Course Syllabus

Course Number/Section/Name: Econ 6370 / 70 / Economics of Health & Medical Care

Professor: Dr. Neil Meredith

Class Days/Times/Location: Online

Office Location: Classroom Center, Room 222F

Office Hours: By appointment only. I will be available via online chat each week. Times for online chat will be announced each week

Office Phone: 806-651-2493

E-Mail: My email address is nmeredith@wtamu.edu. Unless there is a good reason, please contact me via WTClass rather than your personal email or student email account.

Webpages: Course materials will be posted on WTClass.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to give you an appreciation for, and an understanding of, how economics impacts the way individuals and policymakers allocate and use resources in the market for health care. Power point slides with accompanying lecture notes for each assigned chapter are posted on WTClass. We will cover approximately two chapters a week (see the Course Outline given below).

WTAMU College of Business (COB) Mission Statement

The mission of the College of Business is to provide high quality undergraduate and graduate business education with a global perspective and ethical awareness. We accomplish this through emphasis on excellence in teaching, which is strengthened by faculty scholarship and supported by professional service.
Course Objectives

We will address the following objectives:

- Identify and understand the source of the demand for health and healthcare and how they differ.
- Understand the production of healthcare and how it is different from the production of health.
- Analyze particular markets, specifically physician, hospital and insurance markets and how different market structures play a role in the efficiency of the healthcare system.
- Understand the role insurance plays in the demand and supply of healthcare.
- Compare and contrast various health care systems from around the globe.
- Identify and analyze imperfections in healthcare markets, particularly informational asymmetry, how they affect the markets and ways to mitigate the problems.
- Critically analyze the role and purpose of government policy in the healthcare system.
- Address ethical issues in health care and health policy.

Course Grading Policies

All grades will be posted on WTClass. The composition of student grades is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Problem Sets (10% each x 5 problem sets)</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forums (5% each x 5 forums)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale: A=100-90%

- B=89.9-80%
- C=79.9-70%
- D=69.9-60%
- F=59.9-0%

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Course Materials


Arnold Kling, *Crisis of Abundance: Rethinking How We Pay for Health Care*, Cato Institute, 2006. You may buy a copy of the book from the WTAMU Bookstore or purchase a copy from an outside vendor such as Amazon.com


**Course Assignment, Examination, and or Project Policies**

**Problem Sets:** You will be assigned a total of six problem sets following the schedule in the Course Outline. Problem sets will be posted under the Lessons tab on WTClass. Problem sets must be submitted to Drop Boxes I will create on WTClass. On occasion you may be asked to complete graphs as part of your problem set. In that case, you will need to either complete the graph in Microsoft Paint or scan and upload your submission. *Each question will be graded on a 4 point scale (4=Excellent, 3=Good, 2=Okay, 1=Poor, 0=Blank, or might as well be).* Your total problem set score for the semester will constitute 50% (10% each x 5 problem sets) of your final course grade. I will drop your lowest problem set score when computing your total problem set score for the semester. In other words, if you miss turning in a problem set you will receive a 0 and it will be dropped. Do not miss more than one problem set. Make-ups on problem sets will not be given for any reason.

**Discussion Forums:** Your active participation in class will be graded by discussion forum postings. Please make sure you are familiar with the operation of the discussion forum tool. You will be required to answer each discussion forum question on your own and respond to at least one other student’s posting to receive full credit for a forum. Each forum will be worth 10 points (5 points for posting and 5 points for a reply). There will be six forums over the span of the course as indicated by the Course Outline. One of the six forums will address ethics in health.
care and health policy. Your total forum score for the semester will constitute 25% (5% each x 5 forums) of your final course grade. I will drop your lowest discussion forum score when computing your total discussion forum score for the semester. In other words, if you miss a discussion forum you will receive a 0 and it will be dropped. Do not miss more than one discussion forum. Please be constructive (i.e. polite) and use economic theory to back up your postings (i.e. do not simply post your opinion). Make-ups will not be offered for discussion forums for any reason.

