

PLEASE NOTE: This course depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus. Several platforms will be used in this course (e.g., eClass, Zoom, etc.) through which students will interact with the course materials, the course director/TA, as well as with one another. Please review the syllabus to determine how the class meets, and how office hours and lectures will be conducted. Students shall note the following:

- Zoom is hosted on servers in the U.S. This includes recordings done through Zoom.
- If you have privacy concerns about your data, provide only your first name or a nickname when you join a Zoom session and keep your webcam and microphone off.
- The system is configured in a way that all participants are automatically notified when a session is being recorded. A Zoom session cannot be recorded without you knowing about it.
- Technology requirements and FAQs for eClass can be found here
- <https://lthelp.yorku.ca/student-guide-to-moodle>

**Dept. of Economics, Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York University
Summer S1 2021 Course Outline**

COURSE #: AP/ECON 3510 3.0A S1 2021

COURSE TITLE: Health Economics

COURSE SCHEDULE: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30-2:30

COURSE LOCATION: Remote – over Zoom web conferencing see links posted on eClass course website (<https://eClass.yorku.ca/>)

1a. Course Instructor and TA Contact:

Professor: Neil Buckley, Department of Economics

E-mail: nbuckley@yorku.ca (please include “Econ 3510” in the subject line)

Course Website: on eClass: <http://eClass.yorku.ca>

Virtual Office hours: Wednesdays 11am-12pm, over Zoom web conferencing (links posted on eClass)

Teaching Assistant/TA: TBA

E-mail: [TBA](#) (please include “Econ 3510” in the subject line)

Virtual Office hours: TBA (links posted on eClass)

1b. Course Delivery and Technical Requirements for Taking the Course:

Please note that this course depends on remote teaching and learning. There will be no in-person interactions or activities on campus. Lectures will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30-2:30 over Zoom web conferencing. The instructor will be using a webcam so you will be able to see him as well as the course slides and other materials he will be sharing over Zoom. Students will not require webcams but can ask questions and join discussion during class by using the “raising hand” feature in Zoom and then can use their audio microphone or type their questions/comments in the Zoom text chat (it is the student’s choice). The Zoom lecture will be recorded and posted on the eClass course website so that students who are unable to attend the live Zoom lecture during class time can still participate. In this way the class lectures will have a live synchronous component, but that component can also be viewed anytime asynchronously. Live participation is encouraged but not required. The Zoom class settings will have student’s webcams and microphones turned off upon entry to the lecture. Students can ask questions and discuss course material using the eClass discussion boards as well as the instructor and TA will hold office hours every week as stated above

over Zoom. These office hours will not be recorded but they are provided so that students can get extra help if they need it or if they would like to ask questions outside of class time. Class tests and the final exam will be held online over eClass on the days and times provided below. The tests and final exam will be synchronous meaning all students enrolled in the course will participate at the same time stated below. It is each student's responsibility to ensure they have functioning and stable computer equipment and internet connections. More information about tests and exams is provided on the course eClass website but a technical practice test will be provided before the first test so that students can ensure they have the proper equipment to access the eClass tests/exam. Given the above requirements, students will need a stable, high-speed internet connection and computer capable of accessing Zoom and eClass but will not require webcams or microphones.

Here are some useful links for student computing information, resources and help:

[Student Guide to Moodle](#)

[Zoom@YorkU Best Practices](#)

[Zoom@YorkU User Reference Guide](#)

[Computing for Students Website](#)

[Student Guide to eLearning at York University](#)

Internet connection and speed can be determined by online test [Speedtest](#).

2a. Course Description (prerequisites/co-requisites):

The course examines the determinants of supply and demand in the health services industry and the causes of medical cost inflation. Introduces economic models of physician and hospital behaviour and uses case studies to consider the influence of health insurance, reimbursement schemes, and practitioners' discretion on the delivery system.

Prerequisites: AP/ECON 1000 3.00 or equivalent.

2b. Course Learning Objectives:

Health economics is a key area of research in academia, government and industry and has become a central theme in current public policy debates in Canada. By examining the role of economic analysis in rationalizing the resources allocated to the health care sector, this course aims to:

1. Familiarize students with the application of the tools of economic analysis to the field of health and health care.
2. Allow students to gain greater awareness of the economic underpinnings of health care finance, funding and delivery in Canada and their implications to contemporary health policy issues.

3. Required Course Text / Readings:

Full detailed lecture notes will be provided on the course eClass website.

