

**ECO 442 – Health Economics  
Spring 2024**

**School of Economics  
The University of Maine**

Instructor: Dr. Angela Daley  
Email: angela.daley@maine.edu

Teaching Assistant: Solomon Agbesi  
Email: solomon.agbesi@maine.edu

### **Course Description**

This course introduces students to the role of economics in health and health care, as well as health and social policy. We will survey major topics including: the economic and social determinants of health; the markets for health care and insurance; and the role of government in health and social policy. In doing so, we will focus on the United States with comparisons to other countries. As a special topic, we will consider the economics of risky health behaviors.

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

Prerequisite: C- or better in ECO 220 or permission

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Use economic models to analyze health-related decisions by individuals, physicians, insurance providers and governments, while accounting for the interactions between these entities.
- Evaluate theoretical models relative to real-world and empirical applications.
- Critically review the health economics literature (i.e., intuit the empirical techniques, describe strengths and weaknesses, explain how the results contribute to the literature and policy).
- Use economic data to visualize and analyze issues in health economics.
- Communicate about issues in health economics, both orally and in writing.
- Describe health and social policy in the United States, as well as advantages and limitations compared to other countries.

### **Course Structure**

This course will be delivered asynchronously online. Every Tuesday, I will post new materials on Brightspace. You are expected to complete them by the following Monday at 11:59pm Eastern. In some weeks, you will work through course modules, all of which include graded components such as discussion boards and/or questions that must be answered in a Brightspace form. In other weeks, you will complete assignments or the take-home exam. Please refer to the course outline for a list of modules and deadlines.

Solomon and I will be available to meet via Zoom. Please email us to arrange an appointment. You are also encouraged to email Solomon or I with questions about the course. We expect you to be professional and concise; long, technical questions should be addressed by appointment. We will respond to email in three days or less. Please send all correspondence using your 'maine.edu' email account. We will not respond to email from other accounts or Brightspace messages.

## **Materials**

To complete this course, you will need access to Brightspace, Kaltura, Zoom and your 'maine.edu' email account. You are expected to be familiar with these platforms. Solomon and I will not provide technical support. For assistance, please visit <https://itsupport.maine.edu/> or <https://online.umaine.edu/tech-support/>.

There is no required textbook. All materials will be provided on Brightspace. Please monitor Brightspace and your 'maine.edu' email account for course materials and updates.

## **Grading**

Your overall grade will be determined as follows:

Discussion Boards	10 Percent
Questions in Modules	10 Percent
Assignments	50 percent
Take-Home Exam	30 Percent

There will be no opportunities for extra credit. There are no exceptions to this policy.

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).

### ***Discussion Boards***

Some modules include discussion boards, which are worth 10 percent of your overall grade. You must contribute to each discussion board on an individual basis during the week in which the associated module is to be completed (i.e., the module will be posted on Tuesday and must be completed by the following Monday at 11:59pm Eastern).

Each discussion board will be equally weighted and graded out of five as follows:

- 0.0 – Did not contribute to the discussion board on time
- 2.5 – Contributed to the discussion board on time with some effort
- 5.0 – Contributed to the discussion board on time with good effort

I will accept late submissions for up to 48 hours without penalty, after which they will no longer be accepted. This policy is in place because I realize that unforeseeable things may prevent you from completing course requirements on time.

### ***Questions in Modules***

Some modules include questions that must be answered in a Brightspace form. They are worth 10 percent of your overall grade. The questions must be answered on an individual basis and submitted during the week in which the associated module is to be completed (i.e., the module will be posted on Tuesday and must be completed by the following Monday at 11:59pm Eastern).

Each set of questions will be equally weighted and graded out of five as follows:

- 0.0 – Did not complete the questions on time
- 2.5 – Completed the questions on time with some effort
- 5.0 – Completed the questions on time with good effort

I will accept late submissions for up to 48 hours without penalty, after which they will no longer be accepted. This policy is in place because I realize that unforeseeable things may prevent you from completing course requirements on time.

### ***Assignments***

There will be five assignments, which must be completed on an individual basis. Each assignment is worth 10 percent of your overall grade, for a total of 50 percent. As shown in the course outline, assignments will be posted on Tuesday and must be submitted to Brightspace by the following Monday at 11:59pm Eastern.

