

**Health Economics (ECN 132)**  
**Syllabus**  
**Department of Economics**  
**University of California, Davis**  
**Summer session II 2016**

**Instructor:** Chuan He

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**Lectures:** MTW 12:10 – 1:50 PM Wellman 119

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**Discussion Sections:**

Thursdays 4:10-5:50 Physics Building 140

Thursdays 6:10-7:50 Physics Building 140

**Prerequisites:** ECN 100 (Intermediate Microeconomics) or consent of instructor

**Textbook: Required**

Jay Bhattacharya, Timothy Hyde and Peter Tu: *Health Economics*, First edition, Palgrave MacMillan, 2014.

## Course Description:

Comparing to other fields of economics, health economics is complicated by a lack of information, great uncertainty and payment through third-parties rather than direct payment by the consumer. This course is intended to provide a description of the institutional features of the health care market and the current trend in this rapidly changing field, and to introduce the use of economic theories and statistical analysis towards the health care market.

## Course Materials:

Syllabus, slides and homework will be posted on <http://smartsite.ucdavis.edu>.

## Course Grading:

- **Midterm 1: 24% --Monday August 15 (7<sup>th</sup> class)**
- **Midterm 2: 24% --Tuesday August 29 (13<sup>th</sup> class)**

There will be two midterm exams in class during the session. Each midterm will be approximately 90 minutes in length and not comprehensive. Exams will be closed book and closed note, with a mixture of comprehensive and analytical questions. You need to bring student photo ID to class for exams.

- **Homework: 12% --Due in class on August 8, 22, September 6**

Homework should be submitted as a hard copy in class. Homework that are turned in late and/or electronically will not be accepted without special permission. There will be a total of three homework assignments and each assignment will be graded out of four points.

- **Final Exam: 40% --Wednesday September 7 (last class)**

The final exam is comprehensive and only offered at the time above. More details will be given closer to the date of the final.

## Important Policies

- Grades are determined at the end of the summer session. Any curve, if there is one, is set at that time. Your grade depends on your relative standing in the distribution of scores in the whole class, and the average of the distribution is determined by the Department of Economics at UC Davis with an average 2.7 GPA:  
<http://www.econ.ucdavis.edu/courses/grading-policy>

- No makeup exams in general. You must be able to provide verification for any potentially acceptable reasons to miss an exam. In the case of an excused absence, the remedy will be a re-weight of other exam scores.
- Late homework is not accepted. Please note that copying verbatim from an answer key or other sources is considered plagiarism under UC Davis's definition and will result in a zero homework score.
- Exam regrade policy: If you think that your exam has been graded incorrectly, you must submit a written explanation and discuss the issue to me within 1 calendar week of getting the exam back. The written explanation should explicitly explain why the answer given is correct in full detail. Note that your entire exam is open to regrading, so your grade could go down as well as go up. No regrade requests will be considered after that point. Per UC Davis policy, there are no regrades of final exams.
- Academic honesty: All students should be familiar with the University's policy on academic honesty (UCD Student Judicial Affairs website <http://sja.ucdavis.edu/cac.html>). Any suspected cheating will be taken seriously and can result in failing the course. Note that cheating includes but is not limited to use of cell phones, PDAs, portable music devices, any other unauthorized book, papers, notes, or device during the exams, "Wandering eyes," talking during exams, or leaving the exam room without permission.

## **Course Outline:**

### **Week 1**

Introduction: Chapter 1

Economics of Health Insurance: Chapter 18, 7, 8

- Aug. 1: Class 1—Ch.1
- Aug. 2: Class 2—Ch. 18, 7
- Aug. 3: Class 3—Ch.7, 8

### **Week 2**

Economics of Health Insurance: Chapter 8, 9, 11

- Aug. 8: Class 4—**Homework 1 Due**; Ch. 8
- Aug. 9: Class 5—Ch.9
- Aug. 10: Class 6—Ch.11

### **Week 3**

Economics Evaluation of Health Services and Technology: Chapter 13-14

- Aug. 15: Class 7—**Midterm 1**
- Aug. 16: Class 8—Ch.13
- Aug. 17: Class 9—Ch.14

#### Week 4

Demand: Chapter 2-3

Supply: Chapter 5-6

- Aug. 22: Class 10—**Homework 2 Due**; Ch.2-3
- Aug. 23: Class 11—Ch.3,5
- Aug. 24: Class 12—Ch.5-6

#### Week 5

Public Health Economics and Government's Role: Chapter 20

Health Policy and International Comparison: Chapter 15

- Aug. 29: Class 13—**Midterm 2**
- Aug. 30: Class 14—Ch. 20
- Aug. 31: Class 15—Ch.15

#### Week 6

- Sep. 5: Class 16—Labor Day holiday, no class
- Sep. 6: Class 17—Review; **Homework 3 Due**
- Sep. 7: Class 18—**Final exam**