(Optional): Hurley, Jeremiah E. 2010. *Health Economics*. 1st edition. McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

4a. Weighting of Course and Test/Exam Policies:

Test 1:	25%, Thurs. May 27th 1 st 2021 11:45am, Online through eClass
Test 2:	25%, Thurs. June 10 th 2021 11:45am, Online through eClass
Final Exam:	50%, To be scheduled by the Registrar June 23-25 th 2021, date/time/location to be announced), Online through eClass

Your grade for this course will be based on two 45 minute tests (worth 25% each) and a 90 minute final examination worth 50% of the final grade. Both the tests and the final exam will be open book with multiple-choice and both short and long answer written questions. However, the tests and exam are designed so that time will be tight and there will likely not be time to look things up so you must know the material like you would for an in-person closed-book test or exam. Sample questions and answers will be provided on eClass for practice. The first test will be comprised of material covered up until the end of the previous class and the second test will involve material covered after the first test up to that point. Graded tests will be available to students so that they can learn from their mistakes and so that they can prepare for the final exam. The results from the first test will be released to students before the drop deadline on June 7th (although likely close to that date). The final exam will cover material from the entire course but will be weighted heavier on material covered after the second test. **There are no make-up tests for any reason.** Should you miss either or both of the tests the weight of the missing test will automatically be transferred to your final exam (no emails or forms or doctor's notes required given our emergency COVID situation). Regardless, students are strongly urged to write both midterms as this has been correlated with higher grades in past terms. Students who miss the final exam are required to notify the instructor by email (nbuckley@yorku.ca) of why they have missed the exam within 48 hours of this missed final exam and comply with the Department of Economics policy on deferred exams before a deferred exam will be granted (deferred exams will likely be held soon after the exam period or later in the summer).

On test days: On test days the test will begin at 11:45 and a short lecture will be held afterward beginning at 12:45. The tests will be held during class time and all students must write them at the same time. On the two test days nothing will occur during the first 15 minutes of class, 11:30-11:45 will be given for students to prepare. The tests will begin at 11:45am and will be held on the course eClass website. A technical practice test will be announced in the first few weeks of class so that students can get to know what is expected of them. The tests will last for 45 minutes and students will be given a 15 minute break after the test, before the second half of the class lecture will begin at 12:45 (meet back on the Zoom lecture then).

4b. Course Copyright and Academic Honesty Policies:

Recordings and Copyright

As stated above, in addition to the detailed lecture slides, the course Zoom lectures will be recorded and posted on eClass so that students who cannot attend live can still participate. The recordings should be used for individual educational purposes only and are only being provided as a means for enhancing accessibility. **Students do not have permission to record, duplicate, copy and/or distribute the slides and recordings outside of the class (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also FIPPA).**

Academic honesty and integrity

In this course, we strive to maintain academic integrity to the highest extent possible. Please familiarize yourself with the meaning of academic integrity by completing SPARK's Academic Integrity module at the beginning of the course. Breaches of academic integrity range from cheating to plagiarism (i.e., taking credit for others work). All instances of academic dishonesty in this course will be reported to the appropriate university authorities, and can be punishable according to the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty.

5. Course Topics and Important Dates:

Students are expected to check the course eClass website (<https://eclass.yorku.ca>) regularly for updated course information.

- Topic 1: Canadian Health Care System (Highlights: Introduction, Cross country comparisons, Canada Health Act)
- Topic 2: Efficiency, Equity (Highlights: Technical and Allocative Efficiency, Distributional vs. Procedural Equity)
- Topic 3: Economics of Markets (Highlights: Market Failure, Efficiency, Externalities, How to Interpret Health Statistics/Analysis)
- Topic 4: Economic Evaluation in Health Care (Highlights: Cost-effectiveness and Cost-Utility Analysis, QALYs]
- Topic 5 Determinants/Demand for Health (Highlights: Economic Evidence of Determinants of Health, Causal Relationships vs. Spurious Correlation, Grossman Model of Demand for Health)
- Topic 6: Health Care as an Economic Commodity (Highlights: Informational asymmetry, Agency relationship, Demand vs. Need vs. Utilization, Supplier-induced Demand)
- Topic 7: Health Care Insurance (Highlights: Risk Aversion, Actuarially Fair Insurance, Moral Hazard, Adverse Selection)
- Topic 8: Health Care Financing (Highlights: Private vs. Taxation vs. Social insurance contributions Finance, Supplemental vs. Substitutive Parallel Finance, Technical and Allocative Efficiency of Finance)
- Topic 9: Health Care Funding (Highlights: Capitation vs. Fee-for-service vs. Case-based payments, Efficiency vs. Strategic Selection incentives, Case Study of Ontario Physician Payment Systems)
- Topic 10: Delivery of Health Care involving Physicians, Hospitals and Pharmaceuticals (Highlights: physician modelling, target income hypothesis, wait times, patent protection and pharmaceutical pricing) [If time allows]

