

SYLLABUS

Course: Economics of Health Care
Text: *Health Economics & Policy* by James Henderson (3e, South-Western: 2005)
Office: 118 Thomas Hall (phone: 376-4630)
Office Hours: MTWTh 2:00 – 3:00pm
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Course Home Page: <http://www.marietta.edu/~delemeeg/econ394>

Prerequisite: Economics 211

Course Description and Objectives

This course will examine the special features of medical care as a commodity, the demand for health and medical care services, the economic explanations for the behavior of medical care providers (i.e., physicians and hospitals), the functioning of insurance markets, and the role of technology. Our discussions will touch on current policy topics such as the prospective payment system, insurance reform, tort reform, rationing, and price regulation. We will also be examining the role of and economic justification for government involvement in the medical care system. Finally, we will use the tools we have learned to review and analyze various proposals for health care reform.

Responsibilities

I see my primary responsibility to lead, guide, and motivate a group of committed and dedicated students in the learning process, and to determine the extent to which students have mastered the material covered in this course. I am committed to this task. By signing up for this course, you have accepted the responsibility of being an active learner and of participating in the classroom discussion. Most importantly, students are expected to be committed to learning the subject matter. If you are not open to new ideas, or are not committed, expect your grade to reflect this.

Finally, I would like you to help me make this a better course. I have provided a lecture evaluation form on my web page [<http://www.marietta.edu/~delemeeg>] for you to complete after every lecture. The form provides you with an *anonymous* means of communicating to me your impression of the day's lecture. Please take the time to fill out the form as it will help me understand which topics may require more in-depth discussion or elaboration.

Course Requirements and Policies

1. There will be **three exams** given. Exams will consist of a variety of objective and subjective questions. Make-up exams will *not* be given. If you miss an exam the weight of the missed exam will be added to the next exam.
2. There will be **three problem sets** distributed. These will form the basis of in-class assignments and homework. Several exam questions may come directly from the problem sets.
3. **Defended Opinions.** You will turn in written defenses of your opinions on two health policy questions. Details to follow.
4. **Class Attendance and Participation.** You are allowed two free skips. Any additional missed classes will reduce your Exam average grade by 1 percentage point per missed class. An active learning approach is essential to doing well in this course. Consequently, you should expect to actively ask and answer questions during class.
5. **Academic dishonesty** is a breach of the trust that the instructor and your fellow classmates place in you and will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, plagiarism, theft, or improper manipulation of laboratory or research data or theft of services. A substantiated case of academic dishonesty may result in disciplinary action, including a failing grade on the project, a failing grade in the course, or expulsion from the College" ([Marietta College Undergraduate Programs, 2007-2008 Catalog](#), p. 141). All suspected cases will follow the procedures outlined in the Marietta College Catalog. **Copyright violations** are also quite serious breaches of the law. Please visit the MC copyright tips page (www.marietta.edu/~copy/tips.htm) for further details.
6. **Academic support services** and resources are available at Marietta College's [Academic Resource Center](#) (ARC) located on the third floor of Andrews Hall. Students with **documented disabilities** should notify the instructor and the Academic Resource Center to discuss their individual needs for accommodation in a timely manner.

8. **Co-curricular probation** for those on academic probation is in effect. Please refer to the college catalog for details (Marietta College Undergraduate Programs, 2007-2008 Catalog, p. 147).
9. Your **grade** will be determined as follows:

Grades are allocated as follows:		Grades will be assigned according to the following plus/minus system, using standard rounding methods:													
Exams (average of 3 exams)	60%	Grade ==>	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
Homework (average of your best 9 scores)	20%	Percent	97	93-	90-	87-	83-	80-	77-	73-	70-	67-	63-	60-	59-
Defended Opinions (average of 2)	20%	Score	+	96	92	89	86	82	79	76	72	69	66	62	

Course Schedule

<p>Part I: Chapter 1: Intro Chapter 2: Econ review Chapter 3: Medical Care Markets Chapter 4: Economic Evaluation Chapter 5: Demand for Health Care Chapter 6: Market for Health Insurance</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Exam 1: February 21, 2008</p>
<p>Part II: Chapter 7: Managed Care Chapter 8: Market for Health Care Professionals Chapter 9: Market for Hospital Services Chapter 10: Socio-Cultural Considerations Chapter 11: Aging of the Population Chapter 12: Legal System and Malpractice</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DO #1 Due: March 27, 2008 Exam 2: April 3, 2008</p>
<p>Part III: Chapter 13: Technology in Medicine Chapter 14: Policies that Enhance Access Chapter 15: Policies that Contain Cost Chapter 16: Medicare Care Systems Worldwide Chapter 17: Medicare Reform in the US Chapter 18: Lessons for Public Policy</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DO #2 Due: May 1, 2008 Exam 3: May 7, 2008</p>