



ECON 315 Economics of Health Care

Syllabus – Summer 2018

Instructor: Andy Ewing, PhD
Email: Please use Canvas email or:
andy.ewing@bellevuecollege.edu
Office Hours: Please use the online discussion board.

Course Information

Course Description

Successful students in this course will be able to recognize and apply the perspective offered by economists to issues relating to health care. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the terminology and theories of health economics and the institutional details of healthcare system(s). Obviously, with the recent passage of a sweeping health care law in the US (and even more recent efforts to unravel it), there is a great deal of news about topics relating to this course. The material in class can bring a different perspective to the discussion.

Course Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Recognize and describe the relevance of economics to medical care.
- Be able to evaluate economic examples as they relate to personal incentives, voluntary exchanges, and to recognize the key concept of opportunity cost within the context of health care issues.
- Be able to identify the drawbacks and limitations of standard economic models within these applications.
- Apply economic reasoning to specific health care issues and identify appropriate benchmarks of performance or success.
- Be able to describe the key considerations driving demand for health care today.
- Understand how the supply of health care has evolved in the US and analyze the changing roles for health practitioners, hospitals, insurance companies and the government.

How Outcomes will be met

In order to achieve the objectives stated above, we will develop economic principles, primarily from microeconomics, that are relevant to the special features of health care markets and then apply these tools to current issues in health care management and policy areas. Because of that, emphasis will be put on both textbook reading and analyzing recent articles that have appeared in national newspapers, in easy-to-understand journals, and on health care websites.

Grading

Your overall grade will be determined as follows:

Individual Assignments	=	6 points each totaling 30 points
Exam 1	=	17 points
Exam 2	=	17 points
Online Discussion Participation	=	3 points each week totaling 18 points
Economic Analysis	=	18 points

All course materials are to be accessed and turned in online through Canvas. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Canvas system on their own. More information can be found in the Canvas section below. Per the information found in the Distance Education Section of the quarterly schedule, it is assumed that students have a good working knowledge of their computer, Internet Service Provider (ISP) and browser. Feel free to contact me via my email listed on the first page of the syllabus, however, if you have any questions about this course's Canvas content.

Assignments

Throughout the quarter there will be five assignments associated with the reading schedule. Assignments should be submitted as well-organized and grammatically correct answers. Your answers should address all the questions raised in the assignment and demonstrate an understanding of the topic raised. All assignments are **due via Canvas by 11pm on a Sunday** allowing students both weekend and non weekend time to complete.

Exams

The two online exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer and basic calculation questions. Exam 1 will cover the first half of material while Exam 2 will consist primarily of the post midterm material. I do reserve the right to re-test any topics from the earlier material. If this is the case, I will specifically identify what topics from the older material will be retested. You will receive practice exams prior to each exam to help properly prepare.

Online Discussion Participation

For each week's lessons, we will process the material by working on problems posted in the discussion section. Depending on the week, these discussion questions could involve the normative discussion of policy issues and/or technical calculation problems. The exact participation requirements for each week will be clearly explained in the To Do List for that particular week. Generally speaking, it involves providing answers to two to three of the posed questions as well as providing insightful comments on your peers' posts.

Economic Analysis

The final requirement is for students to complete an economic analysis on any healthcare topic of their choosing. The assignment will be posted the week of Exam 1. It will be due on Thursday, August 16, giving students about two to three weeks to work on it. As with everything, please contact me if you are stuck or unsure of how to proceed with this assignment.

Grades are assigned according to the percentage of possible points scored as follows:

95 - 100%	A	Exceeds expected standards
90 - 94%	A-	
87 - 89%	B+	Meets expected standards
83 - 86%	B	
80 - 82%	B-	Marginally meets expectations
77 - 79%	C+	
73 - 76%	C	
70 - 72%	C-	
67 - 69%	D+	Below expected standards
63 - 66%	D	
Less than 63%	F	
60% and lower		Unable to meet expectations

The link to the College Grading Policy is located on page 10 of the Course Catalog: [Grading Policy](#)

Books and Materials Required

Henderson, James W., *Health Economics & Policy*. 6th ed. South-Western. 2015.
ISBN-10: 1-285-75849-8 ISBN-13: 978-1-285-75849-7.