Important Dates:

S1 term begins: May 10, 2021 (**our first class is on May 11 2021**)

Last date to enroll without permission of course instructor: May 14 2021

Last date to enroll with permission of course instructor: May 21 2021

Last date to drop course without receiving a grade: June 7, 2021

Course Withdrawal Period (receive “W” on transcript): June 8 – June 21 2021

Victoria Day Holiday: May 24, 2021 (**no classes**)

S1 classes end: June 21, 2021 (**our last class is on June 17, 2021**)

S1 Exam Period: June 23-25 2021 (**our exam TBA by registrar**)

6. IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

Final course grades given by the instructor will use the standard York grading scale and may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage; <http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca>

- Senate Policy on Academic Honesty and the Academic Integrity Website
<https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-honesty-senate-policy-on/>
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
<https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/ethics-review-process-for-research-involving-human-participants-policy/>
- Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities (Policy)
<https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities-policy/>
- Student Conduct Standards
<http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/standards.html>
- Religious Observance Accommodation
<https://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-religious-observances-policy-guidelines-and-procedures/>
- Religious Observances Dates
<https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/religious-accommodation-guidelines-2021-2021>
- Grading Scheme and Feedback (Senate) Policy
<http://secretariat-policies.info.yorku.ca/policies/grading-scheme-and-feedback-policy/>
- Important Sessional Dates
<https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates>

7. Approximate Class Schedule

Dates below show approximate topic coverage (subject to change). Please make sure to check the eClass course website for an accurate listing of topic covered each week.

DAY #	DATE	LECTURE
1	Tues. May 11 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 1: Introduction, course outline, review of the Canadian health care system [Highlights: Cross country comparisons, Canada Health Act].
2	Thurs. May 13 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 2: Efficiency and Equity in Healthcare [Highlights: Technical and Allocative Efficiency, Distributional vs. Procedural Equity].
3	Tues. May 18 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 3: Market principles and Analysis of Healthcare data [Highlights Market Failure, Efficiency, Externalities, How to Interpret Health Statistics/Analysis]
4	Thurs. May 20 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 4: Economic Evaluation in Healthcare [Highlights: Cost-effectiveness and Cost-Utility Analysis, QALYs].
5	Tues. May 25 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 5: Determinants of, and Demand for, Health [Highlights: Economic Evidence of Determinants of Health, Causal vs. Spurious Correlation, Grossman Model of Demand for Health].

6	Thurs. May 27 11:30-2:30pm	The first half of class will be devoted to <i>Test 1 on eClass (starts at 11:45 and lasts until 12:30, use 11:30-11:45 to take your time and setup) [Covering all topics discussed in lectures up to this point. Make sure to see practice sample tests on the eClass website].</i> At 12:45 we will meet back on Zoom to continue the second half of class to either finish Topic 5 or begin Topic 6.
7	Tues. June 1 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 6: Healthcare as an Economic Commodity [Highlights: Informational asymmetry, Agency relationship, Demand vs. Need vs. Utilization, Supplier-Induced Demand].
8	Thurs. June 3 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 7: Fundamentals of Healthcare Insurance [Highlights: Risk aversion, Actuarially Fair Insurance, Moral Hazard, Adverse Selection].
9	Tues. June 8 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 8: Healthcare Financing [Highlights: Financing Privately vs. Publicly vs. Social Insurance Contributions, Supplemental vs. Substitutive Parallel Finance, Technical and Allocative Efficiency of Finance].
10	Thurs. June 10 11:30-2:30pm	The first half of class will be devoted to <i>Test 2 on eClass (starts at 11:45 and lasts until 12:30, use 11:30-11:45 to take your time and setup) [Covering all topics discussed in lectures after Test 1 and up to this point. Make sure to see practice sample tests on the eClass website].</i> At 12:45 we will meet back on Zoom to continue the second half of class to either finish Topic 8 or begin Topic 9.
11	Tues. June 15 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 9: Healthcare Funding [Highlights: Case/Diagnosis-based payments vs. Capitation vs Fee-for-service, Efficiency vs. Strategic Selection Incentives, Case study of Ontario Physician Payment Systems].

12	Thurs. June 17 11:30-2:30pm	Topic 10: Delivery of Healthcare (Pharmaceuticals, Hospitals and Physicians) [Highlights: Patent Protection, Wait times, Target Income Hypothesis]. This topic will only be covered if time allows, we will likely need the time to finish previous topics.
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