**HCMI 4225: Health and Social Insurance**

**Spring 2019 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM Mon & Wed Room BUSN 203**

**Instructor: Shane Murphy; Email:** [**shane@uconn.edu**](mailto:shane@uconn.edu)**; Website:** [**https://shane-murphy.uconn.edu/teaching/fall-2018-hcmi-4225/**](https://shane-murphy.uconn.edu/teaching/fall-2018-hcmi-4225/)**; Office: BUSN 460**

**Office Hours: Mon & Wed 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM and by appointment**

**Course Description:** This course provides an overview of health and social insurance markets. Health insurance includes Medicare, Medicaid, employer-based health insurance, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance exchanges, and alternative forms of national and private insurance. Social insurance includes unemployment, disability insurance, worker’s compensation, and social security. Specific attention will be paid to development of the health insurance market, the characteristics of health insurance plans, regulatory issues, as well as underlying economic concepts including welfare theory. Attention will also be paid to business practices related to insurance including underwriting, medical claims cost control, pricing, marketing, and current and recent health insurance policy debates including the ACA.

**Course Objective:**

1. Students should learn basic terms and details related to insurance in the United States
2. Students should be able to briefly explain the economic theory of insurance and insurance markets
3. Students should be able to explain the major issues in financing health care
4. Students should understand debates over public vs private health insurance provision
5. Students should be able to anticipate many intended and unintended effects of recent and proposed insurance reforms

**Textbooks:** There is no textbook – weekly readings will be assigned on the website.

**Announcements and Email:** Most announcements will be made in class, although some announcements will be posted on the webpage. The best way to contact the instructor is via email.

**Attendance and quizzes:** I will take attendance and give frequent quizzes in order to track student performance. The quizzes will generally consist of one or two short questions related to material recently discussed or in readings. If you miss a quiz you may stop by my office hours within one week of the missed quiz for a make-up.

**Lecture Material:** PowerPoint slides, when used for lectures, will be posted to the webpage after or before class. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain any lecture notes from a classmate if the student is unable to attend class.

**Grading:** Grades are based on homework (15%) and quizzes (10%), a midterm exam (25%), a final exam (25%), a paper (25%). The scale is: A [100, 92.5], A- (92.5, 90], B+(90, 87.5], B(87.5,82.5], B-(82.5,80], C+(80, &7.5], C(77.5,72.5], C-(72.5,70] , D+(70, 67.5], D(67.5,62.5], D-(62.5,60], F(60,0]

**Extra Credit:** For up to 5% points extra credit on your final grade, you may read a book where insurance plays a role and write a book report. The choice of book and nature and format of the report should be discussed with the professor.

**Calculators:** I do not anticipate the need for calculators on the exams. Any use of electronics (calculators, laptop, tablet, cell phone, etc.) during exams may result in a zero for the exam grade.

**Honor Code:** As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are responsible for acting in accordance with the University of Connecticut’s Student Code. Please review and become familiar with these expectations – in particular, make sure you have read the section on Academic Integrity. Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously by the university.

**Accessibility:** The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me or the Center for Students with Disabilities know as soon as possible. Contact information for the Center for Students with Disabilities is: Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020, or http://csd.uconn.edu/.

**Electronic Devices During class:** Please keep all cell phones, mp3 devices, pagers, etc. turned off or in silent mode. Laptops and tablets may be used for note-taking, following class lectures, or related material at instructor discretion.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

Week 1: Cost and Financing of Health Care

Week 2: Health as a public good and as a right

Week 3: Welfare Theory, Asymmetric Information

Week 4: History of Insurance

Week 5: Social Insurance

Week 6: History of Health Insurance and Health Insurance Reform

Week 7: Midterm Exam

Week 8: Health Insurance outside of the US

Week 9: Health Insurance Experiments

Week 10: Private- and Employer-based Health Insurance

Week 11: ACA Health Insurance Exchanges

Week 12: Medicaid and ER Care

Week 13: Medicare

Week 14: Quality, Performance, and Regulations

Week 15: Operations and Accounting