COURSE SYLLABUS

Health Economics HCM 382 – Distance Learning

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Faculty Contact: I encourage students to contact me, as needed, at any time. Contact via e-mail is preferred.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: An analysis of the economics of health care in the United States and its effect on society and the health care profession.

PREREQUISITE: None


COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to utilize their knowledge of economic theory to analyze the institutional features of the health care market and the implications for health care systems, system funding and medical insurance.

TOPICAL OUTLINE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Percentage of Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Economics Tools for Health Economics</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Scarcity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Rational decision-making</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Elasticity</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. Institutional Features of Health Care Services</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>III. The Market for Health Care (Demand, Supply, Price, and Market Equilibrium)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Demand</td>
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<td>B. Supply</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Price</td>
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<td>D. Market equilibrium</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV. Funding and Financing of Health Care Services</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. Medical Insurance</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A. Risk and insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. The demand for insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. The supply of insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Moral hazards</td>
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<tr>
<td>VI. Profit Maximizing</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>VII. Government Intervention and Regulation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Dates and Assignments for HCM 382

(August 16, 2014 through October 5, 2014)

The curriculum for this class will be divided into seven (7) weeks. The text and PowerPoints will be utilized as the foundation for learning. I also encourage you to access other research resources. You will be able to earn points in the following ways:

1. By completing study question papers (2 total). Please **confine** your responses to the Study Questions to no more than 1 typewritten, double spaced page, and include your name and the actual study question in the header information. Please be very careful with grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc. 
   
   NOTE: Due to the short duration of this class and the nature of D2L late assignments **will NOT** be accepted. When these assignments are entered into D2L specific due dates and times have to be set, and if you are even one minute late in submitting your assignment, via the Drop Box, D2L will not accept the assignment.

2. By participating in discussions under the Discussion feature of D2L each week. I will pose various discussion “topics” and each student can participate in the ongoing discussion. If you post two or more substantive posts during the week you will have earned the points for your participation. 
   
   Note: You only have to respond a total of two times NOT two times per discussion topic.

   An example of some discussion questions might be: What are your thoughts on President Obama’s reform of health care? Should access to health care be considered a right, or a privilege? **Note that if you simply agree with what someone else has said that would not be considered a substantive post.** I will post points earned each week, so you can monitor your total discussion points that have been accumulated as we proceed through the course.

3. By completing an Introduction Sheet (which I provide- please don’t make up your own Introduction Sheet) and a picture (uploaded to your profile) no later than the first day of class (August 16th) by 9pm. Please complete these two tasks at the same time.

4. By completing three tests. Each of these tests have multiple choice and True/False questions and you will be able to use your text and power point when you take the tests. It is important that you have your text prior to the start of class because I use test bank questions provided by the publisher. Sorry, I can’t change the dates that the tests are available to accommodate late arriving books, so please order your text early. **All tests need to be taken alone.**

   You will have 90 minutes to complete the tests and they must be taken at one sitting. I would highly recommend that you not wait until the last moment to take the tests because there are specific times when the tests are available, and if you encounter problems with your Internet connection you might miss your opportunity to take the tests.

   **NOTE:** The University has requested that we evaluate progress toward learning course objectives in each class, on site or on line. They want us to administer a pre and post timed test to evaluate this. Each test will be comprised of 20 Multiple Choice and T/F questions. Regardless of your actual score on the tests you will be earn the assigned points by simply completing the tests when they are available.
Week One: Sunday, August 16, 2014 through Saturday, August 23, 2014

Why Health Economics, an overview of the U.S. Health Care System, and an overview of the healthcare financing system. Also, additional power point on general economics and the demand for health capital should be reviewed.

Read Chapters 1-3

What’s Due:

- The Introduction Sheet and a picture uploaded onto D2L should have been completed by Sunday August 16.

- Discussion questions for Week 1 (two substantial responses) (due by 9pm CST, Saturday, August 23, 2014)

- Study Question One (due by 9 P.M. CST, Saturday, August 23, 2014). What is Moral Hazard and discuss the consequences and why they might not be desirable. Also, the deductible feature of an insurance policy can affect the impact of moral hazard. How so? Please submit under the “Dropbox” tab.

Complete the on line Pre Test which will be available between August 16 and August 23.

Week Two: Sunday, August 24, 2014 through Saturday, August 30, 2014

Describing, evaluating and managing risk and understanding costs.

Read Chapters 4-5

What’s due:

- Discussion questions for Week 2 (due by Saturday, August 30, 2014 at 9 PM CST)

- Exam One -over Chapters 1-5 must be taken sometime between Wednesday, August 27, at 8 A.M. CST, and Saturday, August 30, up to 9 P.M., CST. You will have 90 minutes to respond to 35 multiple choice or T/F questions. Once you begin the test it must be completed during that 90 minute session. The test must be taken alone.