Supplemental current event articles and possible videos will also be posted on Canvas and listed on that particular week's To-Do List.

Instructor's Expectation and Course Philosophy

This online course is partially asynchronous and partially synchronous. The asynchronous portion is that, within a particular week, you can complete all the requirements at any given time prior to the Sunday due date. The synchronous portion is that I do not open the discussion questions and, at times, the individual assignments and Camtasia material for the following week early. This is primarily for two reasons. First, one of the main benefits from the course is the online discussions tied to that week's materials. If students are completing the topics at different times, the course truly loses significant value tied to the online discussion portion which becomes worthless if students are accessing the questions in extremely varied time periods. In addition, depending on the questions and discussion of the prior, week I may adjust future assignments, discussion questions, and lectures to cater to the interests of the group thus making the overall course experience more personable and valuable for those participating. The textbook readings, however will remain as scheduled in the final page of the syllabus. For those that want to continue on ahead, I suggest that they pre-read future chapters.

There will be one module per week with all the material you will need accessible in that one module. There will be a "To-Do List" at the top of each module which will serve as your starting point. All the week's necessary activities will be in this one document as well as any critical announcements.

There will also be multiple recorded Camtasia posts each week that aim to help you digest the week's topics and supplement the assigned reading. These posts will primarily be based off powerpoint presentations that you will also find posted in the modules in case you would like to download and/or print in order to annotate them during the Camtasia lectures. Keep in mind that these Camtasia lectures and associated instructor powerpoint notes found in the modules are intended to supplement the textbook chapters and are not meant to replace actual textbook reading.

Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Religious Holidays

Students who expect to miss classes, examinations, or any other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should be provided with a reasonable alternative opportunity to complete such academic responsibilities. It is the obligation of students to provide faculty with reasonable notice of the dates of religious holidays on which they will be absent, preferably at the beginning of the term. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments should be offered an opportunity to make up the work without penalty (if they have previously arranged to be absent), unless it can be demonstrated that a makeup opportunity would constitute an unreasonable burden on a member of the faculty. Should disagreement arise over what constitutes an unreasonable burden or any element of this policy, parties involved should consult the department chair, or Dean.

College Anti-Discrimination Statement (Title IX)

Bellevue College does not discriminate on the basis of race or ethnicity; color; creed; national origin; sex; marital status; sexual orientation; age; religion; genetic information; the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; gender identity or veteran status in educational programs and activities which it operates.

For further information and contacts, please consult [College Anti-Discrimination Statements](#).

Division Statements

ACADEMIC HONESTY

A common, campus-wide minimum standard regarding student cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing is in place at BC. This policy provides enough autonomy for instructors and programs to set their own standards. The course syllabus clearly outlines that there are individual assignments. All individual assignments require independent completion of the work. You may and should consult with others, in and out of this course, to learn during this process.

A student will lose all points for any course work where appropriate evidence is shown for academic dishonesty.

Information about Bellevue College's copyright guidelines can be found at: [College Copyright Policy](#)
This link provides a good, short summary of how to avoid plagiarism: [Avoiding Plagiarism](#)

Student Code of Contact and Academic Integrity

Any act of academic dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source), and fabrication and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Success for investigation. Specific student rights, responsibilities, and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct at: [Student Code](#)

Important Links

Bellevue College Email and access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student email, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: [Create Email](#)

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Technology Help Desk](#)

Canvas Support

Per the information found in the Distance Education Section of the quarterly schedule, it assumed that students have a good working knowledge of your computer and your Internet Service Provider (ISP) and browser. This class uses this technology but it is not about teaching someone how to use a computer.

Spend a few moments to ensure you understand what information is available under each module. In particular, Canvas has it's own features that are different or may appear different from other platforms so you will want to do some exploring on the site. Please pay particular attention to the use of calendars, discussion postings, announcements and how to access lectures, assignments, and emails from the instructor.

