

Department of Economics, Carleton University
ECON 3460 A – Introduction to Health Economics
Fall 2022

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Course meeting time and place: Tuesday, 14:35 to 17:25, Tory Building (TB) Room 236.

Course Brightspace page: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/144097>

EMAIL POLICY

Students can expect a reply within two to three business days. To receive a timely reply, please use your Carleton email address and include ECON 3460 as the first part of the subject of all emails. For additional information on email etiquette, [click here](#).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of the course is two-fold. First, it aims to give students an understanding of key topics in health economics; specifically, the demand and supply of health and health care, and the role that market and non-market institutions play in that respect. Second, it will provide students with the theoretical and empirical tools to critically examine key issues in health economics, including issues pertaining to health policy.

The course will be broadly divided in three parts. First, we will study individuals' decision to invest in their health in order to improve their well-being and their productivity. We will also investigate how this decision-making is influenced by people's characteristics (e.g., education, income) and by policy, and how it can lead to certain health behaviours, like smoking. Second, we will explore two defining aspects of health care systems everywhere: how health care is financed and how providers are paid. We will consider both public and private approaches to the financing and delivery of health care, and explore the important role that health insurance plays in that context. Finally, we will study specific actors involved in the supply of health care, including physicians, hospitals, and the pharmaceutical industry.

Throughout the semester, we will draw on economic principles to compare different health care systems, with a particular emphasis on the Canadian system and some of the challenges it faces.

PREREQUISITES AND PRECLUSIONS

Prerequisite(s): ECON 1001 or ECON 1000 or FYSM 1003. Students who believe they can be exempted from the listed prerequisites should contact the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator, Renée Lortie.

Preclusion(s): Credit will not be given if taken concurrently with or after ECON 4460.

COURSE DELIVERY

Classes will be held in person on Tuesdays, 14:35 to 17:25, in Tory Building (TB) Room 236. Certain classes may be held online, depending on the evolution of the pandemic over the course of the fall. Please check the course Brightspace page regularly for updates.

TEXTBOOK

Hurley, J. E. (2018). Health Economics (1st edition).

This textbook is recommended, but not required. Students can choose between ordering a hard copy of the book, which will be shipped to them, or an electronic version, which can be accessed immediately upon purchase. Both versions can be purchased by clicking [here](#). A team is available through chat (bottom right-hand corner of the website) during regular business hours, and can help students work through issues that may arise in purchasing the textbook or accessing the ebook.

COURSE EVALUATION

The course will be graded as follows:

Participation	10%
Problem sets (2)	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	45%

Participation: Each class will incorporate Poll Everywhere questions, with the exception of the class when the midterm exam is scheduled. Students will be given one mark for every class where they attempt an answer for each Poll Everywhere question, for a maximum of 10 marks; i.e., one class may be missed without explanation without affecting the participation mark. Wrong answers will not be penalized.

Problem sets: There will be two problem sets, to be completed alone or in teams of maximum two people. If completing the assignment as a team, students need only submit one problem set per team. However, the name and student ID of each team member should be clearly written on each assignment. The problem sets are designed to prepare students for the midterm and final exams. Students are

therefore encouraged to work through all the problems and make sure they understand the solutions and associated work, even when working in teams.

Problem sets will be handed out approximately two weeks before they are due, and marked copies will be returned to students approximately one week after the due date.

Each problem set is due at the beginning of class on the due date (hard copy, in class). Electronic submissions will not be accepted without making prior arrangements with the instructor. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Midterm exam: The midterm exam will be held in class, based on material covered in classes 1 through 5 (see Tentative course calendar). The midterm exam will include a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions.

Final exam: The final exam will be held during the university's final examination period, based on all the material covered during the semester (cumulative exam). The final exam will include a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions.

Throughout the semester, we will discuss and analyze a small number of news articles and/or policy papers related to health economics, using the tools and concepts covered in class. The final exam will include one question where students will be asked to analyze a real-world situation, in a way similar to what we will have done together in class.

Missed exams and final grade: There will be no make-up midterm exam. Students who miss the midterm exam due to valid and documented circumstances (e.g., serious illness/emergency) will have the weight of the midterm placed on the final exam. Other students will receive a grade of zero.

In cases of serious illness/emergency or other circumstances that cause students to miss the final exam, students may petition the Registrar's Office to write a deferred exam. Students must make this petition no later than three working days after the original final examination. In the interim, they will receive a grade of zero for the final examination. If granted by the Registrar's Office, the deferred exam will take place during the time designated in Carleton University's calendar.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

RE-MARKING

Any request for re-marking of an exam must be submitted in writing within a two-week period of that exam being returned to the class. Students should include in that request a detailed explanation of why they feel they should receive a higher mark. Re-marking will apply to the entire exam, not just the contentious question(s). As a result, the revised mark may be higher than, lower than, or the same as the original mark.

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

Class	Date	Topic	Reading	Evaluation
1	Sep. 13	Introduction to the course Health and health care systems	Ch. 1	
2	Sep. 20	Essential concepts for health economics	Ch. 2-4	
3	Sep. 27	Demand for health, production of health, and health behaviours Determinants of population health	Ch. 5 Ch. 6	
4	Oct. 4	Health care as an economic commodity	Ch. 7	Problem set 1 due
5	Oct. 11	Demand for health care	Ch. 8	
6	Oct. 18			Midterm exam
	Oct. 25	Fall break		
7	Nov. 1	Demand for health care insurance	Ch. 9	
8	Nov. 8	Private insurance markets	Ch. 10	
9	Nov. 15	Systems of health care finance Health care funding	Ch. 11 Ch. 12	
10	Nov. 22	Physicians	Ch. 13	Problem set 2 due
11	Nov. 29	Hospitals	Ch. 14	
12	Dec. 6	Pharmaceuticals	Ch. 15	
	Dec. 10-22	Final examination period		Final exam

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH

As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>

- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

PANDEMIC MEASURES

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions,

chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Students are responsible for ensuring the work they submit for this course is their own. For additional information on how to avoid plagiarism, please see [Academic Integrity and Offenses of Conduct](#).

COURSE COPYRIGHT

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copyright protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious obligation: Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Survivors of Sexual Violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

Accommodation for Student Activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more information, [click here](#).