ECON 5369 - HEALTH ECONOMICS

Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:50 PM
UTEP GBC Room 520K

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 is an introductory course covering theory of health economics as applied to the analysis of the organization and financing of health and healthcare services. A general background of the economic issues faced by the US Healthcare system will be provided, including a review of healthcare insurance, policy issues and healthcare reform. At the end 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.
- Describe main economic theories of consumer and producer behavior used to analyze the healthcare sector.
- Apply economic analysis theory to explain the economic forces influencing conditions and trends in the health care sector.

Pre-requisites: Familiarity with business economics


Note: the syllabus and calendar are subject to change; any updates will be posted accordingly
Course Outline:

1. The US Healthcare Sector
   a. The importance of the healthcare sector in our economy
   b. Organization and financing of the healthcare system in the US
   c. Healthcare organization and delivery in other countries
   d. Applications of health economics at the macro and micro-level

2. Supply and Demand of Healthcare
   a. Production of health
   b. Costs and technology
   c. Demand for healthcare
   d. Demand and supply of health insurance
   e. Consumer choice and healthcare demand

3. Why is the Healthcare Sector Different?
   a. Information asymmetry
   b. The organization of health insurance markets
   c. Managed care and other models of care

4. Main Participants in the Delivery of Healthcare
   a. Hospitals and long-term care facilities
   b. Physicians
   c. Healthcare labor markets and professional training
   d. The pharmaceutical industry

5. Cost Control and the Search for Quality in Healthcare
   a. Government intervention in the healthcare market
   b. Health system reform
   c. Emerging models in healthcare quality

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Course Calendar

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

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<th>Area</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Target Dates</th>
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<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>8/28/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>The US Healthcare Sector</td>
<td>Why the healthcare sector matters</td>
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<td>Applications of health economics</td>
<td>Chaps 1-4</td>
<td>9/4/2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supply and Demand of Healthcare</td>
<td>Production of health</td>
<td>Chaps 5-6</td>
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<td>Demand and supply of health</td>
<td>Chaps 7-8</td>
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<td>Consumer choice and demand</td>
<td>Chap 9</td>
<td>9/25/2019</td>
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<td><strong>Mid-term</strong></td>
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<td>Why is the Healthcare Sector Different?</td>
<td>Managed care</td>
<td>Chaps 10-11</td>
<td>10/9/2019</td>
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<td>Insurance markets</td>
<td>Chaps 11-12</td>
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<td>Nonprofit firms</td>
<td>Chap 13</td>
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<td>Main Participants in the Delivery of Health</td>
<td>Hospitals and practices</td>
<td>Chaps 14-15</td>
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<td>Healthcare labor markets</td>
<td>Chap 16</td>
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<td>The pharmaceutical industry</td>
<td>Chap 17</td>
<td>11/13/2019</td>
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<td>Cost Effectiveness Analysis</td>
<td>Economic evaluation</td>
<td>Chap 18-20</td>
<td>11/20/2019</td>
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<td>Decision making under uncertainty</td>
<td>Chap 18-20</td>
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<td>Cost Control and the Search for Quality of Healthcare</td>
<td>Equity, efficiency, and need</td>
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<td>12/4/2019</td>
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<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have or suspect a disability and need accommodations, you should contact Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148. You may also email the office at cass@utep.edu or visit the office in the Union Building East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at http://sa.utep.edu/cass/

Grading Criteria

Student performance will be evaluated based on:

1) Weekly assignments (worth 20% of grade)
2) Mid-term exam - (worth 40% of grade);
3) Final exam - multiple-choice and short answer - (worth 40% of grade).

- 90 or above = A
- 80 – 89 = B
- 70 – 79 = C
- 60 – 69 = D
- Below 60 = F

Course Resources

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