

# Health Economics

## Course Syllabus

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### I. Course Description

Health Economics is an applied field of study that allows for the systematic and rigorous examination of the problems faced in promoting health for all. By applying economic theories of consumer, producer and social choice, health economics aims to understand the behavior of individuals, health care providers, public and private organizations, and governments in decision-making.

Health economics is used to promote health through the study of health care providers, hospitals and clinics, managed care and public health promotion activities. Health economists apply the theories of production, efficiency, disparities, competition, and regulation to better inform the public and private sector on the most efficient, or cost-effective, and equitable course of action. Such research can include the economic evaluation of new technologies, as well as the study of appropriate prices, anti-trust policy, optimal public and private investment, and strategic behavior.

Health economics can also be used to evaluate how certain social problems, such as market failure and inequitable allocation of resources, can impact on the health of a community or population. Health economics can then be used to directly inform government on the best course of action with regards to regulation, national health packages, defining health insurance packages and other national health programs.

## **II. Learning Objectives**

After the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

Develop analytical abilities and enable students to apply economic tools to understand the health care sector and the demand for health.

This course will provide students with the experience and the skills they need to work as a health economists in private or public institutions doing health economics.

### **SECONDARY OBJECTIVES**

- To gain the ability to work in teams.
- To attain oral and written presentation skills through the analysis and reporting of case situations.
- To acquire the skills of discussion, negotiation, and organize your ideas.
- To enhance your research ability
- To provide an opportunity for developing your teamwork and interpersonal skills
- To express ideas clearly, logically and persuasively in oral and written communication.

## **III. TEACHING METHOD**

The course will combine lectures with case analyses. A typical class includes reviewing key points of each session using power point presentations, discussing some cases, as it relates to our chapter discussions. "Health Economics" are best learned through real examples and cases. In order to achieve maximum benefits from this course, students are expected to be thoroughly prepared before each session of the class. Students are required to offer their insights and observations in each of the cases to be discussed or presented in the class, as we will provide guidelines during discussions.

## **IV. Evaluation and Requirements**

### ***Attendance Policy:***

Since the course contain case studies and discussion, attendance and participation in discussion are significant and count in final marks of the course. core courses of management should be taken before admitted to this course.

Teaching is by lectures; seminars; structured, self-directed learning; and group project work

## V. Instructional Materials

### 1- Textbooks

- 1- Sherman Folland. The Economics of Health and Health Care. 1993
- 2- Sherry Glied, Peter C. Smith. The Oxford Handbook of Health Economics. 2011
- 3- David Wonderling. Introduction to health economics. 2005
- 4- Thomas Getzen. Health Economics and Financing. 1992
- 5- : Simon Eckermann. Health Economics: from theory to practice. 2017
- 6- James W. Henderson. Health Economics and Policy. 1998

2- **Additional readings** may be distributed in class. When necessary

Various course materials including **powerpoints, lecture notes, case discussion questions and assignments** will also be provided.

## VI. Weekly Class Schedule

This course will consume 3 hours per week divided in two sessions, one and half hour each one.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Weeek

- Introduction to health economics
- Why study health economics?

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Week

- Characteristics of supply, demand and health financing
- • Diversity of social protection and health financing systems

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Week

- Quiz
- Market law pour public and private sectors

### 4<sup>th</sup> Week

- Case study
- Indicators of health needs

### 5<sup>th</sup> Week

- Use of health services
- Healthcare supply: (doctors, hospitals, medicines...)

### 6<sup>th</sup> Week

- Quiz
- Resources: Productivity, accessibility, resource use

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Week**

- Case study
- Health care quality

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Week**

- Midterm exam

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Week**

- Quiz
- The Tunisian health system (specific to each country)

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Week**

- Health Expenditure: Health Care Spending Growth

#### **11<sup>th</sup> Week**

- Case study
- Economic evaluation of health interventions

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Week**

- Quiz
- Pricing: payment for doctors and hospitals.

#### **13<sup>th</sup> Week**

- The effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of health services and systems

#### **14<sup>th</sup> Week**

- Students presentations

#### **15<sup>th</sup> Week**

- Wrap-up
- Preparing final exam

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Week**

- Final exam

### **VII. Final Exam**

Final Exam: 70% of final grade The final examination will comprise both a short case study and a number of conventional examination type questions. The exam assesses comprehension of, and ability to understand and to describe the essential issues in Public Health Policy.

The final examination specifically requires students to apply past learning in addressing the case and examination questions.

### **VIII. Further Readings (Literature)**

- World Health Organization. Health Financing. Available online [http://www.who.int/topics/health\\_economics/en/](http://www.who.int/topics/health_economics/en/) (accessed April 26; 2017).
- Agi McFarland (2014). Economic evaluation of interventions in health care. *Nursing Standard*. 29, 10, 49-58.
- Andreas Kuznik et al. (2012). Evaluating the cost-effectiveness of combination antiretroviral therapy for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Uganda. *Bull World Health Organ* 2012;90:595–603. Doi:10.2471/BLT.11.095430.
- Babigumira, JB. et al. (2009). Potential impact of task-shifting on costs of antiretroviral therapy and physician supply in Uganda. *BMC Health Services Research* 2009, 9:192 doi:10.1186/1472-6963-9-192.
- Babigumira JB, Castelnuovo B, Stergachis A, Kiragga A, Shaefer P, et al. (2011). Cost Effectiveness of a Pharmacy-Only Refill Program in a Large Urban HIV/AIDS Clinic in Uganda. *PLoS ONE* 6(3): e18193. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0018193
- Babigumira, JB. et al. (2009). Cost Effectiveness of Facility-Based Care, Home-Based Care and Mobile Clinics for Provision of Antiretroviral Therapy in Uganda. *Pharmacoeconomics* 2009; 27 (11): 963-973.
- Brent, RB (2010). A social cost-benefit criterion for evaluating voluntary counseling and testing with an application to Tanzania. *Health Econ*. 19: 154–172 (2010). Published online 6 March 2009 in Wiley InterScience.
- Lacey, L. et al. (1999). A Prospective Cost-Consequence Analysis of Adding Lamivudine to Zidovudine-Containing Antiretroviral Treatment Regimens for HIV Infection in the US. *Pharmacoeconomics* 1999; 15 Suppl. 1: 23-37.
- Garrison, LP. et al. (2010). Good Research Practices for Measuring Drug Costs in Cost-Effectiveness Analyses: A Societal Perspective: The ISPOR Drug Cost Task Force Report - Part II [Preview the documentView in a new window](#). *Value in Health*. Vol. 13; No 1.

- Hay, JW. et al. (2010). Good Research Practices for Measuring Drug Costs in Cost-Effectiveness Analyses: Issues and Recommendations: The ISPOR Drug Cost Task Force Report - Part I [Preview the documentView in a new window.](#) Value in Health. Vol. 13; No 1.
- Johns, B. (2003). Programme costs in the economic evaluation of health interventions [Preview the documentView in a new window](#) Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation. BioMed Central.
- Malone, DC, et al. (2001). Determining unit cost values for health care resources in pharmaco-economic studies [Preview the documentView in a new window.](#) Practical Pharmaco-economic. Formulary. 2001;36:294-304).