

Syllabus  
Economics 211  
Economics of Health and Health Care  
Fall 2009  
Tues/Thurs. 3b (10:20 – 11:30)

Instructor:

Peter von Allmen  
Professor of Economics  
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Office Hours:

Tuesday/Wednesday: 9:00 – 10:00 AM  
Tuesday/Thursday: 12:30 – 2:00PM  
Others by Appointment

Required texts:

*Health Economics: Theories, Insights and Industry Studies*. 4<sup>th</sup> edition  
Rexford E. Santerre and Stephen P. Neun  
ISBN: 0-324-32071-X

**The goals and expected outcomes** of this course are

- To become familiar with the various industries that make up the Health Care sector of the economy.
- To learn to use appropriate economic models to analyze and describe the activity and changes in those sectors.
- The Health Care industry is vital to the economy as a whole, and is changing at a very rapid pace. Therefore, part of our challenge is to become familiar enough with these changes to be able to recognize and suggest good policy.

**Assessment.** Your grade will consist of seven components: three hourly exams, two essays, class participation, and a final. Participation requires that you attend class with readings complete such that you can participate in and add to the discussion. Unexcused absences in excess of three will result in grade reductions. Grades will be weighted as follows:

Exams (1-3)	15% each	45%
Essays	15% each	30%
Class participation		5%
Final		20%

You must notify me **BEFOREHAND** if you need to reschedule an exam. If you do not take an exam on the date it is given without first making alternative arrangements, you will receive a score of zero for that exam.

**Academic Honesty:** I endorse and strictly enforce the college's academic honesty policy. Violations of this policy will result in failure for the semester, no exceptions. The academic honesty policy can be found in the student handbook under "Academic

policies and Regulations” and in the college catalog (p.46). Make sure you have read and understand these important policies. If you have any questions, PLEASE ask.

**Please do not bring food to class. You are welcome to bring something to drink (coffee, water, etc).**

**CELL PHONE USE: CELL PHONE USE IS NOT PERMITTED IN CLASS. THIS INCLUDES TALKING, TEXTING, LISTENING TO MESSAGES, AND USE AS A CALCULATOR. PHONES SHOULD BE OFF AND PUT AWAY DURING CLASS.**

Schedule (may be adjusted as necessary – note that this is VERY likely in the last month)

### September

1	Introduction/Class business	Ch. 1
3	The economic perspective on health	Ch. 2
8	The economic perspective on health Cost/Benefit Analysis	Ch. 2 Ch. 3
10	Cost/Benefit Analysis continued Video “Who Plays God”	Ch. 3
15	Remainder of Video/ discussion	
17	Health Care systems and institutions	Ch. 4
22	Health Care systems continued	Ch. 4
24	<b>Exam #1 (Chapters 1 – 4)</b>	
29	The demand for medical care	Ch. 5

### October

1	The demand for care and insurance	Ch. 5/6
6	The demand for insurance	Ch. 6
8	The supply of medical care	Ch. 7
13	<b>No Class: Fall Break</b>	

## REVISED SCHEDULE AS OF 10/01/09

15	Supply of medical care (con't) <b>ESSAY #1 due</b>	Ch.7
20	The Structure, Conduct and Performance Model	Ch. 8
22	The Structure, Conduct and Performance Model Plus review for exam	
27	<b>Exam #2 (Chapters 5 – 8)</b>	
29	Government health and medical care	Ch. 9, 10
 <u>November</u>		
3	The physician services market	Ch. 12
5	Guest speaker – Dr. Sally Haggerty	
10	The pharmaceutical industry	Ch. 14
12	Guest speaker – Dr. Richard Truex	
17	Long Term Care Market	Ch 15 through p.488
19	<b>Exam #3</b>	
24	The Hospital services	Ch. 13
26	<b>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	

## December

1	Video: John Stossel: Whose Body is it anyway? Sick in America <b>Essay #2 due</b>	
3	Video: Health care meltdown: looking for solutions; Health care reform	Ch. 16
8	review/catch up/end of class business	
15 (8:30AM)	<b>FINAL EXAM – DO NOT SCHEDULE TRAVEL</b>	