



ECO 556.01W: Health Economics

Syllabus: Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Gregory G. Lubiani

Office: BA 203

Office Hours: TR 9:00 – 11:00 am (Office); W 9:00 – 10:00 am (Virtual)

E-mail: gregory.lubiani@tamuc.edu (***)This is my primary e-mail address. Use this first(***)

Course Meeting Times: Thursdays 7:00 pm (Zoom)

Required Text: Lee (2023) **Economics for Healthcare Managers**, 5th Edition

Course Description:

This course provides a comprehensive exploration of the application of economic principles to the healthcare sector, focusing on the organization, delivery, and financing of health services. Throughout the course, students will engage with key economic theories and models to analyze and address challenges within the U.S. healthcare system and beyond. Emphasis will be placed on understanding and applying concepts related to healthcare financing, risk and uncertainty, pricing, and government intervention. Students will gain practical experience through case studies, group projects, and research assignments, enabling them to develop the analytical skills necessary for effective decision-making in healthcare leadership roles. This course also integrates modern tools such as LinkedIn Learning modules and AI platforms to enhance students' learning experiences and career readiness.

Course Objectives

- Students will demonstrate the ability to discuss regulatory bodies and how they affect delivery of healthcare services and products.
- Students will learn how to utilize knowledge of financial and economic concepts to analyze and recommend policy actions.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use appropriate secondary data to solve business problems.
- Students will demonstrate proficient knowledge of current healthcare trends and policy issues affecting delivery of health services.

Instructional Methods:

- Class participation & discussions
- Zoom
- PowerPoint
- Guest Speakers
- Assigned readings
- Student presentations
- Hands-on Exercises
- Group work w/ presentations
- Microsoft Excel
- AI platforms
- Video

Grading: Each student's grade will be comprised of discussion boards (10% total), LinkedIn Learning modules (10% total), two case studies (30% total), one group project (30%), and two exams (20% total).

Grading Scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Late Assignment Policy:

Late assignments will accrue a penalty of 10 points per day the assignment is late. An assignment is considered one day late if it is submitted past the identified due date/time. It is considered two days late if it is submitted any more than 24 hours past the identified due date/time, and so forth. This includes weekends! Once an assignment is more than 10 days late, it will become a zero and will not be accepted for credit.

If a student wants an extension for an assignment, this must be received no less than 48 hours before the assigned due date/time. Extensions are not guaranteed, and are at the discretion of the instructor. Extensions may include a late penalty.

Discussion Boards (10%): Throughout the semester, you will engage in several discussion boards where you'll interact with your classmates on key topics covered in the weekly modules. These discussions are designed to enhance your understanding of health economics by encouraging you to discuss and debate concepts with peers, thereby developing your ability to articulate thoughts and analyze different perspectives. Participating in these discussions will deepen your understanding of complex topics by exposing you to diverse interpretations of the material, fostering critical thinking and communication skills that are essential for success in health economics and beyond.

LinkedIn Learning Modules (10%): During the semester, you will complete LinkedIn Learning modules that align with the course content, followed by a brief reflection or submission of a completion certificate. These modules are intended to supplement your learning by providing practical insights into areas such as healthcare management, risk assessment, and economic analysis. The LinkedIn Learning modules offer you the opportunity to gain practical skills directly applicable to your future career, exposing you to industry standards and best practices, and enhancing your ability to apply theoretical concepts in real-world scenarios.

Case Studies (20%): You will complete two individual case studies during the course, each focusing on different aspects of health economics. These case studies require you to analyze data, apply theoretical concepts, and propose practical solutions to real-world problems. The case studies are designed to develop your ability to critically analyze complex situations in healthcare settings and apply economic principles to address these challenges. Through this hands-on experience, you will gain practical knowledge and skills that prepare you for real-world decision-making roles in health economics.

Group Project (20%): In the group project, you will collaborate with your classmates to research and analyze the healthcare system of another country, culminating in a class presentation of your findings. This project is intended to foster teamwork, collaboration, and comprehensive research skills, while also developing your presentation abilities and capacity to synthesize and communicate complex information effectively. Collaborating on the group project will enhance your ability to work in a team, a crucial skill in professional settings, and provide an opportunity to learn from your peers while deepening your understanding of the course material through collective analysis.

Exams (20% Total): There will be two exams during the course—a midterm and a final—designed to assess your understanding of key concepts, theories, and models covered throughout the semester. These exams will include a mix of multiple-choice, true/false, and written response questions to evaluate your comprehensive understanding and your ability to apply economic principles to various healthcare scenarios. Preparing for and taking these exams will solidify your knowledge of health economics, ensuring that you have a strong grasp of the fundamental concepts critical for success in the field, while also demonstrating your analytical and problem-solving abilities under time constraints.

Netiquette

The discussion boards are created to provide an opportunity for students to actively engage in meaningful conversation on a particular topic or issue. You are encouraged to provide your honest viewpoint, but be respectful of the views of your classmates.

