



UNM

SCHOOL of PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION

Syllabus for PADM 566: Health Economics Spring 2015

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-4 PM and by appointment

Class: Wednesday, 7-9:30 PM

"When my father first practiced medicine in the 1950s, his pharmaceutical armamentarium included a handful of antibiotics and two or three anti-hypertensives. The most expensive diagnostic tests were plain film radiographs. It was easier to give patients the best health care money could buy, because there was not as much health care to buy."

-Peter Ubel

Course Description

This course is designed to provide healthcare administration students with an appreciation for issues in health economics. The course material will cover a broad array of theories and conceptual models in the field of economics. It will introduce the discipline of health economics; discuss resource constraints, trade-offs, efficiency, and equity; and finally, it will highlight the history and current state of the health economy in the United States. By the end of this course, students will have developed a set of analytical and conceptual tools that can be used to gain valuable insights into a host of health care issues and problems from an economic perspective.

Course Expectations

The success of this course relies heavily upon how engaged participants are in the various components of the course. The role of the instructor is to facilitate and guide learning through class discussions, activities, student presentations and feedback. The course favors an active role for participants over the more passive role taken in a lecture-oriented format. Be prepared to engage the course material and each other to draw on assigned readings and your experiences working and interacting with healthcare organizations. We will work from the premise that all participants bring

important knowledge, skills, experiences and insights to the course that we can draw upon to create a successful collaborative learning experience.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to do the following at the conclusion of the course:

1. Articulate the relevance and importance of health-related economic analysis
2. Identify input factors of health production
3. Explain the relationship between human capital, education, and health
4. Discuss the role of information in health care
5. Identify the determinants of the demand for health and health care
6. Evaluate the role of health insurance in the health care market
7. Describe the organization of hospitals from an economic perspective
8. Understand the basic behaviors of physicians, patients, and others in the health care marketplace
9. Describe the role of government in health care and public programs
10. Apply the basic principles of economic evaluation tools such as cost-benefit and/or cost-effectiveness analyses
11. Communicate the role of social insurance in assuring equity

Required Text

The primary text for the course is Health Economics: Theory, Insights, and Industry Studies by Santerre and Neun (**6th** Edition). The book is available for sale OR you can rent it (hardcopy or electronic download). The following link provides one source for the book. There are likely many others. Publisher's website: <http://goo.gl/ouc893>

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

The final course grade is based on your performance on two exams (midterm and final), a series of quizzes, and a presentation. Student grades will be based on:

Quizzes:	100 points (1/4 of grade)
Presentation:	100 points (1/4 of grade)
Midterm Exam:	100 points (1/4 of grade)
Final Exam:	100 points (1/4 of grade)

Quizzes: Un-announced quizzes will be given at the beginning of many class sessions to ensure that students have an ongoing understanding of the course materials and concepts. Quizzes will be closed book, closed note, and do not permit any collaboration. The instructor will automatically DROP the lowest two quiz scores in determining the overall quiz grade. For example, if there are 10 quizzes during the semester, the best 8 scores will be averaged to obtain your overall quiz grade.

Presentations: The presentation assignments serve as an opportunity to learn and share with your classmates about cutting edge economic research and/or economic issues keeping healthcare administrators up late at night. During the first week of class,

each student will be assigned to one reading provided by the instructor. It is then up to the student to craft a 10-15 minute presentation (accompanied by slides) that recap the reading. Electronic copies of the presentation must be made to the entire class prior to the presentation. Students can expect a minimum of one exam question to be generated from each presentation. The bulk of the presentation should comprise a layperson's explanation of the reading. Assume your classmates have not read the article (that is a very safe assumption considering they're not required readings). The majority your grade will be based on how well you explain the content of the article, from start to finish, to an audience who is unfamiliar with the subject matter.

Exams: The midterm and final exam are worth 100 points each. Exams will be a traditional in-class, closed-book, closed-note format. No external resources (internet, classmates, outside experts) are permitted.

Grading Scale:

A+: 99 – 100%

A: 93 – 98%

A-: 90 – 92%

B+: 87 – 89%

B: 83 – 86%

B-: 80 – 82%

C+: 75 – 79%

C: 70 – 74%

C-: 65 – 69%

Fail: Below 65%

Attendance Policy

Regular and punctual attendance is required. UNM Pathfinder policies apply, which in part means instructor drops based on non-attendance are possible. This policy applies regardless of the grading option you have chosen.

Accommodation Statement

Accessibility Services (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs office.

Academic Integrity

The University of New Mexico believes that academic honesty is a foundation principle for personal and academic development. All University policies regarding academic honesty apply to this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or copying, plagiarism (claiming credit for the words or works of another from any type of source such as print, Internet or electronic database, or failing to cite the

source), fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. The University's full statement on academic honesty and the consequences for failure to comply is available in the college catalog and in the Pathfinder.

Cell Phones and Technology

As a matter of courtesy, please turn off cell phones, pagers (LOL), and other communication and entertainment devices prior to the beginning of class. Notify me in advance if you are monitoring an emergency, for which cell phone ringers should be switched to vibrate.

Library and Tutorial Services

UNM-Main campus provides many library services and some tutorial services for distance students. For library services, go to <http://www.unm.edu/libraries/> to link to a specific library or to contact a librarian. For tutorial services, go to <http://caps.unm.edu/online> to explore UNM's online services.

Schedule of Activities*

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1	14-Jan	Course Introduction and Introduction to Health Economics	S&N Ch 1
Week 2	21-Jan	Health and Medical Care: An Economic Perspective	S&N Ch 2
Week 3	28-Jan	Economic Evaluation	S&N Ch 3
Week 4	4-Feb	Health Care Systems and Institutions	S&N Ch 4
Week 5	11-Feb	Demand for Medical Care	S&N Ch 5
Week 6	18-Feb	Medical Insurance	S&N Ch 6
Week 7	25-Feb	Midterm	
Week 8	4-Mar	Medical Markets: Production & Costs and Market Analysis	S&N Ch 7-8
Week 9	11-Mar	Spring Break, No Class	
Week 10	18-Mar	Government & Public Insurance	S&N Ch 9-0
Week 11	25-Mar	Private Insurance	S&N Ch 11
Week 12	1-Apr	Physician & Hospital Services	S&N Ch 12-13
Week 13	8-Apr	Pharma & Long-Term Care	S&N Ch 14-15
Week 14	15-Apr	Health Insurance Reform	S&N Ch 16
Week 15	22-Apr	Pregnancy Buffer	
Week 16	29-Apr	Review	
Week 17	6-May	Final Exam	

**The Schedule of Activities is subject to change. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.*