Instructor: Daniel Montanera, Ph.D.
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office: Rm. 813, Institute of Health Administration, RCB building
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Prerequisites: None

Catalogue Description:

This course will provide students with the analytic tools necessary to evaluate the issues surrounding the financing and delivery of health care. The course is intended to familiarize the student with the concepts, issues, and practices related to the economics of health care financing 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, before moving on to more complicated models accommodating the peculiarities of health care as a good. 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 conducting an independent investigation into a research question in health economics.

Textbook and Readings:

2. Supplemental readings listed below.
Lecture Breakdown:

Week 1 (Jan 9, 2017): Introduction  
FGS Chapter 1 (1 – 13)

Week 2 (Jan 16, 2017): Traditional Competitive Markets I  
FGS Chapter 1 (13 – 17)  
FGS Chapter 2 (23 – 33)  
FGS Chapter 4 (63 – 66)

Week 3 (Jan 23, 2017): Traditional Competitive Markets II  
FGS Chapter 8 (148 – 153, 157 – 159)  
FGS Chapter 18 (373, 374)

Arrow, Kenneth (1963) “Uncertainty and the Welfare Economics of Medical Care”.  


Week 4 (Jan 30, 2017): Health Markets: Demand  
FGS Chapter 10 (202, 203)  
FGS Chapter 11 (210 – 212)  
FGS Chapter 15 (302 – 310)  
FGS Chapter 16 (325 – 330, 332 – 336)


Week 5 (Feb 6, 2017): Health Markets: Supply I  
FGS Chapter 2 (43 – 45)  
FGS Chapter 13 (270 – 272, 274)  
FGS Chapter 15 (315 – 317)  
FGS Chapter 17 (344 – 350, 354 – 356)  
FGS Chapter 19 (391)
Week 6 (Feb 13, 2017): Health Markets: Supply II, Catch-up and Review
FGS Chapter 11 (212 – 215, 218 – 221)


Week 7 (Feb 20, 2017): Midterm Examination

Week 8 (Feb 27, 2017): Evaluation Methods I
FGS Chapter 2 (33 – 35)
FGS Chapter 3 (57)
FGS Chapter 4 (66 – 81)


Week 9 (Mar 6, 2017): Evaluation Methods II
FGS Chapter 3 (48 – 56, 58 – 61)


Week 10 (March 20, 2017): Market Failures I
FGS Chapter 8 (159 – 163)
FGS Chapter 10 (195 – 199, 207)
FGS Chapter 12 (252 – 254)

Week 11 (March 27, 2017): Market Failures II
FGS Chapter 10 (199 – 201)
FGS Chapter 12 (236 – 246, 248, 249)
FGS Chapter 14 (288 – 291)
FGS Chapter 20 (412, 413, 416, 417)


Week 12 (Apr 3, 2017): The Role of Government
FGS Chapter 6 (124 – 126)
FGS Chapter 9 (175, 176)
FGS Chapter 19 (390 – 396)
FGS Chapter 21 (451 – 454)


Week 13 (Apr 10, 2017): Health Care Reforms
FGS Chapter 21 (439 – 451, 462 – 464)
FGS Chapter 23 (492 – 502, 505 – 510)


Week 14 (Apr 17, 2017): Catch-up, and Review

Grading Components:

1. Classroom+iCollege participation ................................. 10%
2. Midterm examination (February 27th).............................. 20%
3. Research proposal (Due February 6th).......................... 5%
4. Research paper (Due April 3rd)................................. 25%
5. Final examination (May 1st)................................. 40%
Research Paper:

Students are required to write a formal paper making a compelling argument concerning some issue in health economics. Each student is responsible for choosing a topic, conducting preliminary research of scholarly sources, identifying an interesting question, and coming up with an informed answer. These components must then be submitted in a research proposal, which will be graded. Approval by the instructor of topic, sources, and question/answer are required before the final research paper is accepted.

The research paper is in the style of a formal essay. The substance of the paper (excluding title page, bibliography, etc) will not exceed six pages. The student will present their argument to the reader and defend it using research materials from scholarly sources (properly cited) as well as their own analysis of the available evidence. The format of the paper, research methods, and proper citation styles will be discussed in class.

Core Competencies:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Competency</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Measure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge of health care economics and financing</td>
<td>The ability to explain concepts, issues, and practices related to the economics of health care financing in the United States and how those concepts affect organizational and political decision making.</td>
<td>Performance on written questions from midterm and final examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Knowledge of clinical professions and continuum of care.</td>
<td>Knowledge of the clinical and organizational participants in the delivery of health care and their relationships, and the ability to use that knowledge for leadership and management.</td>
<td>Performance on the multiple choice questions from midterm and final examinations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic communication</td>
<td>Skilled in the arrangement and delivery of information in written and oral forms, adjustment to media and setting, and adaptation to reader and audience feedback.</td>
<td>Quality of argument presented in research paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics, honesty, and integrity</td>
<td>Knowledge of and commitment to values, standards, and duties that are consistent with the ACHE code of ethics and merits trust from all stakeholders.</td>
<td>Quality of citations and references in research paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytics</td>
<td>The ability to consolidate data from multiple sources and use analytical techniques to make executive, tactical, and operational decisions in the health care industry.</td>
<td>Performance on questions concerning regression and endogeneity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal and regulatory environment</td>
<td>The ability to describe the legal and regulatory environment in which health care organizations operate, the implications of that environment for leadership and management, and how to influence that environment.</td>
<td>Unmeasured</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health policy</td>
<td>The ability to track and influence the development of policy at the local, state, and national levels and forecast the influence of policy on organizational performance.</td>
<td>Unmeasured</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measurement and improvement of organizational performance and quality</td>
<td>The ability to understand and use quantitative and qualitative methods to measure and improve organizational performance, especially as it relates to health care quality.</td>
<td>Performance on questions concerning CB and CE analysis.</td>
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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 research proposals or papers will be subject to a 20-mark penalty. There will be additional 20-mark penalties per day between the assigned submission deadline and the time of actual submission.
4. Any cheating, plagiarism, or other violations of academic integrity will be dealt with according to university policies available here: http://codeofconduct.gsu.edu/
5. This course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; however deviations may be necessary.