If you need more specific help using Canvas, visit: <http://depts.bellevuecollege.edu/helpdesk/students/canvas/>

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact [Autism Spectrum Navigators](#) Email and phone number is on the web page. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125.

The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by Skype: the address is **DRCatBC** (NOTE: There is no @ sign...it is actually **DRCatBC**). Please visit our website at [Disability Resource Center](#) for application information into our program and other helpful links.

The online elements of this course are designed to be welcoming to, accessible to, and usable by everyone, including students who are English-language learners, have a variety of learning styles, have disabilities, or are new to online learning. Be sure to let me know immediately if you encounter a required element or resource in the course that is not accessible to you. Also, let me know of changes I can make to the course so that it is more welcoming to, accessible to, or usable by students who take this course in the future.

Public Safety

Although this is an on-line course, you may find yourself on campus. Please read the following information carefully.

Public Safety is located in the K building and can be reached at **425-564-2400** (easy to remember because it's the only office on campus open 24 hours a day—2400). Among other things, Public Safety serves as our Parking Permits, Lost and Found, and Emergency Notification center. Please ensure you are signed up to receive alerts through our campus alerting system by registering at [RAVE Alert Registration](#)

If you work late and are uneasy about going to your car, Public Safety will escort you to your vehicle. To coordinate this, please phone ahead and let Public Safety know when and where you will need an escort.

Please familiarize yourself with the emergency postings by the door of every classroom and know where to go in the event of an evacuation. Your instructor will be asked if anyone might still be in the building, so check in before you do anything else. Emergency responders will search for anyone unaccounted for.

If a major emergency occurs, please follow these three rules:

- 1) Take directions from those in charge of the response** -We all need to be working together.
- 2) Do not get in your car and leave campus (unless directed to)** - Doing so will clog streets and prevent emergency vehicles from entering the scene. Instead, follow directions from those in charge.
- 3) In an emergency, call 911 first, then Public Safety.**

Please do not hesitate to call Public Safety if you have safety questions or concerns at any time. You may also visit the [Public Safety](#) web page for answers to your questions.

Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- [Enrollment Calendar](#) On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- [College Calendar](#) This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

Course Calendar

Week	Topics	Text Readings	Required Tasks	Due Dates
Week 1 July 2-8	US Medical Care: A System in Transition & Opportunity Costs	Chapter 1	Discussion ?s—Week 1 Assignment #1	Sun. July 8, 11:00pm Sun. July 8, 11:00pm
Week 2 July 9-15	Using Economics to Study Health Issues & Analyzing Medical Care Markets	Chapters 2 & 3	Discussion ?s—Week 2 Assignment #2	Sun. July 15, 11:00pm Sun. July 15, 11:00pm
Week 3 July 16-22	Economic Evaluation in Healthcare & Demand for Medical Care	Chapters 4 & 5 (no elasticities)	Discussion ?s—Week 3 Assignment #3	Sun. July 22, 11:00pm Sun. July 22, 11:00pm
Week 4 July 23-29	Elasticity & the Market for Health Insurance	Chapters 5 (elasticities) & 6	Discussion ?s—Week 4 Exam #1	Sun. July 29, 11:00pm Open Wed. July 25-Sun. July 29, 11:00pm
Week 5 July 30-Aug 5	Managed Care, the Physicians' Services Market, & the Hospital Services Market	Chapters 7, 8, & 9	Discussion ?s—Week 5 Assignment #4	Sun. Aug. 5, 11:00pm Sun. Aug. 5, 11:00pm
Week 6 Aug 6-12	The Market for Pharmaceuticals & Medical Care Systems Worldwide	Chapters 10 & 14	Discussion ?s—Week 6 Assignment #5	Sun. Aug. 12, 11:00pm Sun. Aug. 12, 11:00pm
Week 7 Aug 13-16	Policies that Enhance Access, US Healthcare Reform, & Lessons for Public Policy	Chapters 12, 15, & 16	Economic Analysis Exam #2	Thurs. Aug. 16, 11:00pm Open Mon. Aug. 13-Thurs. Aug. 16, 11:00pm