Course Information

Prerequisites: Undergraduate students in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. Undergraduate students may seek permission from the Undergraduate Chair. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus

This course is designed for undergraduate students in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics who have no prior background in Health Economics. The course objectives are to provide the student with an understanding of the economics concepts and tools relevant to evaluate health programmes, policies and interventions in the field of health & medicine. The topics to be covered are: microeconomic tools for health economics, production of health, demand for healthcare, demand for health insurance, market failure in the health sector, and introduction to economic evaluation techniques (cost-minimization analysis, cost-effectiveness analysis, cost-utility analysis, and cost-benefit analysis).

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this term, students should be able to understand:

- the basic economics principles applied to health economics;
- efficiency and equity concepts and related tools;
- the logic behind the health economics concepts and methods applied to evaluate health interventions;
- the models of health capital and demand for health insurance; and
- the differences among cost-minimization, cost-effectiveness, cost-benefit, and cost-utility analyses and know the strengths and weaknesses of each technique.

**Course Materials**

**Required Text:**

- **Electronic Version:** An electronic version of the text is available through Campus EBookstore. It can be purchased from this site [http://www.campusebookstore.com/](http://www.campusebookstore.com/), by clicking Shop and then selecting e-books. The ISBN for the e-book is 9780666386199. Individuals who purchase the e-book will be emailed a redemption code and instructions on how to access the e-book online.

- **Print Version:** Health Economics is also available to purchase through McMaster website. The direct link to the page on the Campus Store website is [https://goo.gl/jtH3tB](https://goo.gl/jtH3tB). On Avenue-to-Learn you will find a PDF document with steps to find the page using the menus available on the Campus Store’s site. The store can ship to most places in Canada within 2-3 days.

**Other Useful Texts:**


**I. Microeconomic Tools**
- Scarcity, opportunity cost, demand, supply, market equilibrium, elasticity, production, cost, competitive markets, efficiency, equity

**Readings: Hurley Chapters 2-3**

**II. Introduction to Health Economics**
- Production of health, demand for healthcare, moral hazard, asymmetric information, demand for health insurance, public versus private health insurance, market failure in the health sector


WHO publication: The Economics of Social Determinants of Health and Health Inequalities. Available at: http://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/84213


The Humble Economist by Tony Culyer. Available at: https://www.york.ac.uk/che/publications/books/the-humble-economist/

III. Introduction to Health Economic Evaluation
Cost-effectiveness, Cost-utility and Cost-benefit Analyses
Readings: Hurley Chapter 4; Drummond *et al.*


Technology Requirements
You are responsible for all required course materials and announcements posted to the course’s OWL website. Please ensure after the first class that when you log in you are able to access the course site. A copy of the course outline will be available on both OWL and the departmental website. This year, additional technical requirements are:

- Stable internet connection (required)
- Laptop or computer (required)
- Working microphone (required)
- Working webcam (optional)

Methods of Evaluation
The assignments and exams will be based on lecture material, assigned readings from the textbooks, journal articles and all other assigned course materials. You are encouraged to work together with your fellow classmates on the assignments, but the answers and interpretation of the
results should be your own. The course assessment will be based on class participation and presentation of a research paper, four assignments, one mid-term examination to be held in class and final examination. The course requirements and their weights in the final grade are as follows:

- 20% - In-Class Quizzes, Class Participation and Presentation of a published research paper (a list of papers will be available in OWL website)
- 25% - Four Assignments: September 30, October 16, November 13, December 2
- 20% - Mid-term Exam: October 23
- 35% - Final Exam (TBA)

Important Policy Information

Statement on Copyright and Audio/Video Recording

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws.

1. Western Academic Policies and Statements

Absence from Course Commitments

Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, you must seek approval for the absence as soon as possible. Approval can be granted either through a self-reported absence or via the Academic Counselling unit. Students have two self-reports to use throughout the academic year; absence from course commitments including tests, quizzes, presentations, labs, and assignments that are worth 30% or less can be self-reported. Self-reported absences cover a student for 48 hours (yesterday + today or today + tomorrow). Your instructor will receive notification of your consideration; however, you should contact your instructor immediately regarding your absence. Students are expected to submit missed work within 24 hours of the end of the 48-hour period. Please review details of the university’s policy on academic consideration for student absences at the above link.

If you have used both their self-reported absences or will miss more than 48 hours of course requirements, a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) should be signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner and you should contact academic counselling. Academic Counselling will be operating virtually this year and can be contacted at scibmsac@uwo.ca.
Accommodation for Religious Holidays

The policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays can be viewed here.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found here.

Academic Offenses

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed here to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence.

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual’s official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts here.

Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com.

2. BMSUE Academic Policies and Statements

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across the Basic Medical Sciences Undergraduate Education programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. Final grades on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal
places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark “bumping” will be denied.

3. Support Services

The following links provide information about support services at Western University.

Academic Counselling (Science and Basic Medical Sciences)
Appeal Procedures
Registrarial Services
Student Development Services
Student Health Services