

McMaster University, Department of Economics, Health Aging and Society

ECON 2CC3/HLTHAGE 2C03 - Health Economics and its Applications to Health Policy

Fall 2022

Table of Contents

Course Outline	1
Course Description	2
Prerequisites	2
Class Format.....	2
Course Materials and Texts	2
Avenue to Learn.....	3
Course Evaluation - Overview	3
Course Evaluation - Details	3
University Policies	4
Course Content.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Course Outline

- **Instructor:** Daniel Tingskou
- **Lecture Times:** Wednesday, 15:30 – 16: 20 and Fridays 14:30 – 16:20
- **Office hours:** Mondays from 2pm – 3 pm (subject to change) or by appointment. TA may also hold office hours when necessary
- **e-mail:** tingskod@mcmaster.ca
 - Please use your *McMaster email account* when contacting me

It is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policies regarding academic misconduct, e-mail communication, maintaining copies of out-of-class assignments, what to do when you cannot meet a course requirement and the drop date for this semester. To better understand these policies, visit:

<https://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf> and <http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/index.php>.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to health policy analysis under the lens of microeconomics. The purpose is to show that many apparently complex issues in health policy can be greatly clarified when they are analyzed using principles of microeconomics. We begin with an overview of health and health care systems with an emphasis on the Canadian context, and a concise exposition of the microeconomic tools that we will employ in our analysis. We then introduce modifications to our baseline tools to capture salient features of the demand for health and health care, and extend our toolbox to consider the impact of externalities, risk and asymmetric information. Our focus then turns to the supply of health care and on the impact of institutional arrangements and the role of government in health care markets.

Prerequisites

- Registration in Level II or above
 - Not open to students registered in an Economics program or with credit or registration in ECON 2G03, 2X03 or 3Z03. Students excluded from ECON 2CC3 or those wishing to do further work in Health Economics are referred to ECON 3Z03. May not be used to satisfy Economics unit requirements by students in Economics programs or a minor in Economics.

Class Format

In-person lectures will take place, twice a week. Wednesdays from 15:30-16:20 and Fridays from 14:30 – 16:20.

Course Materials and Texts

Required Textbook

- **Health Economics**, *Jeremiah E. Hurley*
 - *Electronic Version*: An electronic version of the text is available for a price of \$40. The e-book is available for sale through Campus EBookstore. It can be purchased from this site https://campusstore.mcmaster.ca/cgi-mcm/ws/txsub.pl?wsTERMG1=224&wsDEPTG1=HLTHAGE&wsCOURSEG1=2C03&wsSECTIONG1=DAY%20C01&crit_cnt=1
 - *Print Version*: Health Economics is now set up to purchase through our website at a price of \$65.00. Used copies can be purchased online at your own discretion. The direct link to the page on the Campus Store website is the same as the link for the e-book above: https://campusstore.mcmaster.ca/cgi-mcm/ws/txsub.pl?wsTERMG1=224&wsDEPTG1=HLTHAGE&wsCOURSEG1=2C03&wsSECTIONG1=DAY%20C01&crit_cnt=1

Avenue to Learn

Most of the material required for this course will be distributed through the avenue-to-learn (A2L) website, except for the required textbook. The course will appear in your A2L homepage a few days after you've registered in Mosaic, but not before the beginning of the academic semester. You are responsible for monitoring the "Announcements" tab in Avenue **on a daily basis**. ***IF THE ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY*** you are also responsible for using A2L to submit your evaluation components before the posted deadlines.

Course Evaluation - Overview

Component	Date	Weight (% of final grade)
Assignments (3)	Assigned periodically	35% (8.33% each)
Term Tests (2)	Oct 7 th and Nov 4 th	40% (20% each)
Final Exam	TBD	35%
"Easter Eggs"	Hidden throughout lectures	Bonus marks worth 5% of final grade

Course Evaluation - Details

Assignments: The assignments will vary in scope. There will be a data orientated assignment, an assignment similar to the end of chapter questions in the text and a short-written assignment based off a case study that will be discussed during the semester. The aim of the assignments is not testing you on memorization, but on your ability to apply the economic notions discussed in class to real world problems related to health and health-care markets and help develop your data collating, analyzing and reporting skills.

Term Tests: the questions asked on term tests may include true and false questions with a short answer component, i.e. explain why it is true or false, and multiple choice, short answer and long questions which will resemble the end of chapter questions from the required textbook or examples that have been worked through during lecture. Questions referencing additional course content posted on A2L, such as newspaper articles etc., may also be included on term tests. Students will be informed which additional content is testable and which content is for your interest only.

