

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions Syllabus
HSA 6436 Health Economics (3 credits)
Semester: 2025 Spring
Class time: Tuesdays, 1:55 – 4:55 PM
Classroom: HPNP 1102
Delivery Format: On-Campus

Instructor Name: Dr. Santanu K. Datta, PhD, MBA, MS
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Office Hours: By appointment
Teaching Assistant: Allison Carrier, MHA, PhD candidate
Preferred course communications: Email or Canvas mail

PURPOSE AND OUTCOME

Course Overview

We will use economic concepts to explain why consumers and suppliers behave the way they do when making purchasing and production decisions for healthcare goods and services, especially health insurance. Other topics include the economics of health innovation, health policy, public health economics, behavioral health economics, and cost-effectiveness analysis.

Relation to Program Outcomes

Course Objectives and/or Goals

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

1. Use an economic framework to describe and explain how consumers make consumption decisions and time tradeoffs between health, healthcare vs. non-healthcare goods, labor, and leisure.
2. Use microeconomic theories to better understand issues associated with the organization, financing and delivery of health care.
3. Understand the motivations and incentives behind the provision and purchase of health insurance.
4. Better comprehend and critically read the literature in health economics and health services research.
5. Describe the major economic dimensions and trends of the U.S. health care system and those of other major developed nations.
6. Understand the economic forces that influence the economic dimensions and trends in the health care sector.
7. Describe and critique the leading economic theories of consumer and producer behavior in the health care sector.
8. Examine major health policy issues from an economic perspective.
9. Understand and describe the conceptual bases and the application of cost-benefit analysis (CBA), cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA), cost utility analysis (CUA), and cost-of illness studies.
10. Comparison and contrasts of healthcare systems models in the US and other developed nations.

Instructional Methods

This course is taught through lectures, homework assignments, three exams, and a semester project. Reading assignments must be read **before** class so that we can have engaged class discussions. Homework assignments are to be completed **after** class lecture and reviewed the following week. You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. You must come to class prepared by completing all out-of-class assignments. This preparation gives you the knowledge or practice needed to engage in higher levels of learning during the live class sessions. If you are not prepared for the in-class lectures, it will be difficult to participate in discussions and class activities, and it is unlikely that you will reach the higher

learning goals of the course. Your participation fosters a rich course experience for you and your peers that facilitates overall mastery of the course objectives.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

All reading assignments, including textbook chapters and papers, should be read **before class** to facilitate your learning and class discussions. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain notes, handouts, and a summary of the lesson/class activities from the missed class. The syllabus and course schedule are subject to revision. Confirm deadlines in class and always check Canvas for updates.

Week	Thurs.	Topic
1	Jan. 14	INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE - Introductions - Review syllabus - General discussion of economics and how it applies to health care - Ch. 1: Why Health Economics
2	Jan. 21	DEMAND FOR HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE - Ch. 2: Demand for health care - Ch. 3: Demand for health: the Grossman model
3	Jan. 28	DEMAND FOR HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE cont. - Ch. 4: Socioeconomic disparities in health - Ch. 7: Demand for Insurance
4	Feb. 4	SUPPLY OF HEALTH CARE - Ch. 5: The labor market for physicians - Ch. 6: The hospital industry - Review exam 1 study guide
5	Feb. 11	** Exam 1 **
6	Feb. 18	INFORMATION ECONOMICS - Ch. 10: Adverse selection in real markets - Ch. 11: Moral hazard
7	Feb. 25	ECONOMICS OF HEALTH INNOVATION - Ch. 12: Pharmaceuticals and the economics of innovation - Ch. 13: Technology and the price of health care
8	March 4	CONDUCTING ECONOMIC & HEALTH POLICY ANALYSES - Ch. 14: Health technology assessment - Ch. 15: The health policy conundrum - Review exam 2 study guide
9	March 11	** Exam 2 **
10	March 18	SPRING BREAK!
11	March 25	COST EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS - Cost-Effectiveness/Cost-Utility Methodology; readings assigned in Canvas COMPARING HEALTHCARE SYSTEM MODELS - Ch. 16: The Beveridge model: nationalized health care
12	April 1	COMPARING HEALTHCARE SYSTEM MODELS cont. - Ch. 17: The Bismarck model: social health insurance - Ch. 18: The American model
13	April 8	PUBLIC HEALTH - Ch. 19: Population aging and the future of health policy - Ch. 22: Obesity
14	April 15	BEHAVIORAL ECONOMICS - Ch. 20: The economics of health externalities - Ch. 23: Prospect theory

		- Review exam 3 study guide
15	Apr. 23	** Exam 3 **
16	Apr. 29	Semester project due; submit by 6:00 PM

Course Materials and Technology

Required Textbook:

Bhattacharya J, Hyde T, and Tu P. *Health Economics*. Macmillan International, London, UK. ISBN-13: 978-1-137-02996-6

Other Materials:

Students will be assigned YouTube videos to view via announcements in Canvas.

PhD students will receive additional readings that will be discussed in class after lectures.

Required Equipment: Laptops with high-speed internet access and use of a supported browser. To access this course, you will use your Gatorlink ID and password to login to the course (via Canvas).

