



Department of Economics

ECON317 Fall 2022
The Economics of Canadian Health Care
Instructor: Eric Chi

Lecture times: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 2:30pm-3:20pm.

Location: For the Mondays and Wednesdays section, we will be meeting in **David Strong Building, Room C118**. For the Thursdays' section, the lecture will be uploaded as video. There are no in-person classes on Thursdays. In other words, there will be a video posted to replace in-person lecture. The video will be made available on or before Thursdays at 3:20pm.

Office: If you would like to discuss course related items with me, feel free to drop by my office in **BEC 326**.

E-mail: conglinchi@uvic.ca. I will only **respond to messages sent from your UVIC email** (e.g., gmail or hotmail, etc.) will be ignored. You must include **ECON317** in the subject line and your student number at the end of every email. It helps me find correspondence with you efficiently. If I can answer your email briefly, I will try to respond within 3 business days. Students typically will not get response if the answers to their questions are already in the Course Outline or announcements on Brightspace. Questions in any email should not require more than two sentences to answer. For any question that involves more than two sentences to answer, or requires equation or graph, should be discussed in person during office hours.

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 11:30am-1:30pm and Wednesdays from 11:30am-1:30pm.

Overview of Syllabus

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Course Website:

Accessible through [Brightspace](#). It is your responsibility to monitor Brightspace regularly. Important course documents, notes, announcements, among many other items will be published there. Students are advised to check it frequently.

Course Overview:

Economics studies the allocation of limited resources among unlimited needs and wants. This course will introduce students to how this takes place in the context of contemporary Canadian health care. By the end of the course, students will understand how Canada's health system is organized, and be able to conduct basic economic evaluations of health care. To this end, the course will focus on A.C.T.-ing: Analysis, Critique & Communication, and Theory. Analysis: you'll be expected to apply economic concepts to the analysis of real-world situations. Health care is a practical discipline, and the real world is a messy place. It's important to understand first-hand issues that come up when theory meets practice. Critique & Communication: A focus of this course will be to train you to read published papers on the economics of health care, and to be able to understand and critique them. You will also be trained in how to effectively communicate your ideas and critiques to the relevant audiences. Theory: A focus of this course will be making sure that students understand the current theory underlying cost-effectiveness analysis of health care.

Required Textbooks and online platform:

- **Required readings will be provided online.** Course files will be distributed via Brightspace in PDF. You will need to be able to open these files. These are also the file formats that you are required to submit your projects in. You are also encouraged to install Zoom to attend live office hours. UVic students get access to [Microsoft 365](#) for free. We will make use of a number of textbooks and sources, all of them free in digital form to UVic students. Links will be provided as texts become relevant.
- **Crowdmark** will be a critical platform for the course. You will be completing quiz assessments, uploading writing assignments and Research project through Crowdmark. A link will be emailed to you for accessing all the evaluations, and the same link will also be published on Brightspace.

Grading:

The final grade is determined from the following evaluations: 1. Ongoing quizzes (10%) and ongoing writing assignments (10%) distributed throughout the term, with their due dates indicated in the course schedule at the end of the syllabus 2. Midterm (25%) 3. Research project (25%), 4. Final exam (30%)

Evaluations:

- **Ongoing Quizzes (10%):** There will be roughly 4 quizzes distributed throughout the term. The format of quizzes are multiple choice. This is to test your understanding of subject materials. A good way to prepare is to complete the required readings and understand the lectures. All quizzes are administered through Crowdmark. The best 3 out of 4 quizzes will count. This is to say that if you miss one quiz due to any reasons (i.e. work conflict, family matters, sickness, etc), you do not need to let me know or send any documentation. If you miss one quiz, there will be no penalty. If you complete all 4 quizzes, the lowest grade for all the quizzes will be dropped. The quizzes will be available on Thursday nights at 9pm, and must be completed by Friday nights at 9pm. There is a 24-hour window which will allow you to complete the quiz. Once started, you will have 30 minutes to finish. Make sure you can allocate 30 minutes without disruption in one sitting.
- **Ongoing Writing Assignments (10%):** There will be roughly 4 writing assignments distributed throughout the term. The format of writing assignments are short response answers. This is to provide opportunities for writing in the context of health economics, critically analyze economic theory and making connections to real world problems. All writing assignments are administered through Crowdmark. The best 3 out of 4 writing assignments will count. This is to say that if you miss one due to any reasons (i.e. work conflict, family matters, sickness, etc), you do not need to let me know or send any documentation. There will be no penalty. If you complete all 4 writing assignments, the lowest grade for all the quizzes will be dropped. The writing assignments are graded based on a scale of 0, 1, 2, or 3 out of 3. This is also a good way to provide you feedback in preparation for the major research project.

- **Midterm (25%):** This will be written in-class. The duration is 50 minutes. It consists of a combination of multiple choice and short-answer questions. More on this will be elaborated. If you miss the midterm for legitimate reasons, the weight of the midterm will be shifted to the final exam. Generally, the midterm grades are known to be higher than final exams, due to the cumulative nature of the final. Therefore, it is strongly discouraged to miss the midterm exam.
- **Research project (25%):** The project will ask you to advocate for or against a health care intervention in a particular Canadian population. You will have to choose your topic, communicate your argument to the relevant general public using insights from behavioral economics, make your case to the relevant Canadian government using your knowledge of cost-effectiveness analysis, and finally analyze the situation as an economist, from the point of view of a hypothetical benevolent social planner. More details are available on Brightspace. The research project is submitted to Brightspace and to Crowdmark, and your submissions must be in PDF format.
- **Final Exam (30%):** The final exam will be held during the December exam period. It is projected that the final exam is an in-person exam on the Victoria campus. You do NOT need to pass the exam to pass the course, and you do NOT need to even attend the exam to pass the course. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Grading Scale:

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

From the [UVic Undergraduate Grading Scale](#)

Course Policies: This course adheres to the [Undergraduate Course Policies](#) of the Department of Economics that deal with the following issues:

- Academic concessions
- Academic integrity (plagiarism and cheating)
- Attendance
- Grading
- Inclusivity and diversity
- Late adds
- Late assignments
- Repeating courses
- Review of an assigned grade
- Sexualized violence prevention and response
- Students with a disability
- Term assignments and debarment from examinations
- Travel plans
- Waitlists

The following policies are explicitly included because of their importance.