Final Exam: The final exam format will be similar to the Term Tests, except that it is comprehensive, based on the entire course and scheduled during the final exam period.

"Easter Eggs": To promote regular attendance of lecture bonus questions will be found on term tests and the final exam. The answers to these bonus questions will be provided during lecture and not online nor through email. Students can earn bonus marks worth 5% of the final grade via "Easter Eggs".

Reweighting: at the end of the term I will transfer 5% of the weight from your lowest scoring exam to the highest scoring exam so long as a grade of 50% or higher is achieved on the lowest scoring exam.

Important Notes:

- Assignments may be administered through avenue-to-learn or in-person, meaning you may have to submit the file electronically or at the beginning of lecture when the assignment is due. If you have valid reasons for being unable to attend class the day an assignment is due electronic versions submitted on time will be accepted without penalty. On time means before the class begins when the other students have submitted their work. Late assignments will receive an initial 5% penalty and an additional 10% per day thereafter. For example, if an assignment is submitted the day it is due but after lecture, the penalty will be 5%. If it is submitted one day after the due date the penalty is 15%, 25% for two days and so on.
- If you are unable to submit an assignment or take the term tests during the prescribed dates for health or personal reasons, you must submit an MSAF with the correct weight of the missed evaluation component, no later than the day the assignment is due or when the term test is to be written.
 - Due dates for assignments will be extended by one week, or less if the student agrees
 - The weight of term tests can be transferred to the final exam, in the rare case that both term tests have been deferred at least one makeup test will be written at a different date, the other will be transferred to the final. The makeup test will be different from the original
- Students that are aiming to improve their writing skills and have an interest in health policy are especially encouraged to enroll in the course.
- Knowledge of introductory microeconomics and math/stats is not a pre-requisite. However, students with credit in intro micro are especially encouraged to enroll in the course.
- Some of examination questions may involve the discussion of recent news articles. For such questions, marks will be allocated based on the soundness of your arguments on the basis of microeconomics principles, which we will introduce in the first part of the course.

University Policies

- **Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances:** Students who require academic accommodation due to an Observance must submit a RISO form to their Faculty office, electronically or in person, normally within ten working days from the beginning of each term in which they are anticipating a need for Accommodation. For further information, consult [McMaster University's Policy on Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances](#).
- **Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities:** Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements. Academic accommodations must be arranged before classes or

academic work begins, and for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult [McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

- **Academic Integrity Statement** You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy. The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
 1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
 2. Improper collaboration in group work.
 3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.
- **Authenticity/Plagiarism Detection** Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

- **Conduct Expectations** As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online. It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviors that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be

taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

- **Course Modification:** The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.
- **Courses with an On-Line Element** Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.
- **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy:** Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.
- **Online Proctoring** Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.
- **Copyright and Recording** Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Course Schedule (Subject to change as time permits)

Week	Dates	Contents	Assessment
1	Sept. 6 th to Sept. 9 th	Health and Health Care Systems Chapter 1	
2	Sept. 12 th to Sept. 16 th	Efficiency and Equity Chapter 2	
3	Sept. 19 th to Sept. 23 rd	The Basics of Markets Chapter 3	
4	Sept. 26 th to Sept. 30 th	The Basics of Markets Chapter 3	
5	Oct. 3 rd to Oct. 7 th	Individual level demand for and production of Health Chapter 5	Term Test 1, Chapters 1, 2 and 3 Tentative date Oct. 7 th
6	Oct. 10 th to Oct. 14 th	<i>Mid-term Recess</i>	
7	Oct. 17 th to Oct. 21 st	Individual level demand for and production of Health Chapter 5	
8	Oct. 24 th to Oct. 28 th	Health Care as an Economic Commodity Chapter 7	
9	Oct. 31 st to Nov. 4 th	The Demand for Health Care Chapter 8	Term Test 2 Chapters 5, 7 and 8 Tentative date Nov. 4 th

10	Nov. 7 th to Nov. 11 th	The Demand for Health Care Insurance Chapter 9	
11	Nov. 14 th to Nov. 18 th	Systems of Health Care Finance and Health Care Funding Chapter 11 &12	
12	Nov. 22 nd to Nov. 25 th	Health Care Funding and Physicians Practice/Markets Chapter 12 & 13	
13	Nov. 28 th to Dec. 2 nd	Case Study of Physician Interprovincial Migration in Canada	
14	Dec. 7 th Final Class	Review for Final exam	