

- 1). Course Title: HP 790/Econ 490 Instructor: Vivian Valdmanis (email v.valdma@usp.edu) Office hours –Wednesdays 3-5 pm and by appointment
- 2). Course Title: Introduction to Health Economics
- 3). Hours per week: Three class hours, additional study requirements each week
- 4). Semester Offered: Fall 2008
- 5). Credits: Three
- 6). Course Description: This course provides an introduction to and application of micro- and macro-economics to the fields of health care provision and policy. Specifically students will be instructed in basic economic concepts: utility, marginal analysis, demand, elasticity, costs, supply, opportunity costs, market structure, and private, public, and social goods in terms of micro-economic theory.. From this background, students will apply their understanding to issues specific to health economics including topics such as demand versus need, costs of providing health care services, structure of the health care market, labor, hospitals, managed care, insurance (public and private) and pharmaceutical interventions and practice patterns.
- 7). Prerequisites: A background in micro-economics is very helpful
- 8). Applicable student population: Graduate students in health policy or other interested graduate or advanced undergraduate students.
- 9). Objectives/Goals:
 1. An understanding of basic economic concepts
 2. Demonstrate an understanding of health care economics
 3. Apply the basic concepts to health care structures, as they exist as well as their role in policy development.
- 10). Syllabus:

Class time will be made up by lecture and class discussion as well as student presentations. Timely health care/public health topics will be presented in conjunction with the topic of the week. Students must read the assignments prior to class.

August 27 Week 1: Introduction to course

September 3 Week 2: Introduction to Economics
Baumol and Blinder Chapters 1 and 2

September 10 Week 3: Scarcity, Supply and Demand
Baumol and Blinder Chapters 3 and 4

September 17 Week 4: Consumer Choice, Demand Properties,
Baumol and Blinder Chapters 5 and 6

September 24, Week 5: Production
Baumol and Blinder Chapters Chapters 7 and 8 (9 optional if time permits)

October 1, Week 6: Markets
Baumol and Blinder Chapters 10, 11 and 12

October 8 , Week 7: Exam #1

October 15, Week 8: Market Shortcomings
Baumol and Blinder Chapters 14, and 15

October 22, Week 9: Externalities, Taxation
Baumol and Blinder Chapters 16 and 17

October 29, Week 10: Exam #

November 5, Week 11: Pricing Factors of Production
Baumol and Blinder Chapter 18

November 12, Week 12: Poverty and Discrimination
Baumol and Blinder Chapter 19

November 21, Week 13 Hospitals and the Non-Profit Sector
Chapters 13-14 Folland et al.

November 26, Week 14 NO CLASS THANKSGIVING

December 3, Week 15: Private or Production of Health Care/Public Health
Pros and Cons -- Handout

December 10 Week 16: Final Exam

11). Texts: Baumol, Willam J and Alan S. Blinder **Economics Principles and Policy**
10th Edition 2006 Thomson-Southwestern ISBN 0-324-31743-3

12). Grading: 3 Exams at 30% each (you may drop the lowest grade) 10% class
participation. Exams will be short essay and applications. Some math will be on the
exams, but calculus will be limited.

.
Feedback will be provided in written form the following week.
.

- 13). Teaching Aids: Handouts, texts, articles
- 14). Institutional Resources: Standard classroom equipment
- 15). Problem Solving/Critical Thinking: will be fostered through discussion, class exercises, feedback from the presentation and exam.
- 16). Evaluation: Based on class participation, exercises, presentation, and exams. For undergraduates the exams will consist of 3 out of 5 questions; Graduate students must answer all 5.

Weather policy: If severe weather is predicted students may opt to leave early
If the class is canceled, an alternative date will be determined

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is at the center of the educational experience at USP. Students are therefore expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and not engage in nor tolerate academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, fabrication, cheating or plagiarism. Any violation of academic integrity will be investigated and, where warranted, the student will receive appropriate sanctions through the University's Student Conduct Process. Please familiarize yourself with the current USP Student Handbook. In particular, adherence to the Student Conduct Policy and Academic Integrity Policy will help to ensure that your learning and living experiences are founded on integrity.

Student Disability Support Services (SDSS)

USP supports the educational endeavors of all students, including students with disabilities. The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a disability as a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

If you believe you have a disability that may impact your ability to fulfill your course or degree requirements, and you would like more information on applying for an accommodation, please contact the Assistant Dean of Students who serves as the SDSS Coordinator at 215-596-8950.