**Paper:** You will be required to complete a paper that I will provide more details on later. The paper will be a book report of sorts for *Crisis of Abundance: Rethinking How we pay for health care* by Arnold Kling. Your papers will be due by 11:45PM on 7/25. Prior to submitting your paper, please make sure you complete the pre-test and post-test from the University of Southern Mississippi’s plagiarism tutorial available at [http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php](http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php). You will need to include my email address when submitting your pre-test and post-test so that I will receive notification that you completed the tests. If you do not complete the pre-test and post-test by the deadline for paper submission, then you will receive a score of 0 for your paper. Also, please be advised that your papers will be submitted to a Turnitin ([https://turnitin.com/static/index.php](https://turnitin.com/static/index.php)) Drop Box on WTClass. Turnitin will automatically scan your papers and compare them to millions of online documents to check for plagiarism. Please do not waste your time or mine by plagiarizing on your paper. Your paper will constitute 25% of your final grade.

**Extra Credit:** Under no circumstances will extra credit work be given to individual students. However, extra credit points may be offered to the class as a whole at my discretion.

**Additional Course Policies**

**WTClass:** All course materials such as this syllabus will be provided through WTClass. Students should regularly check WTClass for announcements and emails regarding this course. WTClass, furthermore, is the only means available for last minute communication issues.

**Etiquette and Netiquette:** Please be courteous and respectful of others and me. You are expected to conduct yourself in a professional manner throughout the duration of this course. This expectation applies to all online and offline interactions you have with me and your classmates. Inappropriate conduct whether online or offline will not be tolerated. Consequences for inappropriate conduct will be enforced and the inappropriate conduct will be reported to appropriate university personnel such as the Department Head of the Department of Accounting, Economics and Finance, the Dean of the College of Business, and the Provost.

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Course Outline

Week 1: (6/4-6/10)
- Course Overview
- Introduction Discussion Forum
- PowerPoint and Reading for Chapter 1 (including Appendix 1)
- Discussion Forum 1 opens on 6/4 at 9:00AM
- Problem Set 1 available on 6/4

Week 2: (6/11-6/17)
- PowerPoint and Reading for Chapter 2 and Chapter 3
- Discussion Forum 1 closes on 6/11 at 11:45PM
- Discussion Forum 2 opens on 6/11 at 9:00AM
- Problem Set 1 due on 6/14 by 11:45PM
- Problem Set 2 available on 6/14

Week 3: (6/18-6/24)
- PowerPoint and Reading for Chapter 4 and Chapter 5
- Discussion Forum 2 closes on 6/18 at 11:45PM
- Discussion Forum 3 opens on 6/18 at 9:00AM
- Problem Set 2 due on 6/21 by 11:45PM
- Problem Set 3 available on 6/21

Week 4: (6/25-7/1)
- PowerPoint and Reading for Chapter 6 and Chapter 7
- Discussion Forum 3 closes on 6/25 at 11:45PM
- Problem Set 3 due on 6/28 by 11:45PM
- Problem Set 4 available on 6/28

Week 5: (7/2-7/8)
- PowerPoint and Reading for Chapter 8 and Chapter 9
- Discussion Forum 4 opens on 7/2 at 9:00AM
- Problem Set 4 due on 7/8 by 11:45PM
- Problem Set 5 available on 7/8

Week 6: (7/9-7/15)
- PowerPoint and Reading for Chapter 10 and Chapter 11
- Discussion Forum 4 closes on 7/9 at 11:45PM
- Discussion Forum 5 opens on 7/9 at 9:00AM
Week 7: (7/16-7/22)
- PowerPoint and Reading for Chapter 12 and Chapter 13
- Discussion Forum 5 closes on 7/16 at 11:45PM
- Discussion Forum 6 opens on 7/16 at 9:00AM
- Problem Set 5 due on 7/19 by 11:45PM
- Problem Set 6 available on 7/19

Week 8: (7/23-7/27)
- PowerPoint Reading for Chapter 14 and Chapter 15
- Discussion Forum 6 closes on 7/23 at 11:45PM
- Paper due on 7/25 by 11:45PM
- Problem Set 6 due on 7/27 by 11:45PM

Technology Requirements

All technological requirements for the successful completion of this course are the responsibility of the student, including access to a working computer with broadband internet connection, audio speakers, video capability for watching online videos, word processing program such as Microsoft Word, and state-of-the-art security. The student is responsible for all technological problems not related to WTAMU, including but not limited to equipment failures, power outages, and internet breakdowns. Furthermore, students are responsible for all necessary technical and operational skills for completing this course, and for being familiar with WTCClass (the Angel Learning System) both in a general sense and in a specific sense as pertaining to this course and any materials stored within. The professor is not responsible for any technical matters related to WTCClass. Students must contact WTCClass if they have problems accessing and/or using Angel.
Terms of Use

A student's continued enrollment in this course signifies acknowledgment of and agreement with the statements, disclaimers, policies, and procedures outlined within this syllabus and elsewhere in the WTClass environment. This Syllabus is a dynamic document. Elements of the course structure (e.g., dates and topics covered, but not policies) may be changed at the discretion of the professor.

