

Econ 211AB: Economics of Health and Healthcare
Moravian College, Spring 2016
Department of Economics and Business

Professor: Sabrina Terrizzi, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1-4 pm; or by appointment

Dr. Terrizzi's Office-Hour Calendar: <https://goo.gl/zfwsHI>

Dr. Terrizzi's Google Calendar: <https://goo.gl/wqRIMG>

Class Meeting Times: A: Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:45 am – 12:55 pm

B: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:10 pm – 2:20 pm

Class Meeting Location: Comenius Hall Room 005

What is this course all about? This course applies microeconomic theory to analyze the healthcare market from the perspectives of those who demand and supply healthcare. In particular, we will assess the demand for health, healthcare, and health insurance. We will also analyze the market for physicians' and hospital services and the pharmaceutical industry. The structure and performance of the U.S. healthcare system will also be compared to that of other countries. Discussion of empirical studies, current policy debates, and the relevance and limits of the economic approach will be emphasized.

We will use economic analysis to help us assess the state of the U.S. healthcare system and how healthcare reform may affect the supply of and demand for healthcare. Emphasis is on the economics and not politics or personal opinions. Regardless of your own personal views on healthcare and its reform, the goal of this course is for you to be able to analyze the market using the tools and perspectives of an economist.

What I am required to read?

Jonathan Gruber with HP Newquist. (2011) Health Care Reform: What it is, why it's necessary, how it works. Hill and Wang, New York.

ISBN: 978-0-8090-5397-1

Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett. (2011) The Spirit Level: Why Greater Equality Makes Societies Stronger. Bloomsbury Press, New York.

ISBN: 978-1-6081-9341-7

Dewar, D. M. (2010). *Essentials of health economics.* Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

ISBN: 978-1-284-05462-0

What are the recommended texts and outside sources for class?

Several websites have excellent and regular information on health and health-economics related issues. As you peruse various links, be sure to verify the credentials of each

author. Databases available through Reeves Library are excellent sources of scholarly articles.

Other relevant readings and course materials will be posted on the Canvas site for this class. Please check Canvas regularly.

What else do I need for class? (1) Relevant reading materials. (2) An Internet-enabled device (phone, tablet, laptop) for in-class assessments, assignments, and discussions.

What preparation do I have to have? Students are expected to have completed Econ 152 and have junior or senior standing prior to taking this course.

How will I be assessed?

Course Preparation Assignments (CPAs)	40%
Final Presentation and Report	20%
Book Analyses	15%
Health Economics in the Movies Assignment	10%
Participation and Attendance	10%
Dewar Quizzes	5%

What are the learning outcomes for this course?

- Identify and describe the components of the healthcare system in the US.
- Distinguish between the demand for health, healthcare, and health insurance.
- Identify and describe the role of the key players in the supply of healthcare.
- Describe the role of government in our current healthcare system.
- Identify the major economic theories, related research questions, and challenges being asked in the areas of access, cost, and quality of healthcare.
- Compare and contrast the healthcare delivery systems of various countries.
- Become informed citizens capable of analyzing the healthcare debate from an economist's perspective.

What are the learning outcomes for this course as a U1 LinC requirement?

- Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific principles and/or technological innovations relevant to this course
- Demonstrate an understanding and awareness of the role that science and/or technology plays in your life
- Develop an awareness and appreciation for the impact of science and/or technology on contemporary society

What is the workload expectation for this course?

This course is a full-unit course that meets twice per week for 70 minutes at each class period. Middles States Accreditation requires that each full-unit course include at least

174 hours of course work during the fifteen-week semester. Over the course of this semester we will meet 28 times for 70 minutes each; therefore, our classroom time will only account for 33 of these required hours plus an additional three hours for final presentations. This implies that **work outside of the classroom** must meet a minimum threshold of 138 hours, or **nine hours per week**. The activities and assignments required for successful completion of this course are designed with that goal in mind.

What happens if there is inclement weather?

