



**University
of Victoria**

Economics 318 (A01) **Health Economics**

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| Session: | Fall 2025 (202509) | Meeting Time: | MR 1:00–2:20 PM |
| CRN: | 11106 | Unit Value: | 1.5 |
| Type: | Lecture | Mode: | Face-to-face |
| Building: | Cornett | Room: | A221 |
| Start Date: | Sep 3, 2025 | End Date: | Dec 3, 2025 |

Instructor and Teaching Assistant

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Instructor | Dr. Chris Auld |
| Office | BEC 348 |
| Email | auld@uvic.ca |
| Phone | 250.721.8537 |
| Office Hours | Wednesdays 3:00–4:30 (or by appointment; Zoom possible) |
| Contact | Email is primary; responses within two business days. |
| TA | Abdellatif Ousalim |
| contact | TBD |

Course content.

Calendar Description: *Analysis of economic aspects of health and health care. Topics may include the demand for health and health care, the production of health, health-related behaviours, health inequality, and the role of government in health care markets.*

This course builds on ECON 103 and other microeconomic theory courses. It covers elementary concepts and selected topics in modern health economics, focusing on health-affecting behaviors rather than the financing and functioning of the health care system. Topics may include: the tradeoff between health and other goals; modeling demand for health and for health care; the relationship between material standard of living and health; education and health; income and inequality and health; and the economics of communicable diseases (*economic epidemiology*).

Teaching and assessment modality.

This course is delivered face-to-face and all exams are held in person. Lectures will be held in person unless illness or weather precludes, in which case no more than one-third of sessions

will be moved online. There are no required devices for participation.

Course prerequisites.

Prerequisite: ECON 103 (or equivalent).

Textbook and Materials

The required text for this course is:

- Bhattacharya, Jay, Timothy Hyde, and Peter Tu. *Health Economics*. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2013. ISBN: 978-1137029966.
Available from the publisher physically or in eText form ([Bloomsbury](#)) and widely available in physical form at online retailers. Approximate cost for physical version is \$110.

Additional readings may be assigned during the term and will be made available via Brightspace ([bright.uvic.ca](#)).

Brightspace.

Brightspace will be used extensively in this course. Announcements, archived exams, any additional readings, and lecture slides will be posted there. Students are responsible for checking Brightspace regularly for updates.

Notes on old exams: archived exams a great way to practice and to test your understanding of the course material, but be aware the modules used in this course have changed over time, so generally the farther back you go the less the current course content will match the exam. Note some old exams have answer keys and some do not; if there is no posted answer key an answer key for that exam doesn't exist and **I will not respond to requests for answer keys which are not posted**. If there is no answer key, please take a shot at the exam and then I would be happy to go over problematic questions with you during my office hours.

Learning outcomes.

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Communicate microeconomic reasoning about health clearly in writing and through the use of derivations and figures.
- Explain and apply core models of health economics, such as Grossman's model. Understand the difference between demand for and demand for health care and related implications.
- Interpret theory and evidence on health behaviors and health care use in applied examples drawn from topics such as addictive behaviors, economic epidemiology, and socioeconomic gradients in health.
- Assess various aspects of health-related policy by drawing on economic analysis.

Course structure, assessments, and grading.

Learning occurs through in-person lectures and independent reading. Students must request permission from the instructor before recording lectures. Learning components include lectures, in-class discussion, and posted practice materials.

AI policy.

Since all evaluation for this course is in-person you may make unlimited use of artificial intelligence for this course. Please keep in mind that AIs will often confidently get things very wrong. If you are uncertain about some concept an AI has apparently helped you understand, please come to my office hours and we will determine together whether it has it right.

Grading scheme.

- Midterm examinations (cumulative) (2): 25% each (total 50%)
- Final examination (cumulative): 50%

A passing grade on the final exam is required to pass the course.

Mandatory essential course components.

All exams are essential course requirements and must be attempted to pass the course. Essential components are deferrable under University policy. I may allow you to transfer the weight from one midterm to the other in the event it is difficult or impossible for you to write both the main and the deferred exam for a midterm; in this event please come to see me as soon as possible. You must write and pass the final exam to earn a passing grade overall. (See also "Missing Assessments" below.)

Dates of assessments and due dates.

Midterm exam dates are tentative and will be confirmed first week of classes.

- **Midterm 1:** Monday, October 6, 2025 (covering roughly weeks 1–5).
- **Midterm 2:** Monday, November 17, 2025 (covering roughly weeks 6–10).
- **Final exam:** In person (scheduled by the Registrar). Alphanumeric calculators are permitted; no other materials are allowed. The Department of Economics recommends the Casio FX-991 as an example of an appropriate calculator.

Department-scheduled deferred/make-up exam sessions (Fall 2025).

| Date | Time | Location |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Friday, October 3, 2025 | 3:00–6:00 PM | DTB A102 |
| Friday, October 24, 2025 | 3:00–6:00 PM | DTB A102 |
| Friday, November 14, 2025 | 3:00–6:00 PM | DTB A102 |
| Friday, December 5, 2025 | 3:00–6:00 PM | DTB A102 |

Note the first exam for this course is October 6 so the first deferred session does not apply for this course but is listed for your convenience.

