Spring 2015

HSPM 6030 - Healthcare Economics and Policy

James H. Stephens
Georgia Southern University, jstephens@georgiasouthern.edu

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Georgia Southern University  
Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health  
HSPM 6030 HEALTHCARE ECONOMICS and POLICY  
Spring 2015

**Instructor:** Dr. James H. Stephens, FACHE  
**Teaching Assistant:** Jack Sheahan, M.S.  
**Graduate Assistant:** Tyler Croft, B. S.  
**Office:** Hendricks Hall Room 2007  
**Phone:** 478-5958  
**E-Mail Address:** jstephens@georgiasouthern.edu  
**Office Hours:** Tuesday & Thursday 2:00 to 5:00 pm  
Other times by appointment  
**Class Meets:** Tuesday & Thursday – 5:00-6:15 pm  
Hendricks Hall 3001

--- Course schedules can be found at: [http://www.collegesource.org/displayinfo/catalink.asp](http://www.collegesource.org/displayinfo/catalink.asp) ---

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Web-CT Address:**

**Catalog Description:** This course examines the dynamic nature of health economics and policy in addition to understanding the political process in the healthcare and public health context. This course uses foundational economic concepts to develop health economic applications and processes. The course will review important studies in medical research, epidemiology, public health and other fields as they relate to the economics of health care. An overview of the process of policymaking with excerpts from congressional testimony, proposed rules, executive orders, etc., will be covered.

**Required Textbook:** Hicks, Lanis L., *Economics of Health and Medical Care.* Sixth Edition 2014.
**Secondary Text:** Longest, Beaufort B., Jr., *Health Policy Making in the United States.* Fourth Edition 2006

**MHA r Health Policy and Management Core Competencies:** At the completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Apply how “systems thinking” can contribute to solving public health organizational problems
2. Describe the leadership skills for building partnerships in public health
3. Describe the trends in resource allocation, and financing and evaluate their effects on consumers, providers, and payers in public health
4. Define the economic, social, and legislative changes impact on public health systems in the U.S.
5. Apply population and individual ethical considerations in relation to benefit, cost and burden of public health programs
6. Describe the principles of health equity to public health leadership
7. Apply ethical decision-making and conduct in all aspects of public health practice
8. Advocate for programs and resources that advance the health of the population
9. Define the potential impacts of legal and regulatory laws and regulations on the conduct of public health research and practice

**Learning Objectives:** At the completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Explain public policy in health and medical care from an economic perspective. (1 & 8)
2. Explain the basic economics model of supply and demand. (3)
3. Explain the goals of health in terms of quality access and cost. (6)
4. Describe the relevance of economics to health and to apply economic reasoning to better understand health related issues. (1 & 3)
5. Identify the values and assumptions underlying today’s health policy. (7 & 8)
6. Identify the consequences of the major social pathologies and their effects on health. (5 & 6)
7. Describe the development of the government’s role in medical care by improving access, quality, and cost to certain segments of the population. (8 & 9)
8. Describe the similarities and differences among health systems of other countries around the world. (1)
9. Define the process of health policy-making in the United States. (7 & 9)
10. Describe the mechanism of health in the United States
within the broad social, political, and economic context. (5 & 7)

11. Describe “political competency” to analyze and influence the policy environment as a health professional. (2 & 4)

Overview of the Content to be covered During the Semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction and Course Review Class</td>
<td></td>
<td>Reaction Paper.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Output of the Healthcare Sector</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Economic Dimensions of the Healthcare System</td>
<td>Chapters 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Demand for Medical Care: A simple Model</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Additional Topics in the Demand for Health and Medical Care</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Healthcare Production and Cost Behavior of Supply</td>
<td>Chapters 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Provider Payment</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Competitive Markets</td>
<td>Chapters 8 &amp; 9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Market Power in Health Care</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Special Topic Presentation-Learn Theory</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
<td></td>
<td>NO ASSIGNMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Labor Market</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Chapter</td>
<td>Paper Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>---------</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Economic Evaluation of Health Services</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Value Judgement and Economic Evaluation</td>
<td>13 &amp; 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Public Health Insurance</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Reform in the Health Care Market</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Reaction Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Regulation and Antitrust in Health Care</td>
<td>17</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Instructional Methods:** Class meetings will be a combination of lecture, class discussion, and multimedia presentations. Written homework assignments and examinations constitute the basis of student evaluation.