In hazardous weather conditions, the College may be closed and classes cancelled, or the college may opt to run on a two-hour delayed schedule (see below). The decision to close or delay the opening of classes will be announced on the inclement weather hotline, 610-625-7995, and will be communicated on the following radio and TV stations: WLEV-FM 100.7, WAEB-FM 104.1, WAEB-AM 790, WCTO-FM 96.1, WRFY-FM 102.5, WBYN-FM 107.5, WODE-AM 99.9, WWYY-FM 107.1, WKFB-FM 107.5, WSBG-FM 93.5, WZZO-FM 95.1, and WFMZ-TV (Channel 69).

These closings or delays will also appear at the top of the login page on the College's internet portal AMOS (amos.moravian.edu) as well as the College's website (www.moravian.edu <<http://www.moravian.edu>>). College-wide cancellations *after the start of the class day* will be announced on the public-address system of the HUB, the campus e-mail system, the radio and TV stations mentioned above, and AMOS and the College's website.

Two-Hour Delay: If the decision has been made to open with a two-hour delay, the day does not begin with third-period classes; it begins with first-period classes on a shortened schedule. When following the delayed schedule, please note that there will be no "A" or "B" periods. A 2-hour delay does not affect courses, which begin at 4PM or later. Those courses would run on their normal schedule, if the college were open. Morning and afternoon science labs and studio art classes have their own schedule. Music lessons and practice are cancelled for the day when the delayed schedule is in effect.

What should I do if I need an accommodation in this course or need access to tutoring services?

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:6108611401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

How do I schedule an appointment with you?

If you would like to meet with me during office hours, please sign-up for an open office-hour slot using my Google calendar for office hour appointments, which can be found here: <https://goo.gl/zfwsHI>

If you would like to meet with me outside of my regularly scheduled office hours, please send a meeting request via Google calendar for an available time on my schedule between the normal working hours of M-F 8 am – 4 pm.

If you come by my office and my door is open, feel free to visit. If I am available I would be happy to work with you then; if not, we would find another time to meet using the methods described above.

What is the Learning Management System (LMS) we will use for this course?

As members of this class you have been selected to be the early adopters of our new Learning Management System (LMS), **Canvas**. This system will replace Blackboard for all members of the Moravian community beginning in the Fall of 2016 and you are part of the first cohort who will be using this improved system! This means that as a member of this class you will use Canvas instead of Blackboard for all course-related material. You can access canvas at canvas.moravian.edu. Your login information is as follows:

- User ID: Moravian Email Address (stxxxXX@moravian.edu)
- Password: your AMOS password

Once you login to Canvas you will notice this course is already visible. We will spend time during the first week of class familiarizing ourselves with Canvas and we will learn more about this system as the semester progresses. To get you started you can view the following canvas help guides:

- Student Guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121>
- Video Guides: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-3891>

You can also download the Canvas app for your Apple or Android device (free of charge). The app is called Canvas by Instructure.

Upon successful completion of this course you may become eligible for the Economics Honor Society (ODE)!

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) is the economics honor society. Its purpose is to recognize scholastic achievement in economics and to promote closer ties of students and faculty. Each semester ODE will organize meetings for any interested students. Current students can present their research and young economics alumni will talk about their careers. To become eligible for induction into ODE, students must attain junior status and have a 3.0 GPA in three or more economics courses as well as overall.

What are the classroom policies?

1. **Attendance is expected** at each class period. Absences will not only reduce your participation grade, but also prevent you from becoming an engaged member of our classroom community.
2. As a common courtesy for your fellow students and myself, I expect students to **be on time**. Lateness not only reduces your participation grade, but also disrupts the learning environment.
3. I permit **appropriate and responsible use of technology** during class. Phones, tablets, and laptops can be used as calculators or as 'Internet-enabled' devices for **purposes of class assignment and discussion only**.
4. Violations of the Moravian College Academic Honesty Code will not be tolerated. **Plagiarism**, regardless of intent, is a violation of academic honesty. **All** cases of academic dishonesty **will be reported to Dr. Traupman-Carr** and the offender will receive a zero on the related work in addition to other possible sanctions.
5. Communication for this course will occur through your **Moravian e-mail account and Canvas**. You are required to check these sources regularly for updates and assignments related to this course.
6. **Late assignments are not accepted** and a grade of zero is recorded. Please be cognizant of the due dates for each assignment. No exceptions will be made.
7. Part of your responsibility as a Moravian student is to attend classes and to take notes. This is an essential part of the learning process. I will therefore not post extensive lecture notes or problem solutions online.
8. We will use the final exam period for presentations. Attendance is expected; please plan accordingly.
9. In the event of inclement weather, we will follow the decisions made by the college (see details above). Online meetings are an option if it becomes too dangerous to travel to class. I will provide updates via email.
10. **I do not offer extra credit.**

The following pages detail specific information regarding each assessment. More details will be provided as due dates approach.