Grading scale.

The standard UVic grading scale applies:

| Grade | Percentage Range |
|--------|------------------|
| A+ | 90–100% |
| A | 85–89% |
| A- | 80–84% |
| B+ | 77–79% |
| B | 73–76% |
| B- | 70–72% |
| C+ | 65–69% |
| C | 60–64% |
| D | 50–59% |
| F or N | 0–49% |

Missing assessments (academic concession).

Should students encounter a situation where they miss an exam, they may qualify for an academic concession. Students must indicate the specific grounds and provide a justification outlining the impact on their ability to complete course requirements. For in-course extensions, follow the posted procedure (or Brightspace form, if used). In case of a missed final exam, submit a deferral request per University policy.

Course content and tentative schedule.

| Week(s) | Topic / Readings |
|---|--|
| 1 | Introduction (Bhattacharya et al., Ch. 1) |
| 2 | Does price affect demand for health care? (Ch. 2) |
| 3 | How effective is health care at the margin? (Ch. 2) |
| 4–5 | Grossman model: tradeoffs between health and other goals (Ch. 3) |
| <i>Midterm 1 (after Week 5; covers Weeks 1–5)</i> | |
| 6–8 | Socioeconomic status and health (Ch. 4) |
| 9 | Valuing health and life for public policy (Ch. 14) |
| 10–11 | Economic epidemiology (Ch. 21) |
| <i>Midterm 2 (after Week 11; covers Weeks 6–11)</i> | |
| 12 | Flexible, may include a course wrap-up |

This outline is tentative. Additional readings may be assigned and topics and pacing may change as the course progresses.

Waitlist policies.

Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the course cap. Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted. Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course. Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students. Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Academic integrity.

Academic integrity requires commitment to the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to observe the same standards of scholarly integrity as their academic and professional counterparts. A student who is found to have engaged in unethical academic behaviour, including practices described in the University Policy on Academic Integrity, is subject to penalty by the University. The University reserves the right to use plagiarism-detection software to detect violations of academic integrity.

Appeals.

Depending on the nature of your concern, the order in which you should normally try to resolve the matter is: (1) the course instructor; (2) the Associate Chair (econassoc@uvic.ca); (3) the Associate Dean of Academic Advising; (4) the Senate. For formal review of an assigned grade, consult the regulations in the Academic Calendar regarding review of an assigned grade. Grading inquiries on assignments and exams must be submitted in writing within one week of the release of the grade.

University Policies and Statements

The University of Victoria requires that the following information be included in all course outlines. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with these policies:

- **Academic Calendar:** The Calendar is the official source for program and course requirements. See uvic.ca/calendar.
- **Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to adhere to UVic's policy on academic integrity. Violations (cheating, plagiarism, multiple submission, etc.) are taken seriously. See uvic.ca/current-students/academics/academic-integrity.
- **Accessibility and Accommodations:** The Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) provides resources and coordinates academic accommodations. Students requiring support should contact CAL as early as possible. See uvic.ca/centre-for-accessible-learning.
- **Equity and Human Rights (EQHR):** UVic is committed to a safe and inclusive environment. Information on discrimination and harassment policies is available at uvic.ca/eqhr.
- **Copyright:** Course materials are for registered student use only and are protected by copyright law. See uvic.ca/library/research/citation/copyright.
- **Academic Concessions:** Procedures for concessions (illness, family affliction, etc.) are described in the Calendar. See uvic.ca/current-students/academic-concessions.
- **Conflict of Interest and Academic Responsibilities (AC1205):** Full policy available at uvic.ca/universitysecretary/policies/general/AC1205.html.

Resources for Students

- Student Wellness
- Centre for Accessible Learning
- UVic Learn Anywhere (learning workshops and resources)
- Library Resources
- Centre for Academic Communication (CAC)
- Learning Strategies Program (LSP)
- Academic Advising
- Economics Undergraduate Advising: ecadvice@uvic.ca
- Student Awards and Financial Aid
- International Student Advising
- Indigenous Student Services (ISS)
- Student groups and resources including UVic Ombudsperson

Student experience of learning (SEL) survey.

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential SEL survey regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

Email.

Emails should normally be limited to critical matters (e.g., inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness) and must include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should normally be asked during office hours or in class. Emails should follow a professional format with a salutation and signature including your name and student number. I will normally respond to email within two business days. If you do not get a response within two days consider an overly aggressive spam filter or other technical problem may have occurred and try again or contact me another way.

Use of devices in lectures.

Use of devices should be limited to course-related activities to maintain a respectful learning environment.

Educational technology.

This course does not require the use of educational technology hosted outside Canada.

Territorial acknowledgement.

We acknowledge and respect the *łək'wəṇən* peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt, and WSÁNÉĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.