

Economics 2498, Spring 2019  
Wed 3:35-6:05 pm  
Classroom: DWTN 259  
Office Hours: TuTh 1:20 - 2:20 pm and by appointment  
Website: HuskyCT (<https://lms.uconn.edu>)

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## **Health Economics**

### **Course Description**

What can economics add to the study of health? Why are some individuals and societies healthier than others? Is the US health sector efficient? Did raising taxes reduce smoking in the US? Why is obesity becoming a worldwide epidemic? What are the most important problems with health insurance? Does medical license interfere with competition? Should government provide (universal) health insurance? Why have suicide rate among middle-aged white Americans increase so much in the last decade? This course will aim to answer these and related questions through economic theory and evidence from recent empirical research.

### **Objectives**

This course has two main objectives: (1) to provide you with tools that allow you to analyze a health-related problem using an economic approach, (2) to provide you with the latest evidence on important topics in public health in the US and the rest of world.

### **Prerequisites**

Econ 1201 Principles of Microeconomics

### **Grading**

- 20% Homework
- 20% Quizzes
- 15% Presentation in class (Readings)
- 25% Midterm exam
- 20% Final exam

### **Readings**

The textbook is:

Santerre and Neun, *Health Economics: Theories, Insights, and Industry Studies*. (5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> editions).

You might find helpful to look also at (not required):

Phelps, *Health Economics* (The international edition is the cheapest)

In addition, I will assign the required and supplemental readings one week before each class. These readings are generally important articles on the topic of the day. You can find the reading list and the papers on HuskyCT.

## Topics

1. Introduction
2. US and Global Health Situation and Trends
3. Cost and Benefit Analysis and the Value of Life
4. Simple Correlation versus Causality
5. The Demand for Health
6. Health Behaviors: General Overview
7. Health Behaviors: the Case of Obesity
8. The Demand for Medical Care
9. The Demand for Health Insurance
10. The Supply of Health Insurance
11. The Supply of Medical Care
12. The Government Role in Health Care
13. Environment and Health
14. Opioids Epidemic
15. In-Utero Effects
16. Global Health

## Academic Honesty Statement:

Violations of the University of Connecticut Academic Honor Code will not be tolerated. *Any students found engaged in academic dishonesty will, at a minimum, receive an F for the course.* All students should familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations found in the student code. This and other Policies Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence and the Statement on Absences from Class Due to Religious Observances and Extra-Curricular Activities can be found in <http://provost.uconn.edu/syllabi-references>.