedded in Modules 1 to 7. They should be completed during the week(s) in which the module is to be completed.
 - 0 – Did not complete questions on time
 - 1 – Completed questions on time, with some effort
 - 2 – Completed questions on time, with good effort

- Contribute to the discussion boards in Modules 2, 4 and 5. You must contribute during the week(s) in which the module is to be completed.
 - 0 – Did not contribute to discussion boards on time
 - 1 – Contributed to discussion boards on time, with some effort
 - 2 – Contributed to discussion boards on time, with good effort

- Ask questions about the term projects of your peers during the synchronous Zoom activity on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00pm Eastern.
 - 0 – Did not participate in the synchronous Zoom activity
 - 1 – Participated in the synchronous Zoom activity, with some effort
 - 2 – Participated in the synchronous Zoom activity, with good effort

Course Outline

Refer to the corresponding section of the LMS for tasks to be completed in each module (e.g. course videos, readings, discussion boards). Any changes to the course outline will be announced on the LMS.

Week	To Be Completed
Monday, September 2 to Sunday, September 8	Module 0 – Introductions Module 1 – Introduction to Health Economics
Monday, September 9 to Sunday, September 15	Module 2 – Production of and Demand for Health
Monday, September 16 to Sunday, September 22	Module 2 – Production of and Demand for Health <i>* Term Project Part 1 due Sunday, September 22 by 11:59pm Eastern</i>
Monday, September 23 to Sunday, September 29	Module 3 – Health Insurance and Consumer Behavior
Monday, September 30 to Sunday, October 6	Module 3 – Health Insurance and Consumer Behavior <i>* Term Project Part 2 due Sunday, October 6 by 11:59pm Eastern</i>
Monday, October 7 to Sunday, October 13	Module 4 – Physician Behavior and Health Care Labor Markets

Week	To Be Completed
Monday, October 14 to Sunday, October 20	Fall Break
Monday, October 21 to Sunday, October 27	* Take-Home Exam 1 due Sunday, October 27 by 11:59pm Eastern
Monday, October 28 to Sunday, November 3	Module 5 – Efficiency, Equity and Need * Term Project Part 3 – Draft of Policy Brief due Sunday, November 3 by 11:59pm Eastern
Monday, November 4 to Sunday, November 10	Module 6 – Comparative Health Systems and Reform * Presentation due Sunday, November 10 by 11:59pm Eastern
Monday, November 11 to Sunday, November 17	* Synchronous Zoom Activity on Wednesday, November 13 at 7:00pm Eastern Our Zoom Meeting ID is 288-296-555. The link is https://maine.zoom.us/j/288296555 . You may access the link on the LMS: <i>Office Hours and Synchronous Zoom Activities</i> . * Term Project Part 3 – Peer Review Exercise due Sunday, November 17 by 11:59pm Eastern
Monday, November 18 to Sunday, November 24	Module 7 – Special Topic: The Economics of Risky Health Behaviors * Term Project Part 4 due Sunday, November 24 by 11:59pm Eastern
Monday, November 25 to Sunday, December 1	Thanksgiving Break

Week	To Be Completed
Monday, December 2 to Sunday, December 8	* Take-Home Exam 2 due Sunday, December 8 by 11:59pm Eastern
Monday, December 9 to Sunday, December 15	* Term Project Part 5 due Tuesday, December 10 by 11:59pm Eastern * Synchronous Zoom Activity on Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00pm Eastern Our Zoom Meeting ID is 288-296-555. The link is https://maine.zoom.us/j/288296555 . You may access the link on the LMS: <i>Office Hours and Synchronous Zoom Activities</i> .

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 University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

Student Accessibility Services

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS 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 its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Observance of Religious Holidays/Events

The University of Maine recognizes that when students are observing significant religious holidays, some may be unable to attend classes or labs, study, take tests, or work on other assignments. If they provide adequate notice (at least one week and longer if at all possible), these students are allowed to make up course requirements as long as this effort does not create an unreasonable burden upon the instructor, department or University. At the discretion of the instructor, such coursework could be due before or after the examination or assignment. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to a student's grade for the examination, study, or course requirement on the day of religious observance. The student shall not be marked absent from the class due to observing a significant religious holiday. In the case of an internship or clinical, students should refer to the applicable policy in place by the employer or site.

Sexual Discrimination Reporting

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 (dating violence and 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 in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.

For confidential resources off campus: Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000 or Partners for Peace: 1-800-863-9909.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For support services on campus: Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/>