

**FLORIDA GULF COAST UNIVERSITY-LUTGERT COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND FINANCE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS
ECP3930 SPECIAL TOPICS: HEALTHCARE ECONOMICS (3-CREDIT HOURS); CRN: 14064
SPRING 2020**

Instructor: Dr. Aysegul Timur
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Office: Edwards Hall, 319F
Phone Number: 590-1069
Meeting Time/Place: Mondays, 4:30-7:15 PM; MH 127

Overview:

This seminar course offers an overview of all aspects of health economics through core economic themes and concepts unique to the health care economy in the United States in comparison to other countries.

The study of health economics is important and interesting in three related ways:

- (1) the size of the contribution of the health sector to the overall economy,
- (2) the national policy concerns resulting from the importance many people attach to the economic problems they face in pursuing and maintaining their health; and
- (3) the many health issues that have a substantial economic element.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the United States healthcare system using microeconomic theory and empirical studies that examine how consumers, firms, and government influence healthcare expenditures, healthcare quality, and patient health outcomes in comparison to other healthcare systems in the world.

Course Materials:

- *The Economics of Health and Healthcare*, 8th Edition, By Sherman Folland, Allen C. Goodman, Miron Stano, Routledge.
- Other reading materials to be available in Canvas

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Course Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate the ability to

Learning Outcomes	Assessments
1. recognize the importance and relevance of health economy and how microeconomics and statistical tools applied in health economics	Research Paper, Weekly Quiz, Group Exercises, Midterm
2. describe how health insurance impacts the demand for healthcare and its prices and how payment models influence amount of healthcare consumed as well as its price and quality	Research Paper, Weekly Quiz, Group Exercises, Midterm
3. sensitize the functioning of key healthcare markets, including healthcare services, healthcare labor markets, hospitals, and pharmaceuticals	Research Paper, Weekly Quiz, Group Exercises, Midterm
4. evaluate the government's role in healthcare markets, social insurance, and health system reforms	Research Paper and Presentation, Weekly Quiz, Group Exercises
5. Compare and contrast health care systems and health care reforms and the economics of social capital	Research Paper and Presentation, Weekly Quiz, Group Exercises

Course Components:

- 1. Readings** – Reading the course textbook and other materials are important to achieve the learning outcomes of this course. Please follow the course outline to be ready for weekly topics in your textbook and come to the class session prepared so we could have active and participatory learning environment.
- 2. Participation and Attendance** – We will start every class with discussions about the real-world applications in healthcare systems and health economics around the world. You are required to come with a popular or journal article to share and participate in these weekly discussions. The Wall Street Journal, RAND.org, World Health Organization, the Economist, and many other popular media sources could be very helpful to find such articles. Mostly, we will relate these articles to the topics we study and the research paper.
- 3. Group Exercises:** We will be solving problem sets in groups in class while we achieve the course learning outcomes but you will be submitting individual work. I will assign these problems in class and we will be working in groups to practice applications.
- 4. Quiz Assignments:** These weekly quizzes will be based on your readings in the textbook. They will be available in Canvas.

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5. **Research Paper: What drives rising healthcare costs in the United States, in a context of comparison to a country of your selection?** Studies indicate that the U.S. spends more than other industrialized nations for comparable utilization rates. Please see the link to start reading about major highlights of this topic (<https://www.gfoa.org/sites/default/files/GFR081626.pdf>). This paper is about comparing the U.S. healthcare system and healthcare costs in a big picture with another country of your choice. Your paper should briefly layout the complex U.S. Healthcare System and also include the impact of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) over the past several years in terms of access and affordability of healthcare. Lastly, your paper should conclude what could be done (if any) to control rising healthcare costs in the United States, based on model practices in the world. Your paper should include at least 5 journal articles and 5 popular sources, including health organizations websites. The paper should be minimum of 5-pages (12pt TNR, double space), excluding reference page.
6. **Research Paper Presentation:** You will be presenting your major research findings in a 10-minute presentation, with maximum of 5 slides.
7. **Midterm Exam** – You will have a take-home midterm with essay questions and problem sets.

Grading and Evaluation

Assessment	Weight
Group Exercises	10%
Participation and Attendance	10%
Quiz Assignments	10%
Research Paper – Peer Review	10%
Research Paper – Final	25%
Midterm	15%
Research Paper Presentation	20%

University Statements

1. Academic Behavior Standards and Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to demonstrate honesty in their academic pursuits. The university policies regarding issues of honesty can be found in the FGCU Student Guidebook under **the Student Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures** sections. All students are expected to study this document which outlines their responsibilities and consequences for violations of the policy. The FGCU Student Guidebook is available online at <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/judicialaffairs/new.html>

2. University Nondiscrimination Statement

Florida Gulf Coast University is committed to ensuring equity and fairness for all University employees, students, visitors, vendors, contractors and other third parties. As such, the University prohibits discrimination on the bases of race, color, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, sex (including sexual harassment/assault), gender identity/expression, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status or genetic predisposition with regard to admissions,

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employment, programs or other activities operated by the University. This prohibition extends to enforcement of **Title IX** of the Education Amendments of 1972. Questions or complaints should be directed to the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC). The OIEC's phone number is (239)745-4366; the OIEC email address is OIEC@fgcu.edu.