Examinations: Participation for all scheduled examinations is critical. However, it is not mandatory to write the exam to pass the course. If you choose to miss the exam, you will receive 0, and your final mark will be calculated based on the exam grade of 0 among other items. **Consideration for missed examinations will be given only on the basis of documented illness, accident or family affliction, and for no other reasons.** In the event of a missed final examination, students are advised to follow the procedures outlined in the [University Calendar](#). Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. There will be no special accommodation if travel plans conflict with the examination.

Waitlist Policies:

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- 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 the practices described in the [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) in the University Calendar, is subject to penalty by the University. Review [What is Plagiarism](#) for the definition of plagiarism. Note: Submitted work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

Student Code of Conduct:

The Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences Faculties have adopted this [Student code of conduct](#). Please, review.

University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness:

The University is committed to promoting, providing and protecting a positive, supportive and safe learning and working environment for all its members. See [General University Policies](#).

Accessibility & Health Resources:

[Centre for Accessible Learning](#)

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, you are free to approach me; however, you must register with the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) for formal arrangements to be made. The CAL staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

[Health Services](#) - University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.

[Support Connect](#) - a 24/7 mental health support service for students.

- Toll-free (calls from North America): 1-844-773-1427
- International collect calls: 1-250-999-7621

[Counselling Services](#)- Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.

[Elder's Voices](#) - The Office of Indigenous Academic and Community Engagement (IACE) has the privilege of assembling a group of Elders from local communities to guide students, staff, faculty and administration in Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

Course Experience Survey (CES):

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential course experience survey (CES) 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. When it is time for you to complete the survey, you will receive

an email inviting you to do so. If you do not receive an email invitation, you can go directly to the [CES log-in](#). You will use your UVic NetLink ID to access the survey, which can be completed on your laptop, tablet or mobile device. I will remind you nearer the time, but please be thinking about this important activity, especially the following three questions, during the course.

- What strengths did your instructor demonstrate that helped you learn in this course?
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how the instructor could have helped you learn more effectively.
- Please provide specific suggestions as to how this course could be improved.

Sexualized Violence Prevention & Response:

UVic takes sexualized violence seriously, and has raised the bar for what is considered acceptable behaviour. Students are encouraged to learn more about how the university defines sexualized violence and its overall approach by visiting [here](#). If you or someone you know has been impacted by sexualized violence and needs information, advice, and/or support please contact the sexualized violence resource office in Equity and Human Rights (EQHR). Contact svpcoordinator@uvic.ca

UVic Land Acknowledgement:

We acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the University of Victoria stands, and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Topics:

The dates and topics listed in the table below are tentative and subject to change if any of the scheduled lectures is cancelled due to reasons beyond our control.

Week	Important Dates	Topic(s)	Assessments
1	Wednesday, September 7 Thursday, September 8 (online)	Introduction The Basics I	
2	Monday, September 12 Wednesday, September 14 Thursday, September 15 (online)	The Basics II Determinants of Health Demand for Health Care	
3	Monday, September 19 Wednesday, September 21 Thursday, September 22 (online) Friday, September 23	Framing Opiates Opium and Morphine Users Week 1 and 2 topics	Quiz 1 due at 9pm
4	Monday, September 26 Wednesday, September 28 Thursday, September 29 (online) Friday, September 30	Agency Supplier Induced Demand Primary Care Reform in Ontario Week 3 topics	Assignment 1 due at 9pm
5	Monday, October 3 Wednesday, October 5 Thursday, October 6 (online) Friday, October 7	Informal Care Costing Discounting Week 4 topics	Quiz 2 due at 9pm
6	Wednesday, October 12 Thursday, October 13 (online) Friday, October 14	QALY From QALY to Dollars Week 5 topics	Assignment 2 due at 9pm
7	Monday, October 17 Wednesday, October 19 Thursday, October 20 (online)	What's up with WTA? Week 1 to 6 topics Cost and Utility Analysis I	Midterm
8	Monday, October 24 Wednesday, October 26 Thursday, October 27 (online) Friday, October 28	Cost and Utility Analysis II Insurance Out of Pocket Payments Week 7 topics	Quiz 3 due at 9pm
9	Monday, October 31 Wednesday, November 2 Thursday, November 3 (online) Friday, November 4	Pills and Patients Negotiated Drug Prices Regulated Drug Prices Week 8 topics	Assignment 3 due at 9pm
10	Monday, November 7	Health Canada and Drug Trials	
11	Monday, November 14 Wednesday, November 16 Thursday, November 17 (online) Friday, November 18	Efficiency vs Equity Measuring Production Efficiency Organ Transplants Week 9 and 10 topics	Quiz 4 due at 9pm
12	Monday, November 21 Wednesday, November 23 Thursday, November 24 (online) Friday, November 25	Transgender Health Canada Health Transfer Indigenous Health Students' Choice	Research Project due at 9pm
13	Monday, November 28 Wednesday, November 30 Thursday, December 1 (online) Friday, December 2	Health and Residential Schools Toward the Northern Door Covid-19 I Week 12 topics	Assignment 4 due at 9pm
14	Monday, December 5	Covid-19 II	