**Class Participation:** Class participation is an integral part of the learning process. Students will be expected to remain current with the readings, contribute to discussion of the week’s topics, have completed the current week’s assignments, ask questions, make comments, and agree/disagree with the professor. You must come to class prepared (read chapters and other readings for the week before class and do assignments), discuss issues, and review assignments.

**Course Requirements:** Each student will turn in weekly exercises located at the end of each chapter based on the weekly readings. All exercises will be turned in at the start of class on the following Tuesday. Students will complete all exercises assignments, midterm, and final.

**Exam Schedule and Final Examination:**
- Midterm Examination: March 12, 2015
- Final Examination: May 7, 2015

**Student Assessment:** Assessments are linked to learning objectives for this class. Each assessment below is linked to the learning objectives (LO 1-19) on pages 2-3 of this syllabus. Weighting of assignments for purpose of grading will be as follows:

- Midterm Exam (LO 1,3,4,7,8) 100 points
- Final Exam (LO 2,5,6,9,10,11) 100 points
Reaction Papers (LO 1-11)                50 points
Quizzes (LO 1-11)                     100 points
Research Paper                       100 points

Total Points                         450 points

There will be a mid-term and final examination on the course readings and lectures. The final will NOT be comprehensive and both exams will be open book and notes.

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89%</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79%</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59%</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For calculation of your final grade, all grades above will be included.

Your grades **will not** be posted. All exams and assignments will be graded and returned promptly so that students may accurately calculate their grades at any point in time during the semester.

There are times when extraordinary circumstances occur (e.g., serious illness, death in the family, etc.). In such circumstances, and/or if you need additional time to satisfactorily complete any course requirement, please consult with the instructor within a reasonable amount of time. *Nota Bene:* Extensions are not guaranteed and will be granted solely at the discretion of the instructor.

**NO EXTRA CREDIT PROJECTS WILL BE ASSIGNED. NO LAPTOPS (UNLESS AUTHORIZED) IN CLASS. NO CELL PHONE USEAGE DURING CLASS.** If a student is caught using a cell phone during class, the instructor may ask you to leave.

**Academic Misconduct:** As a student registered at this University, it is expected that you will adhere to only the strictest standards of conduct. It is recommended that you review the latest edition of the *Student Conduct Code* book, as well as the latest *Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog* to familiarize yourself with the University’s policies in this regard. Your continued enrollment in this course is an implied contract between you and the instructor on this issue; from this point forward, it is assumed that you will conduct yourself appropriately.

Academic integrity relates to the appropriate use of intellectual property. The syllabus, lecture notes, and all materials presented and/or distributed
during this course are protected by copyright law. Students are authorized
to take notes in class, but that authorization extends only to making one set
of notes for personal (and no other) use. As such, students are not
authorized to sell, license, commercially publish, distribute, transmit,
display, or record notes in or from class without the express written
permission of the instructor.

**Academic Handbook:** Students are expected to abide by the Academic Handbook, located
at [http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sta/guide/](http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/sta/guide/). Your failure to comply with
any part of this Handbook may be a violation and thus, you may receive
an F in the course and/or be referred for disciplinary action.

**University Calendar for the Semester:** The University Calendar is located with the semester schedule, and
can be found at: [http://www.collegesource.org/displayinfo/catalink.asp](http://www.collegesource.org/displayinfo/catalink.asp).

**Attendance Policy:** Federal regulations require attendance be verified prior to
distribution of financial aid allotments. Attendance will not be taken
on a regular basis but is considered an expectation of graduate
students. It is encouraged to attend class on time as the lecture will start
promptly.

**One Final Note:** The contents of this syllabus are as complete and accurate as possible.
The instructor reserves the right to make any changes necessary to the
syllabus and course material. The instructor will make every effort to
inform students of changes as they occur. It is the responsibility of the
student to know what changes have been made in order to successfully
complete the requirements of the course.