3. Disability Accommodations Services

Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university's guiding principles, will provide classroom and academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you need to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or you suspect that your academic performance is affected by a disability, please see me or contact the Office of Adaptive Services. The Office of Adaptive Services is located in the Wellness Building. The phone number is 239-590-7956 or Video Phone (VP) 239-243-9453. In addition to classroom and campus accommodations, individuals with disabilities are encouraged to create their personal emergency evacuation plan and FGCU is committed to providing information on emergency notification procedures. You can find information on the emergency exits and Areas of Rescue Assistance for each building, as well as other emergency preparedness materials on the Environmental Health and Safety and University Police Department websites. If you will need assistance in the event of an emergency due to a disability, please contact Adaptive Services for available services and information.

4. Student Observance of Religious Holidays

All students at Florida Gulf Coast University have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices, and beliefs. Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day. A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

5. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

provides free counseling and therapy services (including psychiatry) to all FGCU students. Please walk in to the second floor Howard Hall office any weekday between 8:30 and 4:30 to schedule an initial contact appointment. Visit the CAPS website at www.fgcu.edu/caps for more information. CAPS offers a 24/7 Helpline at (239) 745-3277 (EARS)

6. Syllabus Statement

All faculty members are required to use Canvas to confirm a student's attendance for each course by the end of the first week of classes. Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid. The confirmation of attendance is required for all students, not only those receiving financial aid.

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Course Outline

Please note that the professor reserves the right to amend the syllabus, weekly due dates, assignments, and/or planned activities.

Week	Date	Outcomes / Course Outline	Assessments/Assignments
<i>Basic Economics Tools and Healthcare Economics</i>			
1	January 6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to ECP3930 • Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World • Introduction and Microeconomic Tools for Health Economics • Statistical Tools for Health Economics • Introduction to the Research Question 	Discussion Participations Group Exercises Quiz 1 Due: January 13 th Midnight
2	January 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World • Efficiency and Cost-Benefit Analysis • Production of Health 	Discussion Participations Group Exercises Quiz 2 Due: January 27 th Midnight Research Paper Outline Development – Due January 27 th
3	January 20th	No Class – Happy Martin Luther King Holiday	
<i>The demand for healthcare</i>			
4	January 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World • The Production, Cost, and Technology of Healthcare • Demand for Health Capital 	Discussion Participations Group Exercises Quiz 3 Due: February 3 rd Midnight
5	February 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World • Demand and Supply of Health Insurance • Consumer Choice and Demand • Asymmetric Information and Agency 	Discussion Participations Group Exercises Quiz 4 Due: February 10 th Midnight

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Functioning of Key Healthcare Markets			
6	February 10th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World The Organization of Health Insurance Markets Guest Lecture 	Discussion Participations Quiz 5 Due: February 17 th Midnight
7	February 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World Managed Care NonProfit Firms 	Discussion Participations Group Exercises Quiz 6 Due: February 24 th Midnight
8	February 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World Hospitals and Long-Term Care The Physician's Practice Health Care Labor Markets and Professional Training Guest Lecture 	Discussion Participations Quiz 7 Due: March 9 th Midnight
9	March 2nd	Spring Break – No Class	
10	March 9th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World Where are we with the course outcomes and the research paper development? The Pharmaceutical Industry 	Discussion Participations Group Exercises Midterm Due: March 16 th Midnight
Healthcare Systems and Reforms			
11	March 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World Comparative Health Care Systems 	Discussion Participations Group Exercises Quiz 8 Due: March 23 rd Midnight

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Week	Date	Outcomes / Course Outline	Assessments/Assignments
12	March 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World • Equity, Efficiency, and Need • Government Intervention in Health Care Markets • Social Insurance 	Discussion Participations Group Exercises Quiz 9 Due: March 30 th Midnight
13	March 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World • Research Paper Peer Reviews 	Research Paper Peer Review Feedback - Due April 6 th
14	April 6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World • Health System Reform • Guest Speaker 	Discussion Participations Quiz 10 Due: April 13 th Midnight
15	April 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and Student Participation: Real World Applications in Healthcare Systems and Health Economics Around the World • The Health Economics of Bads • The Economics of Social Capital and Health 	Discussion Participations
16	April 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Research Presentations 	Research Paper Submissions Due