ECON 4369 – INTRODUCTORY HEALTH ECONOMICS
(CRN 18974)

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 – 5:50 PM
BUSN 301

Faculty
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Course description
Healthcare is one of the most important sectors of our economy, and the demand for professionals in health economics and healthcare management is growing significantly. This course covers essential concepts of economics applied to the healthcare sector, and provides students with the tools for understanding the challenges of delivering and financing health care. A general background of the US healthcare system is the basis for this course, followed by a review of the economic forces which make the healthcare sector so unique in our economy. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the importance of the healthcare sector in the U.S. economy, and describe the organization, service delivery modalities, stakeholders, and financing of healthcare services.
- Explain the main economic theories related to the healthcare market place, including production and demand of healthcare services, insurance, and financing of healthcare services.
- Apply cost-effectiveness analysis for the evaluation of healthcare interventions.


Note: the syllabus and calendar are subject to change; any updates will be posted accordingly
Pre-requisites

Econ 3310- Managerial Economics
QMB 3301- Quantitative Methods in Business
FIN 3310- Business Finance

The course aims at fostering these UTEP/EDGE skills:

- **Leadership**: Step up, think, and act critically and creatively to bring others together to accomplish a common task.
- **Problem Solving**: Find solutions to difficult or complex issues.
- **Communication**: Reach mutual understanding through effective exchange of information, ideas, and feelings.
- **Critical Thinking**: Analyze and evaluate issues in order to solve problems and develop informed opinions.
- **Teamwork**: Participate as an effective, efficient member of a group in order to meet a common goal.

Course Expectations

Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions and demonstrate the scholarship appropriate in university level academics. Timely completion of all written assignments, tests, and presentations is required. Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are individual and students are expected to produce original work and complete it providing proper references if required.

Course Policy

Please follow these “etiquette” points that will make for a productive learning experience:

a. If students cannot attend class, they should inform the TA ahead of time. Attendance is required for this course according to COBA policy, but not mandatory. In case of an absence, it is the student’s responsibility to secure all lecture materials and topics covered during class.

b. The use of personal computers in class is allowed as these are considered tools for better in-class learning and class participation. For example, students will be asked to research online statistics and economics news on a real-time basis. Also, students will be requested to complete online exercises and quizzes using Blackboard’s iClicker. However, students are requested to avoid using any electronic device during guest speaker presentations. Cell phones are permitted always, but students are asked to take phone calls outside the classroom.

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c. Students MUST read the assigned text book chapters and additional readings before coming to class and should be prepared for class discussions.

d. Students should not engage in unnecessary side conversations because it is disrespectful to the instructor, guest speakers, and other students.

e. Students are allowed to bring food or drinks to class, but are asked to be quiet and clean up after class.

f. Students must complete all assignments by the due date. Homework will be completed online via Blackboard.

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g. Cheating or plagiarism is considered a serious violation of the University’s policies and will not be tolerated. For more information on plagiarism please refer to the Student Code of Conduct.

Student Grading Criteria

Student performance will be evaluated based on:

1) Class participation and group peer evaluation (worth up to 5% of final grade);
2) Group case study report & group presentations (worth 15% of grade);
3) Weekly exercises (worth 15% of grade)
4) Exam1 - multiple-choice and short answer - (worth 15% of grade);
5) Exam2 - multiple-choice and short answer - (worth 20% of grade);
6) Final exam - multiple-choice and short answer - (worth 30% of grade).

90 or above  = A  
80 – 89  = B 
70 – 79  = C 
60 – 69  = D 
Below 60  = F
**Student group presentation – In the News.** In addition to participating in class discussion, students will be asked to do at least one presentation called “In the News”. This is a 3-minute, student-led, of a current event relevant to the topic to be dealt in class. For example, when dealing with the topic of elasticity a student group might select to discuss the impact of insurance rates on health services consumption. This presentation is given at beginning of class and the calendar and student assignment of these presentations will be distributed after the first week of class.

**Student group case discussion.** Students groups will be asked to review and discuss a selected case study in health economics. Student groups will be assigned a case study after the first scheduled exam. Case discussion will take place towards the end of the semester, should include appropriate PPT presentations, and should last about 10 minutes. Student groups will also be asked to review articles on relevant topics to health economics.

**Withdrawing from class**

Students are asked to review the UTEP academic calendar for deadlines if considering withdrawing from class. Please contact the class TA to notify of your decision.

**Students with Disabilities**

The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) aspires to provide students with disabilities, accommodations and support services to help them pursue their academic, graduation, and career goals. If you have a disability and believe you may need services, you are encouraged to contact the center to discuss your needs with a counselor. All discussions and documentation are kept confidential. Contact: Monday thru Friday 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. Phone: (915) 747-5148. Location: Union Building East Room 106. E-mail: cass@utep.edu

**Course Resources**

All presentations and assignments will be posted on Blackboard. We will use this tool to post announcements and respond student questions.
Course Calendar and Assigned Text Readings

Below is the tentative calendar of topics to be covered and assigned text chapters. Note that these are start dates for covering a specific topic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Target Dates (week of)</th>
<th>Text Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
<td>8/27/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>The US Healthcare Sector</td>
<td>9/3/2019</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Why Is Health Important? The Economics View</td>
<td>9/10/2019</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Main Economic Models: Production of Health</td>
<td>9/17/2019</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production of Healthcare Services and Goods</td>
<td>9/24/2019</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review of topics covered MTD</td>
<td>10/1/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mid-term Exam 1</strong></td>
<td>10/3/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review on Perfect Competition</td>
<td>10/8/2019</td>
<td>Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply of Health Services: Physicians</td>
<td>10/15/2019</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Background on Health Insurance</td>
<td>10/22/2019</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Insurance Markets</td>
<td>10/29/2019</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review of topics covered MTD</td>
<td>11/5/2019</td>
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<td><strong>Mid-term Exam 2</strong></td>
<td>11/7/2019</td>
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<td>Cost-effectiveness</td>
<td>11/12/2019</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>11/19/2019</td>
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<td>11/26/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Review</td>
<td>12/3/2019</td>
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<td>Team Presentations</td>
<td>12/5/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
<td>12/10/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grades Due</strong></td>
<td>12/18/2019</td>
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