Week Three: Sunday, August 31, 2014 through Saturday, September 6, 2014

The demand for healthcare products, elasticity’s, and forecasting. Also, additional power point on demand with insurance, the production of health, the demand and supply of health insurance, and the production, cost and technology of heath care is covered.

Read Chapters 6-8
What’s due:

- Discussion questions for week 3 (due by Saturday September 6, 2014 at 9pm CST)

- Study Question Two (due 9 PM CST Saturday, September 6, 2014). How do legal restrictions on practice for nurses and physicians tend to affect the observed elasticity’s of substitution? Would they tend to be higher if legal restrictions were removed? Would quality of care be affected? Please submit under the Dropbox tab.

Week Four: Sunday, September 7, 2014 through Saturday, September 13, 2014

Supply and demand analysis, maximizing profits, and pricing.

Read Chapters 9-11

What’s due:

- Discussion question for Week 4 (due by Saturday, September 13 at 9 PM CST)

- Exam Two (to be completed no later than 9 PM on Saturday, September 13, 2014)-over Chapters 6-11 must be taken sometime between Wednesday, September 10, 2014, at 8 A.M. and Saturday, September 13, 2014, up to 9 P.M. CST. You will have 90 minutes to respond to 35 multiple choice or T/F questions. Once you begin the test it must be completed during that 90 minute session. The test must be taken alone.

Week Five: Sunday, September 14, 2014 through Saturday, September 20, 2014

Asymmetric information and incentives, and economic analysis of clinical and managerial interventions.

Read Chapters 12-13

What’s due:

- Discussion question for week 5 (to be completed by Saturday, September 20, at 9 PM CST)

Week Six: Sunday, September 21, 2014 through Saturday, September 27, 2014


Read Chapters 14-15

What’s due:

- Discussion question for week 6 (to be completed by Saturday, September 27, at 9 PM CST)
Week Seven: Sunday, September 28, 2014 through Sunday, October 5, 2014

Regulation and Strategic Behavior

Read Chapters 16-17

What’s due:

- Exam Three Chapters 12-17 must be taken sometime between 8 A.M. Wednesday, October 1, 2014, and Sunday, October 5, 2014, up to 4:00 P.M. CST. You will have 90 minutes to respond to 35 Multiple Choice or T/F questions. Once you begin the test it must be completed during that 90 minute session. The test must be taken alone.

- Complete the on line Post Test which will be available between September 28 at 8 AM and October 5, 2014 at 4 PM, CST. 20 points will be given regardless of your score on the test.

- Discussion question for week 7 (to be completed by Saturday, October 4, 2014 at 9 PM CST)

Grading Criteria:

The following weighing system will be used in determining final grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction Sheet and Picture Upload</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>* Study Questions: (2 total)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>** Discussions- 1 posts per week. (20 points per week)</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*** Tests 1, 2, and 3 (100 points each)</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**** Pre and Post Tests- 50 points each</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

700 points total

* Two study questions will be completed. Each student will write a brief (not to exceed one page – double spaced, with question included at the top of that page) paper responding to that question. The scoring on these questions includes an evaluation of content, quality of communication, and grammar.

** The student is encouraged to actively participate in the ongoing discussions. Topics for discussions will vary and might be drawn from current events, or possibly a more in depth discussion of a previously completed Study Question. Depending on the number of students in this class the number of posts will be 1 post per week.

*** The three tests will be comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions. These exams will be open book and/or open note / power point, and will be completed on D2L. Each exam must be completed in a specified time frame between specified dates. All tests must be taken alone.
**** The University has requested that we evaluate progress toward learning course objectives in each class, on site or online. They want us to administer a pre and post timed test to achieve this. Each test will be comprised of 20 multiple choice and T/F questions. Regardless of your actual score on the tests you will be given 50 total points if you complete the tests when they are available. Please take this test alone.

**Grading:** Grades will be based on the following curve:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>630 TO 700</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>560 TO 629</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>490 TO 559</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>420 TO 489</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELOW 420</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Other Information:**

Incomplete (INC): An INC is assigned when, for reasons beyond their control, students engaged in passing work are unable to complete all class assignments. Students are required to apply, in writing, to the faculty member for an INC within two weeks of the last class day of the course. Students are also required to contact the instructor by phone, e-mail, or FAX to inform the instructor that they (the student) will miss the last class weekend and will be requesting an INC. This contact will not replace the written request. Students who fail to inform the instructor and fail to request the incomplete in writing will receive the grade earned for the course or a WF, whichever is most appropriate.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Students may be subject to disciplinary proceedings resulting in an academic penalty or disciplinary penalty for academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, or collusion.

**ADA Statement for Students Requiring Special Accommodations:**

As per 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if accommodations are needed, inform the instructor or program advisor as soon as possible.