COURSE OVERVIEW

By recognizing the importance of scarcity, incentives and trade-offs, the Economics and Financing of Health Care Delivery focuses on critical issues we face when consuming, producing, delivering, and financing health care. This course will analyze the demand for and supply of health, health care, and health insurance; the unique roles of patients, providers, payers, and other industries in health care delivery; and the economic phenomena pervasive in health care, including asymmetric information, externalities, and the lack of price transparency. Special emphasis will be placed on market failures and the evaluation of public and private solutions, as well as the ability to dissect economic and political issues in ongoing policy debates. Time permitting, other topics will include the opioid epidemic and behavioral health economics.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All work must meet the standards of the University of Pennsylvania’s Code of Academic Integrity. Lack of knowledge of these policies does not excuse a violation. Working together is allowed on problem sets, but all work should stand alone.
MATERIALS

- All slides and assignments will be uploaded to Canvas. Academic articles, which are required reading, are in the study pack or can be found through the Penn Library. If you can't find it, email me and I can send you a copy. Because of copyright clearances, news articles will be linked to on Twitter using #HCMG202.
- There are two optional textbooks for purchase: Phelps’ Health Economics and Feldstein’s Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective. Old editions are fine but you are responsible for any chapter changes.
- An excellent resource for the economic theory used in class is McCloskey’s The Applied Theory of Price, 2nd Edition, which is available for free on her website.
- For anyone interested in doing quantitative analysis for the final paper, check out Impact Evaluation in Practice, which is also free from the World Bank.
- Without my approval, laptops and similar devices aren't allowed out during class.

GRADING POLICY

- The course will consist of two exams (40%), four problem sets (40%), and a 2,500-word research brief (20%).
- I reserve the right to determine letter grade cutoffs at the end of the semester.
- Grading concerns must be presented to me in writing within one week of when the problem sets/exams are handed back in class.
- Problem sets are due at the beginning of class. If you did not hand in your problem set and plan to submit it late, do not come to the first half of that class because we will immediately review them.
- Exam make-ups and assignment extensions require documentation that specifies the dates the student is unable to work and will be given at my discretion. Otherwise, there will be a 20-point late penalty.

IMPORTANT DATES AND TIMES

- Problem Set 1: Wednesday, February 6 at 10.30am
- Problem Set 2: Monday, February 25 at 10.30am
- Exam 1: Wednesday, February 27 at 10.30am
- Problem Set 3: Monday, April 1 at 10.30am
- Problem Set 4: Monday, April 29 at 10.30am
- Exam 2: Wednesday, May 1 at 10.30am
- Research Brief: Friday, May 10 at 11:59pm
COURSE SCHEDULE

January 16, 23, 28, 30
Introduction

February 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20
The Role of Insurance

February 25, 27
Review and Exam 1

March 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 and April 1, 3
Health Care Delivery

**April 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24**

**Addressing Market Failures**


**April 29 and May 1**

**Review and Exam 2**

**May 10**

**Research Brief Due**