

HCMG 8410 – Introduction to Health Care Management and Economics

Fall 2022

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-5:00pm

Location: SHDH 1206

Professor: Diane Alexander

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TAs:

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Office hours: Fridays, 12:15-1:15pm, CPC faculty lounge

Overview

This course provides an introduction to the field of health care economics and management. Using an economic approach, the course will provide an overview of the evolution, structure and current issues in the health care ecosystem. It examines the unique features of health care services, products and markets, with a specific focus on the changing relationships between patients, physicians, hospitals, insurers, employers, communities, and government. The course focuses on three broad segments of the health care industry: payors, providers, and producers. The course pays close attention to the economic incentives facing institutions and individuals and to the economic context of important health policy issues.

Course format

- Lecture/presentation by instructor and industry guest speakers
- Case discussions
- Student presentations

Course materials

Slides and readings form the core material of the course and are provided through the Canvas website. The detailed course schedule in the modules on Canvas gives papers and links that provide additional details to complement the material discussed in class.

There will usually be 2-3 relevant articles for each class. **Students are expected to read these in preparation for the class.** Required readings and podcasts are marked with an asterisk, and additional optional readings are also provided for each topic.

Slides for lectures will be posted on Canvas prior to class. For guest speakers, slides may be made available after class.

Optional textbooks for additional context:

- Lawton Burns, The US Healthcare Ecosystem: Payers, Providers, Producers

- Paul J. Feldstein, Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective, 7th ed.
 - The 7th edition has two new chapters versus the 6th edition. The 6th edition does not reflect recent changes in the health care system and has older data. The 5th edition has the same chapter numbers as the 6th edition and very old data.

Grading

- In class midterm exam on **October 11**: 45%
 - Group project presentation and report: 35%
 - Case write-up: 10%
 - Guest speaker write-ups: 10%
1. Midterm Exam: There will be an in class midterm exam on **October 11**
 2. Case Write-up: Students should come to class prepared to discuss all the assigned cases. Specific questions for each case will be posted on Canvas. Each student must write-up responses to the case questions for **one of the two cases** (in class on **Oct. 4** and **Oct. 27**). You may work individually or in teams to discuss the cases and responses. The case write-up should be a maximum length of two pages. Your write-up is due via Canvas by **5:00 pm the day before the case is to be discussed**.
 3. Term Project Presentation: Students will be assigned to groups to work on a semester-long group project. Teams will present their work in the last three classes of the semester and submit a short project report (up to 5 pages) of findings. Groups will also be asked to submit a 1 page project proposal via Canvas in late September (exact date TBD) so faculty can review and provide feedback. Each group will also be assigned as a “peer reviewer” for another group’s project. The peer group will formally respond to the project presentation with a brief critique/comments of their own. Peers can provide interim feedback during the semester as well.

A list of possible topics will be provided or you may select your own topic, subject to approval of the instructor. Presentation slides are due via Canvas at **2:00 pm on November 30** and will be shared with the class. Teams will make presentations in class on **December 1-December 8**. All team members must participate in the presentation.

Project groups will be assigned by the 3rd class since enrollment takes time to stabilize. The goal will be to create teams of students from a mix of backgrounds and programs.
 4. Guest speaker write ups: There are two guest speaker write-ups. You can choose to do write-ups for any two guest speakers. Go to “Quizzes” on Canvas to submit your write-ups. **These are due four days after the guest lecture at 5:00 pm.**

Re-grades: any re-grade request must be done within seven days after the exam or exercise is returned to you. The request for a re-grade must be done over email. The request must include a description of what the problem is and why you think the exam or exercise should be graded differently. In these cases, the entire exam or exercise will be regraded, not just the question identified.

Classroom Guidelines and Policies

- Attendance: Your on-time attendance for each class session is expected, as is your active participation.
- Name tents: Please display your name tent at each lecture including classes with guest speakers.
- Laptops: Following Wharton's electronics policy, all phones, laptops, and other electronic devices must be turned off during class. See: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/22/business/laptops-not-during-lecture-or-meeting.html>
- Academic Honesty: All students should familiarize themselves with the University's guidelines on citations, plagiarism and academic dishonesty, which are found at: http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/ai_codeofacademicintegrity.html Any violations of this policy will result in significant consequences, including but not limited to, grade deductions and reporting to the University.