Do's

1. Do use correct grammar and spelling.
2. Do read the prompt and review what you've written before posting!
3. Do respect the privacy, beliefs, and opinions of your classmates.
4. Do challenge each other's ideas but not each other personally.
5. Do remember to treat others as you would want to be treated.
6. Do stick to the discussion prompt at hand when posting to a forum.
7. Do use humor and sarcasm carefully. Students cannot see your facial expressions or hear any voice inflections.

Don'ts

1. Don't type in ALL CAPS. This is regarded as shouting.
2. Don't rant or rage. This is not the place to vent your anger or start a fight.
3. Don't make inappropriate comments. Offensive language will not be tolerated.

In the discussion forums you will post assignments and discuss your work with others in the class or in your groups. These are public forums, so whatever is posted can be seen by everyone in the course, including the instructors. If you want to send a private message, use individual email. The Class Lounge discussion forum is a public space for conversation with your classmates on any topic or question.

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

General Comments:

1. Turn off your cell phones before coming to class. This is a classroom environment. It is disruptive to the class and disrespectful to the instructor to have a cell phone ring in the middle of class. Please double check before you come to class.
2. Texting, the use of a computer for purposes not related to class, reading of newspapers, sleeping, or any other distraction will not be tolerated.
3. Each student is expected to check his/her **university** e-mail (e.g. rt42@tamcu.edu) frequently for course announcements. E-mails **will not** be sent to personal e-mail addresses (e.g. goldlion@yahoo.com). This is to ensure privacy.
4. You will most likely need a calculator for this course. A standard calculator should be sufficient. A graphing calculator is not necessary.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	<p>The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version.</p> <p>Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.</p>
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader https://get.adobe.com/reader/](https://get.adobe.com/reader/)
 - [Adobe Flash Player \(version 17 or later\) https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/)
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/)
 - [Apple Quick Time http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance in Webinar or through email.

University Specific Procedures Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette
<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

ADA Statement Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule

34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Tentative Schedule

Week	Text	Assignments
Week 1	Syllabus Why Health Economics?	Discussion Board
Week 2	Overview of the US Healthcare System	LinkedIn Learning
Week 3	Healthcare Financing System	
Week 4	Risk & Uncertainty	Case Study
Week 5	Understanding Costs	Discussion Board
Week 6	Improving Population Health	LinkedIn Learning
Week 7	Demand for Healthcare Products	
Week 8	Midterm Exam	Exam
Week 9	Elasticities & Forecasting	Discussion Board
Week 10	Supply & Demand Analysis	LinkedIn Learning
Week 11	Maximizing Profits	
Week 12	Pricing in Healthcare	Case Study
Week 13	Asymmetric Information & Incentives	Discussion Board
Week 14	Economic Analysis of Clinical & Managerial Decisions	LinkedIn Learning
Week 15	Government Intervention in Healthcare Markets	Group Project
Week 16	Final Exam	Exam

Note: All assignments are due by 11:59 PM CST on the date shown

AI Policy for ECO 556: Health Economics

Empowering Responsible and Ethical Use of AI

As your professor, I encourage the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, to enhance your learning experience, productivity, and career success. AI can be a powerful resource for generating ideas, conducting research, and improving your analytical skills. However, it is crucial to use these tools responsibly and ethically to maintain the integrity of your work and uphold academic standards.

Acceptable Use of AI:

1. **Research and Idea Generation:** Use AI to help brainstorm topics, generate ideas, and gather preliminary information.
2. **Data Analysis Assistance:** Employ AI tools for assistance with data analysis, such as creating graphs and visualizations in Excel.
3. **Improving Writing:** Use AI for proofreading to enhance the clarity, grammar, and structure of your writing.
4. **Learning and Skill Development:** Engage with AI to improve your understanding of course material and develop relevant skills, such as prompt engineering and metrics development.

Unacceptable Use of AI:

1. **Plagiarism:** Submitting AI-generated content as your own without proper attribution is strictly prohibited. All work must be original and reflect your own understanding and effort.
2. **Cheating:** Using AI to complete assignments, quizzes, or exams, undermining the learning process, is not allowed.
3. **Fabrication of Data:** Generating or altering data using AI tools to misrepresent research findings or results is unacceptable.
4. **Misrepresentation:** Presenting AI-generated content or ideas your own is prohibited.

Guidelines for Responsible Use:

1. **Cite AI Sources:** If you use AI tools to gather information or generate content, provide appropriate citations and acknowledge the use of these tools in your work.
2. **Maintain Academic Integrity:** Ensure that your submissions reflect your own understanding, analysis, and synthesis of the material. Use AI as a supplement, not a substitute, for your learning and effort.
3. **Transparency:** Be honest about the extent to which AI has assisted you in your work. When in doubt, consult with the instructor on how to appropriately integrate AI into your assignments.
4. **Learn and Grow:** Use AI as a learning tool to enhance your knowledge and skills. Strive to understand and internalize the concepts rather than relying solely on AI outputs.

Consequences of Misuse: Violations of this AI policy will be treated as academic misconduct and will be subject to the university's academic integrity procedures. Penalties may include failing the assignment, failing the course, or further disciplinary action as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy. By adhering to these guidelines, you can effectively harness the power of AI to support your educational journey while maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity and professionalism.