Copyright

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Learning Goals for the MSFE Program

The College of Business at West Texas A&M University seeks to prepare students in the Master of Science in Finance and Economics (MSFE) degree program for careers in business and to foster their professional growth and advancement via the key learning goals. The key learning goals for the MSFE are as follows:

- **Goal 1: Professional Communication**: Graduates of the MSFE program will be effective communicators.

- **Goal 2: Critical Thinking**: Graduates of the MSFE program will be analytical thinkers and problem solvers.

- **Goal 3: Business Environment**: Graduates of the MSFE program will be aware of ethical, global, and social ramifications of business and economic decisions.

- **Goal 4: Finance and Economics Integration**: Graduates of the MSFE program will be knowledgeable of advanced theoretical and applied concepts in economics and finance.
Map from COB Learning Goals to Objectives for this course

- Identify and understand the source of the demand for health and healthcare and how they differ.
  - COB Learning Goals and Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Finance and Economics Integration

- Understand the production of healthcare and how it is different from the production of health.
  - COB Learning Goals and Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Finance and Economics Integration

- Analyze particular markets, specifically physician, hospital and insurance markets and how different market structures play a role in the efficiency of the healthcare system.
  - COB Learning Goals and Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Business Environment, Functional Business Analyses and Application

- Understand the role insurance plays in the demand and supply of healthcare.
  - COB Learning Goals and Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Functional Business Analyses and Application

- Compare and contrast various health care systems from around the globe.
  - COB Learning Goals and Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Finance and Economics Integration

- Identify and analyze imperfections in healthcare markets, particularly informational asymmetry, how they affect the markets and ways to mitigate the problems.
  - COB Learning Goals and Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Business Environment, Finance and Economics Integration

- Critically analyze the role and purpose of government policy in the healthcare system.
  - COB Learning Goals and Objectives: Critical Thinking, Communication, Business Environment, Finance and Economics Integration

- Address ethical issues in health care and health policy.
  - COB Learnings Goals and Objectives: Business Environment
COB Student Resources Link

The COB has developed a Student Resources repository (e.g., APA writing style information, business core reviews, facilities, and other helpful supplements) which can be found on the COB Website: http://www.wtamu.edu/academics/college-business-facilities-and-resources.aspx

Dropping the Course:

Should a student decide to drop the course, it is the student’s responsibility to be aware of the final drop dates and adhere to the WTAMU Ad/Drop policy. Any student participating in the course after the WTAMU posted drop date will be considered active and a grade will be administered at the end of the course for that student.

Repeating Course Work

Students are charged a fee for any course attempted for a third or subsequent time at WTAMU other than a non-degree credit developmental course or exempted courses.

COB Writing Component

Students earning a BBA degree must complete at least one course with a writing component outside of their major as part of the business core requirements. The COB writing component is a requirement in the following courses: CIDM 3320 (Digital Collaboration and Communication), MGT 3335 (Organizational Behavior), FIN 3350 (Personal Financial Planning), FIN 4320 (Investments), FIN 4321 (Portfolio Theory), ECON 4342 (Economic Development), and ECON 4370 (Economics of Biotechnology and Healthcare). Students in a writing component course are explicitly required to demonstrate knowledge of communication skills. Specific objectives may include but are not limited to the following concepts put forth by the National Business Education Association: (1) ability to organize a written and an oral message coherently and effectively, (2) ability to use technology for communication, (3) ability to research a topic, prepare a report, and present the findings to all organizational levels, and (4) ability to demonstrate critical-thinking skills. Specific course requirements and the role of the writing component with respect to student grading policy are at the discretion of the course instructor of record.

