

Syllabus

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY Department of Economics

Economics 213R/265 - Health Economics

Spring 2000 - Norman K Thurston

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Office Hours: MW 3:00-4:00 p.m. & TTH 9:30-11:00 or by appointment, 162 FOB.

I will be available for regular consultation during my posted office hours. Students who cannot see me during this time should make arrangements to see me by appointment. You may also contact me via e-mail, and I will typically respond by the next working day. You may phone me at my office (8-4883) with brief questions or to arrange an appointment. There is no emergency important enough that you should call me at home.

Prerequisites:

Economics 110

Subject Matter:

The objectives of this course are i) to develop a theoretical framework for examining the health sector, ii) to gain an insight into the realities of health care markets and their implications for outcomes and iii) to evaluate specific public policies. The emphasis will be on using tools from microeconomic theory to evaluate and analyze the health sector.

Goals:

For each topic, the student should be able to

1. understand the underlying principles well enough to explain them clearly to someone not familiar with economics
2. demonstrate this understanding of each principle through verbal, graphical and algebraic arguments,
3. apply this understanding to new problems similar to those done in class, in the text or in problem sets.

Organization:

Class will be held Monday through Thursday from 12:00-1:20 p.m. in 280 SWKT. The course grade will be a composite of in-class participation (10%), a presentation (25%), one midterm exam (25%) and the final exam (40%). These percentages are approximate and I reserve the right to adjust them if necessary. There will be no makeup work for *any reason*. Please talk to me if you anticipate any

problems. It is much easier to make arrangements beforehand. Note that the date and time of the final exam are set by the University Schedule (**Wednesday, June 14, 1:00-2:50 p.m.**). In no case will the final exam be given early. You must not make plans that interfere with this schedule.

The Presentation:

Guidelines for the presentation

Readings & Participation:

Attendance and class participation are required parts of this course. It is imperative that EVERY student come to class with a basic understanding of the material to be presented.

Texts:

Text Information Page - December 1999

The required text for the course is:

Phelps, Charles E., Health Economics, 2nd ed., 1997, (Addison Wesley).

The course outline gives the reading schedule. There may also be a few other required readings. Details will be given in class.

The Honor Code and Dress and Grooming Standards:

I will expect strict adherence to the Honor Code and Dress and Grooming Standards. This especially applies to the expectation of academic honesty. Any student who violates the honor code will be referred immediately for appropriate disciplinary action. The University Dress and Grooming Standards will be enforced. The first time a student shows up to class in noncompliance, I may, at my discretion, discuss the situation with the student after class or refer the student to the Honor Code Office. Students who are in repeated noncompliance or who blatantly violate these standards will be asked to leave class and return when they are in compliance. In particular students should pay careful attention to the requirements related to grooming (shaving, hairstyles, etc.) and the modesty and appropriateness of their dress. **Students should not wear shorts or hats to class.**

Student Input on the Course:

As the term progresses, it would not surprise me that some students will have valuable input on the administrative details of the course. If we can reach a unanimous agreement, I will be more than happy to make changes. At the same time, I greatly appreciate student input on the substance and style of the course. I may ask you to provide written input on occasion during the course. Any student should feel free to pass along constructive comments regarding the material at any time.

Speech in the Classroom:

Although there is considerable variation among the preferences of faculty members, I would ask that you address me by my last name: Professor Thurston, Dr. Thurston, Brother Thurston, etc. I would also suggest that in class you refer to other faculty by similar means. I will make every effort to learn the first and last name of each student, and will ask your patience and cooperation while I learn. When someone is addressing the class (me, the assistant, or anyone else), I ask that you not talk to each other. If it is necessary for you to talk to another student during the lecture, please whisper.

Above all, I expect that students will respect each other in their speech and in their actions.

Other Topics:

Thank you for reading the entire syllabus. When you get to this point, send me an e-mail (nkt@byu.edu) with the subject line, "Econ 265 syllabus" and your name. This will count towards your participation score if I receive it by 5:00 p.m., May 4, 2000.

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Course Outline

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY Department of Economics

Economics 213R/265- Introduction to Health Economics

Spring 2000 - Norman K Thurston

Date	Topic	Chapter(s)
April		
25	Introduction	1
I. THE DEMAND FOR HEALTH CARE		
26	Health as an input and as an output	2-3
27	Health as an input and as an output	2-3
May		
1	Demand for Health I	4-5
2	Demand for Health II	4-5
II. THE SUPPLY OF HEALTH CARE		
3	Health Care Workers I	6-7
4	Health Care Workers II	6-7
8	The Health Care Firm I	6-7
9	The Health Care Firm II	6-7
10	Hospitals I	8-9
11	Hospitals II	8-9
12	Midterm Exam (Testing Center)	
III. INSURANCE		
15	Uncertainty and Risk Aversion I	10
16	Uncertainty and Risk Aversion II	10
17	Health Insurance I	11
18	Health Insurance II	11
22	Medicare and Medicaid	12-13
23	The Uninsured	---
24	TBD	---
IV. STUDENT PRESENTATIONS		
25	Student Presentations	
29	Memorial Day Holiday	
30	Student Presentations	
31	Student Presentations	
June		
1	Student Presentations	
V. MARKET IMPERFECTIONS		

V. MARKET IMPERFECTIONS

5	Medical Malpractice Law	14
6	Externalities in Health Care	15
7	Regulation of Health Care	16
8	Antitrust and Health Markets	---
12	Costs and Cost Control	---
13	Reading Day	
14	FINAL EXAM (12:00-1:50 p.m. in class)	

NOTE: This schedule is only approximate. To be safe, you should plan to read the entire chapter BEFORE the first day it is discussed in class. Then you can review the relevant parts as we progress through the lectures.

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