



**ECO 557.01W: HealthPolicy**

**Syllabus: Spring 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Gregory G. Lubiani

Office: BA 203

Office Hours: TR 12:30 – 2:00 pm (Office); W 9:00 – 11:00 am ([Zoom](#))

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Course Meeting Times: Online

Required Text: Feldstein, P. **Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective**, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition

**Course Description:**

This course offers a comprehensive examination of the political, economic, and social factors shaping health policy in the United States and beyond. Students will engage with both qualitative and quantitative analytical methods to explore regulatory frameworks, stakeholder interests, and financing structures that influence policy decisions. Emphasis will be placed on evaluating current policies and proposing informed solutions to key health challenges. Throughout the semester, students will gain practical experience through guest speakers, structured debates, projects, and research assignments, refining their critical thinking, communication, and data analysis skills. The course also integrates modern learning tools, including LinkedIn Learning modules and AI platforms, to enhance students' professional development and readiness for policy-focused roles in healthcare.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND METHODOLOGY

- **Class attendance and participation**
  - There will be book chapters / articles / papers assigned to the class each week, posted in the course module on D2L. Students will be expected to complete the readings on schedule and be prepared to actively discuss it. Students must not be passive in this course. More than before, each student should engage in classroom learning through respectfully asking questions and reflecting on the material with other class members. It is the goal to cover all of the material listed below. However, this might be reduced if time doesn't permit.
  - Student participation will be evaluated based on attendance (on time), preparedness (have read all articles and materials), and engagement (respectful participation in class reflections on subject matter and applications). Just as it will be when you begin your career, completing the modules on time is a base-level expectation and, alone, will not earn you a glowing review (e.g. a grade of 100% for the semester). **You must demonstrate additional value through your actions throughout the semester.**
- **Scheduled In-Class Debates:**
  - On separate occasions, the class will be assigned a debate topic that can easily be translated into a specific pro-or-con format.
    - The class is assigned a discussion topic that can easily be translated into a specific pro-or-con format. Each student is required to prepare two pro and two con arguments on the discussion topic. Each argument must be supported with evidence comprised of an economic theory, a concept, or a study.
    - Each student is required to post at least two supported arguments for their chosen side.
    - After the initial arguments have been made, each student must provide a response to at least one argument made by a student from the other side. Students are further encouraged to actively discuss the topic beyond the assigned parameters.

- **Policy Review: Week 8**

Early in the semester, each student will identify a broad healthcare topic relevant to current policy debates. Students will conduct preliminary research, review the existing literature, and perform basic data gathering and initial analysis using Excel. The goal of this preliminary project is to establish a strong foundation of knowledge, data, and perspectives that can be expanded upon later. This initial submission should include a clear statement of the chosen healthcare topic, a brief literature review, a summary of key policy issues, and a preliminary dataset along with descriptive statistics. The preliminary project will be graded on clarity, relevance of the chosen topic, depth of initial research, and the quality of the preliminary data analysis.
  
- **Individual Consultant Project: Week 15**
  - Building upon the initial project work, each student will deepen their analysis of the selected healthcare topic. This final submission will evolve from an exploratory review into a comprehensive consultant-style policy analysis and recommendation report. Students will integrate more sophisticated statistical techniques, draw upon additional academic and industry sources, and refine their policy proposals. The final project should include a detailed problem statement, a thorough economic and policy analysis of existing conditions, potential solutions, and an evaluation of the feasibility and anticipated impacts of these solutions. Students must incorporate AI tools responsibly to enhance their analysis (e.g., idea generation, literature scanning). The final output will consist of a written report (with APA formatting) and a brief recorded presentation—limited to 20 minutes. This final project will be graded on the depth of analysis, methodological rigor, innovation in policy proposals, clarity of communication, and appropriate, ethical use of AI and other course resources.

- **Exams**
  - The exam will be completed in D2L. **Tentative** due date for the exam is listed below:
    - Exam I (Week 7): 20%
  - **Late Exams:** An exam that is turned in late will be given a penalty of **10 points per day late** *unless* your instructor is notified *prior* to the due date and the excuse is a legitimate medical one or is officially approved. Acceptable documentation, such as a doctor's note, may be required.

- **Evaluation**

- Grading Weights**

Scheduled in-class group debates	20%,
Policy Review	20%
Industry consultant project	20%
Midterm	20%
Linked-In Learning	20%

**Grading Scale**

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-79
F	0-59

**Late Policy:**

Late assignments, exams, and discussion board posts will accrue a penalty of 10% 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.

**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, reflect on what you would like to say, 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. Objectionable, sexist, or racist 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.

## 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](mailto:rt42@tamcu.edu)) frequently for course announcements. E-mails **will not** be sent to personal e-mail addresses (e.g. [goldlion@yahoo.com](mailto: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 <b>point</b> release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or <b>point</b> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 (Chapters)	Details
Week 1	Syllabus; Chapter 1, 2, 3	
Week 2	5, 6, 7, 19	Debate
Week 3	8, 9	LIL
Week 4	4, 10, 11	
Week 5	12, 14, 23, 24	Debate
Week 6	15, 16, 17	LIL
Week 7	Exam I	
Week 8	18, 20, 21	Group Project
Week 9	25, 26, 27, 28	Debate
Week 10	22, 29	LIL
Week 11	30, 32, 33	
Week 12	31, 34, 35, 36	Debate
Week 13	37, 38	
Week 14	Exam II	
Week 15	Consultant Project	

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.