**HCMI 5243: Health Care Economics**

**Spring 2021 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM Online**

**Instructor: Shane Murphy; Email:** **shane@uconn.edu****; Website:** [**https://shane-murphy.uconn.edu/teaching/spring-2019-hcmi-5243/**](https://shane-murphy.uconn.edu/teaching/spring-2019-hcmi-5243/)**; Office: Online**

**Office Hours: by appointment**

**Course Description:** The structure of the health care economy and the health behavioral choices people make play an important role in society and everyday life. This class will explore the economics of the health care economy and use economic tools to explore health behaviors of individuals. The course will rely heavily on academic research, focusing on leading lights in the field. Topics covered include: supply and demand modeling; cost-benefit analysis; industrial organization of health markets; the role of private and government health insurance; and reform and the Affordable Care Act.

**Course Objective:**

* Use the language of economics to express problems in health care
* Identify assumptions and their importance in health economic research
* Identify key models and methods from economics used in health economics
* Understand how to evaluate empirical evidence
* Describe the general structure of the US health economy
* Explain the effects of major health policies

**Readings:** 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 Participation:** Since we meet only once a week, attendance and participation is very important. If you will miss a lecture, please let me know in advance and we can arrange a way to make up what is missed.

**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.

**Hybrid class:** This class meets in class 8 times in the semester, with no meetings the other 5 weeks. There will be one to four papers assigned each week with a number of optional additional papers. Weeks where we don’t meet in class will be augmented by lectures viewable online.

**Homework:** Homework will consist of weekly reading responses and online lecture responses. Students will choose one of each week’s readings for reading responses.

**Paper:** Details on the paper will be posted to the website.

**Grading:** Grades are based on weekly reading assignments and online lecture responses (30%), a paper (40%), and a final exam (30%). 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]

**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.

**Preliminary Schedule:**

**January 22: Landscape of health in the US**

**January 29: History of health economics and health economics in history**

**February 3: Health economic theory**

**February 10: Rand and Oregon health experiments**

**February 17: Experiments in health economics**

**February 24: Determinants of health**

**March 3: Cost-effectiveness analysis/Cost-benefit analysis**

**March 10: Cost-effectiveness analysis/Cost-benefit analysis**

**March 24: Health industrial organization**

**March 31: Provision quality and pay-for-performance**

**April 7: Global health**

**April 14: Cost**

**April 21: Medicare/Medicaid**

**April 28: Health insurance reform**