COURSE PREPARATION ASSIGNMENTS

Course preparation assignments (CPAs) are designed to facilitate discussion in the classroom. You will be required to prepare bi-weekly CPAs according to the schedule detailed below. Topics and response requirements will be detailed each week in Canvas.

Your CPA must be submitted to Canvas before class begins! The CPAs are due via Canvas **by 11:30 am** on the due date listed below. You are also expected to bring a (hard- or electronic-) copy of your CPA to class on the date it is due, so you can reference it during classroom discussion.

CPAs will include a review of a current article, podcast, or video related to the weekly topic of discussion. Discussion or empirical analysis of specific economic points will be required.

BOOK ANALYSES

During the course of the semester you will read three books, including your textbook. You will be required to analyze different components of these texts to demonstrate your understanding of the content and your ability to apply these concepts to everyday contexts and lessons learned in the classroom. Specific details regarding each assignment will be provided in Canvas.

DISCUSSION POSTS

At different points during the semester you will be required to post your response to certain material on the discussion forum within Canvas. The discussion posts will be completed in groups, and both original posts and replies are expected. Details regarding discussion forum etiquette and grading rubrics will be available for your review in Canvas prior to assignment due dates.

DEWAR QUIZZES

Each week you have a reading assignment from the Dewar text. This assignment should be completed before arriving to class on Mondays. In order to track your progress of these reading assignments, weekly quizzes will be given on each chapter. These quizzes will be taken individually by students using Canvas. These quizzes are open-book and open-notes. Further, students can collaborate when taking the quizzes, but each student must individually submit his or her own quiz.

FEB. 9 IN-FOCUS EVENT

In the afternoon and evening of Tuesday, February 9, our class will attend an out-of-classroom event sponsored by the In-Focus committee. Our campus guest that day is Haitian Human Rights Attorney, Mario Joseph. You will have the opportunity to meet Mario Joseph at 4 pm for conversation. Later in the evening, we will screen the movie, “Baseball in a Time of Cholera,” after which we will participate additional discussion. You will be required to attend this event and write a written reflection on your experience.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Class participation and attendance accounts for ten percent of your final grade. Simply attending class will earn students an approximate participation grade of 75%. Attendance will be tracked through Canvas. Students can marginally improve their participation grade through “passive participation”, which implies attending class, taking notes, and being attentive. Students can substantially improve their participation grade through “active participation”, which includes volunteering thoughtful questions and answers on a regular basis. Students who choose not to attend class on a regular basis (i.e. have more than three absences during the course of the semester) or are perpetually late to class will receive a participation grade lower than a 75%.

Additionally, there will be surprise assessments on a regular basis to check students’ understanding of course material. Successfully completing these assessments will also improve a student’s participation grade.

Further, you can increase your participation grade by posting current event articles, podcasts, or videos to our Discussion Forum in Canvas. Responding to others’ posts can also improve your participation grade.

HEALTH ECONOMICS IN THE MOVIES

In this class, we will continually connect the principles of health economics to current media dialogue and policy debates. Regular discussion of current events, the book club, and the movie analysis will be our best means to accomplish this goal throughout the semester. Near the midpoint of the semester, each student will submit a proposal to analyze a movie from a health-economist’s perspective. Upon review of these proposals, I will narrow the choice of movies to between three and five; students will then be able to choose from this subset of movies for their analysis. The written analysis should be between three and five pages in length (typed and double-spaced), and follows the criteria and analysis requirements listed below. If time permits, we will have the chance to view the movie with the best analysis in class. Analyses will be graded upon the following:

- Quality of the analysis: explanation of economic theories is clear and relevant.
- Appropriateness of the chosen theories discussed.
- Appropriate use of graphs, where relevant.
- Diversity of topics covered in the chosen theories.