- Assignment 1 due by Monday, February 5 at 11:59pm Eastern
- Assignment 2 due by Monday, February 19 at 11:59pm Eastern
- Assignment 3 due by Monday, March 11 at 11:59pm Eastern
- Assignment 4 due by Monday, April 1 at 11:59pm Eastern
- Assignment 5 due by Monday, April 15 at 11:59pm Eastern

I will accept late submissions for up to 48 hours without penalty, after which I will post the solutions on Brightspace and late submissions will no longer be accepted. This policy is in place because I realize that unforeseeable things may prevent you from completing course requirements on time. I do not allow re-takes or make-up assignments.

### ***Take-Home Exam***

There will one take-home exam during the semester, which must be completed on an individual basis. The exam is worth 30 percent of your overall grade. As shown in the course outline, the exam will be posted on Tuesday, April 16 and must be submitted to Brightspace by the following Monday, April 22 at 11:59pm Eastern. There is no final exam in this course.

I will accept late submissions for up to 48 hours without penalty, after which I will post the solutions on Brightspace and late submissions will no longer be accepted. This policy is in place because I realize that unforeseeable things may prevent you from completing course requirements on time. I do not allow re-takes or make-up exams.

## Course Outline

Any updates to the course outline will be posted on Brightspace.

Week	To Be Completed
Tuesday, January 16 to Monday, January 22	Module 1 – Introduction to Course and Health Economics * This module includes graded components, which are due by Monday, January 22 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, January 23 to Monday, January 29	Module 2 – Production of Health * This module includes graded components, which are due by Monday, January 29 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, January 30 to Monday, February 5	* Assignment 1 is due by Monday, February 5 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, February 6 to Monday, February 12	Module 3 – Demand for Health * This module includes graded components, which are due by Monday, February 12 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, February 13 to Monday, February 19	* Assignment 2 is due by Monday, February 19 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, February 20 to Monday, February 26	Module 4 – Health Insurance and Consumer Behavior * This module includes graded components, which are due by Monday, February 26 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, February 27 to Monday, March 4	Module 5 – Physician Behavior and Health Care Labor Markets * This module includes graded components, which are due by Monday, March 4 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, March 5 to Monday, March 11	* Assignment 3 is due by Monday, March 11 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, March 12 to Monday, March 18	Spring Break

Week	To Be Completed
Tuesday, March 19 to Monday, March 25	Module 6 – Health and Social Policy * This module includes graded components, which are due by Monday, March 25 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, March 26 to Monday, April 1	* Assignment 4 is due by Monday, April 1 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, April 2 to Monday, April 8	Module 7 – The Economics of Risky Health Behaviors * This module includes graded components, which are due by Monday, April 8 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, April 9 to Monday, April 15	* Assignment 5 is due by Monday, April 15 at 11:59pm Eastern.
Tuesday, April 16 to Monday, April 22	* Take-Home Exam is due by Monday, April 22 at 11:59pm Eastern.

## **Required Syllabus Statements**

### ***Academic Honesty Statement***

Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, or generated by software or systems without the explicit approval of the instructor, 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. Please see the University of Maine System's Academic Integrity Policy listed in the Board Policy Manual as Policy 314 (\***Date Issued:** September 1, 2020): <https://www.maine.edu/board-of-trustees/policy-manual/section-314/>

*Last Updated: 07.07.2023*

### ***Student Accessibility Services Statement***

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, [um.sas@maine.edu](mailto:um.sas@maine.edu), 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students may begin the accommodation process by submitting an accommodation request form online and uploading documentation at <https://umaine-accommodate.symplcity.com/public-accommodation/>. Once students meet with SAS and eligibility has been determined, students submit an online request with SAS each semester to activate their approved accommodations. SAS creates an accessibility letter each semester which informs faculty of potential course access and approved reasonable accommodations; the letter is sent directly to the course instructor. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should meet with me (Angela Daley) privately as soon as possible.

*Last Updated: 06.28.2023*

### ***Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause)***

In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities (due to COVID-19 or other long-term disruptions), 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.

*Last Updated: 08.17.2020*

### **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.

*Last Updated: 08.17.2020*

### ***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 Title IX Student Services 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: 1-800-871-7741** 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*: **Title IX Student Services: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911**. Or [see the Title IX Student Services website for a complete list of services \(open in a new window\)](#) . Also, [Student Wellness Resource Center \(opens in a new window\)](#).

*Last Updated: 08.17.2020*