**HCMI 4225: Health and Social Insurance**

**Spring 2021 12:30 AM – 1:45 PM BUSN 202**

**Instructor: Shane Murphy; Email:** [**shane@uconn.edu**](mailto:shane@uconn.edu)**; Website:** [**https://shane-murphy.uconn.edu/teaching/Fall-2021-hcmi-4225/**](https://shane-murphy.uconn.edu/teaching/Fall-2021-hcmi-4225/)**; Office: BUSN 460**

**Office Hours: TBD 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 the history and development of the health and social insurance, the characteristics of health insurance plans and regulation, and underlying sociological and economic concepts including welfare theory. Attention will also be paid to business practices related to insurance including reinsurance and risk pools, cost control and pricing, 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 and on HuskyCT.

**Announcements and Email:** Announcements will be made in class and posted to HuskyCT. 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. Attendance will not contribute to grades. Most quizzes will consist of one or two short questions related to material recently discussed or in readings. Some quizzes will be based on participating in class discussions. Points missed from missed quizzes can be made up by completing a current-events assignment.

**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. There will be a number of involved class discussions of readings which will take the place of lectures.

**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]

**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 me and by the university and will result in a zero or penalized grade on the assignment or exam.

**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/. I also recommend contacting Student Health and Wellness – Mental Health (https://counseling.uconn.edu/) for mental health care and support.

**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 Experiments

Week 9: Private- and Employer-based Health Insurance

Week 10: ACA Health Insurance Exchanges

Week 11: Medicare, Medicaid and ER Care

Week 12: Quality, Performance, and Regulations

Week 13: Alternative health insurance models and reform

Week 14: Operations and Accounting

Week 15: Class discussion and review