For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- helpdesk@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

Additional Academic Resources

- [Career Connections Center](#): Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- [Library Support](#): Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- [Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.](#)
- On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#)
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): [View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.](#)

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Exams (60% weight)

60% of your overall grade will be based on your performance on the 3 exams (20% for each exam), each covering 6 chapters of the textbook as well as assigned readings. The exams will be taken in class and are **closed-book/notes** exams. Exams will consist of True/False, multiple choice, and short answer questions. Study guides will be provided and time will be taken during the lecture sessions prior to the exam dates to review materials. However, these are only “guides;” the goal as graduate students is to be able to think critically, not just to “learn to the test.”

PhD students will be required to answer essay question(s) based on papers previously discussed in class.

Homework (20% weight)

The purpose of homework is to ensure that you keep up with the assigned readings and participate in class discussions. After lecturing on each chapter, you will answer questions from the end of each chapter that you will submit to indicate that you completed the assigned homework. We will review the answers to the homework questions in class the week following the respective class lectures. There will be homework assignments from 19 chapters of the textbook. You will be allowed to miss three chapters of homework assignments, for whatever reason, without penalty. Missed homework assignments beyond that will require excused absences that meet university guidelines. Of the remaining 16 graded homework chapters, you must pass 14 of them to earn the full homework weight for your overall grade. A pass requires that you answer $\geq 60\%$ of the questions from each chapter correctly. If you pass ≥ 14 of the 16 chapters, you will receive the full 20% weight towards your overall course grade. For homework passes less than 14, your grade drops by 7%. For example, if you pass 13 chapters, your homework weight will be $93\% \times 20\% = 18.6\%$.

Semester Project (20% weight)

Each student will identify a real-world health or healthcare dilemma, policy, that interests them. They will apply health economics theories and concepts that were learned in the course (e.g., healthcare costs, health system reform, health policy, regulations, or guidelines, lack of competition, etc.) in discussing the topic they chose. Students can choose health care cases, topics, or issues from the news media (Reuters, CNN, BBC, The New York Times, Fox news, Yahoo news, UF Health news, etc.) or papers published in numerous health and healthcare journals. The preferred format of the semester project is narrated Powerpoint slides or other video format up to ~8 minutes in length. However, if you prefer to submit a term paper, it should be approximately 5-pages in length, double-spaced, with 11 point font. Both the Powerpoint presentation or term paper should have the following structure: 1) Introduction/background of the case, topic, or issue chosen. This includes a description of the pertinent issues, causes, and factors/questions to be addressed; 2) Apply **at least 4** relevant economic theories and concepts to discuss and explain the issues and factors at play for the topic chosen; 3) Identify possible alternative solutions and explain which of these options you believe is the best solution and its implications; 4) Conclusion—what are the salient points you want the reader to take away? 5) Reference list.

Point system used:

Percentage Earned	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
Below 60	E

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. The GPA for graduate students must be 3.0 based on 5000 level courses and above to graduate. A grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if based on credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher that have been earned with a B+ or higher.

Letter Grade	Grade Points
A	4.0
A-	3.67
B+	3.33
B	3.0
B-	2.67
C+	2.33
C	2.0
C-	1.67
D+	1.33
D	1.0
D-	0.67
E	0.0
WF	0.0
I	0.0
NG	0.0
S-U	0.0

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/#Grades> *[Remove if course is an undergraduate level course.]*

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> *[Remove if course is a graduate level course.]*

Exam Policy

The three exams will be administered in class during regular class time. You will log into Canvas to take the exams.

Policy Related to Make up Exams or Other Work

Unless an emergency, you must contact the instructor and teaching assistant at least 24 hours in advance if you will miss an exam and explain what issue (e.g., bereavement, illness) necessitates lateness. In some cases, documentation may be requested. If a lateness allowance is agreed to, this applies to the single exam only. It does not allow you to delay future assignments. Make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/#absencestext> and

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/examination-policies-reading-days/#excusedabsencestext>

For excused absences students will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. If you miss a test and a make-up test is approved, the test will be made up during the earliest date possible, ideally during office hours. Please note all faculty are bound by the UF policy for excused absences. For information regarding the UF Attendance Policy see the Registrar website for additional details:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> *[For undergraduate courses only.]*

Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog

(<https://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/graduate/regulations/#Attendance%20Policies>). Additional information can be

found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> *[Include this language for all graduate courses.]*

Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

The weekly quizzes will serve as a proxy for class attendance.

Late Submission of Homework and Semester Project

Because homework assignments will be reviewed in class, late homework will not be accepted. If you miss a homework assignment, it will be counted as one of the three missed homework assignments allowed without penalty.

For the semester project, 10% will be further deducted from the final grade for each 24-hours that it is late for a maximum of 48 hours of tardiness. Semester projects after this late period cannot be accepted for the projects to be graded and course grades to be submitted in time.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, ROLES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT

Electronic Device Policy:

Use of electronic devices (laptops, tablets, and cell phones) unrelated to the course is **not permitted** during lectures. Do not engage in unauthorized communication or entertainment (web surfing, instant messaging, chat room chatting, DVD viewing, music playing, game playing, etc.) either by laptop or smartphone during class unless it is part of the lesson. The expectation is any use of technology will be conducted in a professional and appropriate manner that is respectful to your classmates.

Communications Guidelines

To facilitate a quick response, send all communications to both Allison and me. We will endeavor to respond to you within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on weekends.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Handbook for additional details:

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

<https://graduateschool.ufl.edu/work/handbook/>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Recording Within the Course

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Online Faculty Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the [Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department*: Visit [UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services:* For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-2734450.

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

Inclusive Learning Environment

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act."