FINAL PROJECT AND PRESENTATION

To culminate the semester's learning you will conduct additional research on a topic of your choice related to health economics. For this assignment, you can draw upon any aspect of health economics that is of interest to you. This assignment will include a written analysis in addition to an oral presentation. Details regarding this final project will be made available at the midpoint of the semester.

GRADING

Rubrics will be provided for written assignments. Please note that all assignments will be graded for both content and quality. High content grades reflect your ability to demonstrate your advanced understanding of the assigned material. High quality grades reflect your ability to communicate clearly, use appropriate discipline-specific language, and proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. If you are struggling in either area, please contact me to discuss methods of improvement. Tutoring and writing center services are also available to you, free of charge.

Schedule of Assignments and Topics (subject to change with notice):

Week / Dates:	Topic and Relevant Text Reading:	Assignments Due:
1: Jan. 18 and 20	Introduction to Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Dewar Ch. 1 & 2	CPA 0: Jan. 22 Syllabus Sign. Page: Jan. 20 Ch. 1 & 2 Quiz: Jan. 22
2: Jan. 25 and 27	Healthcare Markets Dewar Ch. 3 & 4	Ch. 3 Quiz: Jan. 25
3: Feb. 1 and 3	Healthcare Markets, continued Dewar Ch. 4 & 5	Ch. 4 & 5 Quiz: Feb. 1 CPA 1: Feb. 3
4: Feb. 8 and 10 (no class Feb. 10)	Demand for Health Dewar Ch. 6 ** Evening EVENT Feb. 9 **	Ch. 6 Quiz: Feb. 8 Report from event: Feb. 12
5: Feb. 15 and 17	Demand for Health Care Dewar Ch. 7	Ch. 7 Quiz: Feb. 15 CPA 2: Feb. 17
6: Feb. 22 and 24	Market for Health Insurance Dewar Ch. 8 W&P Ch. 1-3	Ch. 8 Quiz: Feb. 22 W&P: Ch. 1-3 Discussion Post: Feb. 24
7: Feb. 29 and Mar. 2	Health Disparities Dewar Ch. 9	Ch. 9 Quiz: Feb. 29 CPA 3: Mar. 2 Spirit Level Topic Choice Due: Mar. 2
8: Mar. 7 and 9	(no class spring break)	
9: Mar. 14 and 16	Healthcare Supply, Production, and Costs Dewar Ch. 10 & 11	Ch. 10 & 11 Quiz: Mar. 14 CPA 4: Mar. 16
10: Mar. 21 and 23	Healthcare Workforce Market Dewar Ch. 12 W&P: Ch. 4-12 (as chosen)	Ch. 12 Quiz: Mar. 21 Movie Proposal: Mar. 23 W&P Discussion Post: Mar. 23
11: Mar. 28 and 30	Technology in Healthcare Dewar Ch. 13	Ch. 13 Quiz: Mar. 28 CPA 5: Mar. 30
12: Apr. 4 and 6	Economic Evaluation Methods Dewar Ch. 14 W&P: Ch. 13	Ch. 14 Quiz: Apr. 4 W&P Analysis: Apr. 6
13: Apr. 11 and 13	Comparing Healthcare Systems Dewar Ch. 15 & 16 Gruber: Ch. 1-6	Ch. 15 & 16 Quiz: Apr. 11 CPA 6: Apr. 13
14: Apr. 18 and 20	National and State Healthcare Reform Dewar Ch. 17; Gruber: Ch. 7-12	Ch. 17 Quiz: Apr. 18 Movie Analysis: Apr. 18
15: Apr. 25 and 27	Public Policy and Presentations Dewar Ch. 18	Ch. 18 Quiz: Apr. 25 Gruber Analysis: Apr. 27
Finals Week: May 2 Econ 211A Econ 211B	Presentations Tuesday, May 3 @ 3:00 pm Thursday, May 5 @ 11:30 am	Final Report Due: May 3 @ 3:00 pm May 5 @ 11:30 am

