



**University
of Victoria**

Economics 318 (A01) **Health Economics**

Session: Fall 2026
CRN: 11125
Type: Lecture
Building: DSB
Start Date: Sep 9, 2026

Meeting Time: MR 1:00–2:20 PM
Unit Value: 1.5
Mode: Face-to-face
Room: C118
End Date: Dec 7, 2026

Instructor and Teaching Assistant

Instructor Dr. Chris Auld
Office BEC 348
Email auld@uvic.ca
Phone 250.721.8537
Office hours Wednesdays 2:30–4:00 (or by appointment; Zoom possible)
Contact Email is primary; responses within two business days.

TA Mohamed Massoud
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Office hours: 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; valuing health and safety for public policy, 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 are 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 graded evaluation is in-person, you may make unlimited use of generative AI for this course. You are encouraged to use AI as a tutor, but please keep in mind that it will often offer hallucinated or otherwise incorrect explanations. If you are uncertain about some concept you have discussed with an AI system, 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. The instructor may change the distribution of grades to more accurately reflect the performance of the class.

Mandatory essential course components.

You must write and earn a passing grade on the final examination to complete the course. You must also complete both midterms unless you have a University-recognized ground for academic concession, and you must write at least one midterm to complete the course. If you have an academic concession for a midterm, you may either arrange to write a deferred

version of the exam you missed, or you may opt to transfer the weight to the midterm you do complete (please contact me with your choice). (See also “Missing Assessments” below.)

Dates of assessments and due dates.

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

- **Midterm 1:** Thursday, October 15, 2026.
- **Midterm 2:** Thursday, November 12, 2026.
- **Final exam:** In person (scheduled by the Registrar).

For all examinations, only basic calculators (such as the Sharp EL-510), and no other materials, are allowed.

Department-scheduled deferred/make-up exam sessions (Fall 2026).

Date	Time	Location
Friday, October 16th, 2026	3:00–4:20	DSB C122
Friday, October 30th, 2026	3:00–4:20	DSB C122
Friday, November 20th, 2026	3:00–4:20	DSB C122
Friday, December 4th, 2026	3:00–4:20	DSB C122

Note only some of these sessions are relevant for this course; all are listed for 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 / Bhattacharya <i>et al.</i> chapters
1	Introduction (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 roughly here</i>	
6–8	Socioeconomic status and health (Ch. 4)
9	Valuing health and life for public policy (Ch. 14)
<i>Midterm 2 roughly here</i>	
10–11	Economic epidemiology (Ch. 21)
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 is fundamental to all scholarly work. At the University of Victoria (UVic), students are expected to comply with the university's academic regulations and must not engage in acts of dishonesty, falsification, misrepresentation, or deception in any academic work. Violations of [the University's academic integrity policy](#) may result in academic or disciplinary consequences.

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:

- University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- [Academic Integrity](#)
- [Academic Concession Regulations, Academic Concession and Accommodation](#), Academic Accommodation – [Policy AC1205](#)
- [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- [Student Conduct](#)
- [Accessibility](#)
- [Diversity / EDI](#)
- [Equity statement](#)
- [Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response](#)
- [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#)

Resources for students.

- [Student wellness](#)
- [Centre for Accessible Learning](#)
- [UVic Learn](#). UVic Learn is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.
- [Library](#) resources
- Academic Skills Centre ([ASC](#))
- Learning Assistance Program ([LAP](#))
- [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 Songhees and Esquimalt Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and Wsanec Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.