This course will allow students to analyze and evaluate pressing issues in health care through an economic perspective. The course is intended to familiarize the student with the concepts, issues, and practices related to the economics of health care in the United States.

Detailed Course Description:

This course is intended to provide students with the structure to study the choices made by various players in the health care industry. It provides an overview of basic microeconomic theory. Students will be introduced to the market failures present in health care and health insurance industries, and the various mechanisms designed to compensate. Upon successfully completing the course, students will gain i) a sophisticated intuition behind the challenges setting health care apart from other goods and services, ii) knowledge of any tools available to a manager in overcoming these challenges, iii) the ability to comprehend scholarly writings in health economics, and iv) experience in solving problems using economic tools in a case-study format.

Textbook and Readings:

2. Supplemental readings listed below
Lecture Breakdown:

Week 1 (August 23): Introduction
   DD Chapter 1 (pgs. 3 – 5)
   DD Chapter 2 (pgs. 9 – 12)
   DD Chapter 15 (pgs. 126 – 129)

Week 2 (August 30): Traditional Competitive Markets I
   DD Chapter 3 (pgs. 17 – 20)

Week 3 (September 6): Traditional Competitive Markets II
   Arrow (1963) “Uncertainty and the Welfare Economics of Medical Care,”

Week 4 (September 13): Health Markets: Demand
   DD Chapter 6 (pgs. 41 – 46)

Week 5 (September 20): Health Markets: Supply
   DD Chapter 4 (pgs. 25 – 27)
   DD Chapter 8 (pgs. 60, 61)

Week 6 (September 27): Health Markets: Supply Cont’d
   DD Chapter 12 (pgs. 93 – 98)

Week 7 (October 4): Health Insurance, Catch-up, and Midterm Review

Week 8 (October 11): Midterm Examination

Week 9 (October 18): Evaluation Methods I
   DD Chapter 14 (pgs. 111 – 116)

Week 10 (October 25): Evaluation Methods II
Week 11 (November 1): Market Failure I
DD Chapter 4 (pgs. 23 – 25)
DD Chapter 8 (pgs. 58 – 59, 64)


Week 12 (November 8): Market Failure II


Week 13 (November 15): Role of Government
DD Chapter 8 (pgs. 61, 62)
DD Chapter 17 (pgs. 141 – 144)

Week 14 (November 29): Catch-up and Review
DD Chapter 18 (pgs. 149 – 153)


Grading Components:

1. Classroom participation ........................................... 10%
2. Midterm examination (Oct. 11th but may change)............. 25%
3. Case studies (five planned)........................................ 25%
4. Final examination (Dec. 6th)..................................... 40%
5. “Need”........................................................................ 0%

Case studies:

For each of five planned case study assignments, students will submit a two-page write-up of answers to a set of case questions. This write-up must be your own original work, and must reference at least one scholarly journal article to support your answers.
Grading Scale:

The GSU (+),(-) grade scale is in effect as follows: A+ = 100 – 97; A = 96 – 94; A- = 93 – 90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86 – 84; B- = 83 – 80; C+ = 79 – 77; C = 76 – 74; C- = 73 – 70; D = 69 – 60; F = 59 or lower.

General Information:

1. Students are expected to attend all lectures and are thus responsible for all materials presented in the classroom.
2. Since students are expected to attend all lectures, and the midterm examination will be scheduled within class time, there will be no make-up midterm. If the midterm is missed for acceptable reasons, its weight on the final grade will be redistributed across the other grading components at the discretion of the instructor.
3. Late assignments will be subject to a 10% penalty per day overdue, up to a maximum penalty of 50%.
4. Any cheating, plagiarism, or other violations of academic integrity will be dealt with according to university policies available here: [http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/files/2013/03/2014-2015-Section-II-Academic-Conduct-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf](http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/files/2013/03/2014-2015-Section-II-Academic-Conduct-Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf)
5. This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; however deviations may be necessary.