WTAMU COB Student Code of Ethics

Each student enrolled in COB courses accepts personal responsibility to uphold and defend academic integrity and to promote an atmosphere in which all individuals may flourish. The COB Student Code of Ethics strives to set a standard of honest behavior that reflects well on students, the COB and West Texas A&M University. All students enrolled in business courses are expected to follow the explicit behaviors detailed in the Student Code of Ethics.
Code of Ethics:

- Do not use notes, texts, solution manuals, or other aids for a quiz or exam without instructor authorization.
- Do not copy the work of others and/or allow others to view your answers or copy your work during a quiz, exam, or on homework assignments.
- Do not allow other parties to assist in the completion of your quiz, exam, homework, paper, or project when not permitted.
- Do not work with other students on projects or assignments without authorization from the course instructor.
- Properly cite and specifically credit the source of text, graphic, and web materials in papers, projects, or other assignments.
- Do not forge the signature of an instructor, advisor, dean, or another student.
- Provide truthful information for class absences when asking faculty for excused absences or for a make-up for a quiz, exam, or homework.
- Provide truthful information on your resume including work history, academic performance, leadership activities, and membership in student organizations.
- Respect the property, personal rights, and learning environment of all members of the academic community.
- Live up to the highest ethical standards in all academic and professional endeavors.

Students violating the Student Code of Ethics will be reported to the Dean’s office and are subject to penalties described in the West Texas A&M University Code of Student Life, which may include suspension from the University. In addition, a violator of the Student Code of Ethics may become ineligible for the following:

- Participation in student organizations sponsored by the COB.
- Recognition for College academic honors, awards, and scholarships.

Scholastic Dishonesty

It is the responsibility of students and instructors to help maintain scholastic integrity at the University by refusing to participate in or tolerate scholastic dishonesty. Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute scholastic dishonesty. This listing is not exclusive of any other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute scholastic dishonesty: acquiring or providing information for any assigned work or examination from any unauthorized source; informing any person or persons of the contents of any examination prior to the time the examination is given in subsequent sections of the course or as a makeup; plagiarism; submission of a paper or project that is substantially the same for two courses unless expressly authorized by the instructor to do so; submission of a paper or project prepared by another student as your own. You are responsible for being familiar with the University's Academic Integrity Code, as well as the COB Student Code of Ethics below.
Viewpoints Disclaimer

The views expressed in this document, web-based course materials, and/or classroom presentations and discussions are those of the professor and do not necessarily represent the views of West Texas A&M University, its faculty and staff, or its students. Views expressed by students are likewise those of the person making such statements. It is understood and expected that each individual within this course will respect and allow individual difference of opinion.

External Websites Disclaimer

Neither the professor, the COB, nor WTAMU are responsible for the content of external websites discussed in the classroom and/or linked to via online course materials, emails, message boards, or other means. Referred websites are for illustrative purposes only, and are neither warranted nor endorsed by the professor, COB, or WTAMU. Web pages change frequently, as does domain name ownership. While every effort is made to ensure proper referencing, it is possible that students may on occasion find materials to be objectionable for reasons beyond our control.

Physical or Educational Access

West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to register with Student Disability Services (SDS) and to contact faculty members in a timely fashion to arrange for suitable accommodations. Contact Information: Student Success Center, CC 106; www.wtam.edu/disability; phone 806-651-2335.

Evacuation Statement

If you receive notice to evacuate the building, please evacuate promptly but in an orderly manner. Evacuation routes are posted in various locations indicating all exits, outside assemble area, location of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull stations and emergency telephone numbers (651.5000 or 911). In the event an evacuation is necessary: evacuate immediately do not use elevators; take all personal belongings with you; report to outside assembly area and wait for further information; students needing assistance in the evacuation process should bring this to the attention of the instructor at the beginning of the semester.
Chemical and Equipment Safety Statement

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) are provided for all chemicals used in this class. MSDSs provide information about physical properties, health risks, fire explosion data, and other important information associated with these chemicals. Before handling or using a chemical, you should refer to the MSDS for that chemical. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor in writing of any health conditions that may prevent you from safely using a chemical (pregnancy, auto immune deficiency, etc.). It is also the responsibility of the student to report any spill or problems found while storing or using a chemical. If you are unsure about a chemical, always ask. If you see any unsafe condition, notify your instructor immediately. If you are unsure about the proper and safe operation of any piece of equipment, ask your instructor for proper instruction. All injuries, spill of materials and unsafe conditions must be reported to the instructor immediately.

* Syllabus template approved by COB Curriculum Committee 5-30-2011. Annual review of the syllabus is a formal part of the COB continuous improvement process.