

Economics 4259/5459: Economics of Health Services  
Course Outline

Required Course Text:

Sherman Folland, Allen C. Goodman and Miron Stano (2017) *The Economics of Health and Health Care*, 8th ed, Pearson Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ

Other readings are posted on the Moodle site for the course.

Weighting of Course (evaluation):

The final mark will be based on a final exam (50%), presentations and a written term paper (50%). Term papers are due on October 24. Students who submit their papers by the due date will receive their term paper grades by November 11. Students may submit their term papers, without penalty, up until the final class on November 28. In that case, grades will not be available until after the exam period. Term papers submitted after November 28 will be penalized by 10% per day.

There will be no automatic deferments offered for missed final exams. Anyone wishing to write a deferred final exam will be required to formally petition for such.

Course Instructor Contact:

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:45-11:15

Office 1032 Vari Hall

Tel 416-318-5806

email: pril@yorku.ca

Course Description:

This course provides an economic analysis of health care services. It begins with a discussion of what makes the provision of health services different from that of most other goods and services we examine in economics. We will consider how to model the demand and supply of health care as an economic good. Specific topics include the market structure of health services, the demand for medical care, physicians and hospitals as suppliers of health services, health insurance, pharmaceuticals, government provision of health services and international comparisons of health care systems.

### Term Papers:

Although there is no precise length requirement, the papers should be 10-15 pages, double-spaced, for 4259, 15-20 pages long for 5459 students. Only those parts of the papers which I can understand will be graded; if you are not confident about your writing skills in English, you should have your paper proof-read before submission. Students should work in groups of 2-3.

Students will give both a short, 1-2 minute, proposal of their paper topics at the beginning of the term and a 5-10 minute presentation in the last few weeks of term. The dates will be assigned in class. Both presentations are mandatory. The paper must be based on the topic in the first presentation. The second presentation will be evaluated and account for 10% of the grade of the term paper. All topics must be approved. A one page outline of the proposed paper must be submitted following the first presentation. The papers must have some analytical content and not be purely descriptive.

### Suggested Topics:

veterinary Economics

*Critical Economic* assessment of a foreign health care system. Cannot be Canada, US, France, UK, Germany, Japan

comparison of Pharmaceuticals: Canada with Australia and NZ

pharmacare across Canadian provinces

long term care in Canada

medical tourism

obesity

tobacco

drugs and the economics of addiction

vaccinations

physician remuneration schemes

private health care in Canada

market for transplants

economics of euthanasia

economics of abortion