

York University
Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies
Department of Economics

AP/ECON 3510M
Health Economics

Winter 2025

WELCOME

Course Website: <http://eclass.yorku.ca>

Lecture Time / Location: Wednesdays from 11:30AM – 2:20PM in DB 0001

Prerequisite: AP/ECON 1000 3.00 or equivalent.

Course Instructor:

Gordana Colby
1044 Vari Hall
gcolby@yorku.ca (please include “ECON 3510” in the subject line)

Course office hours:

- Instructor: Tuesdays from 1:15PM – 2:15PM or by appointment. Instructor Office Hours will be held over Zoom. The Zoom meeting information can be found on the course website.
- TA: TBD

COURSE DELIVERY

Apart from instructor office hours, this course will be delivered entirely in-person. All lectures, quizzes, tests, and final exam, will be held in-person. In-person *lecture attendance is mandatory* as quizzes (which count towards the course grade) will be held during class time throughout the term.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Course materials, including detailed lecture slides, can be accessed online on our eClass course website.

In-class quizzes will be delivered using iClicker. Students will be required to set up a free iClicker account online and to use a personal electronic device (smartphone, tablet, or laptop) to take part in iClicker quizzes for course grades held during class time (more details are provided below).

Instructor office hours will be held via Zoom (these will not be recorded for privacy reasons).

High speed internet access is recommended. In emergency situations the course may shift to remote teaching and learning if required. In this event, more details will be provided on the course website.

OVERVIEW & 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 delivery in Canada and their implications to contemporary health policy issues.

The course analyzes the economic determinants of supply and demand in the health care sector. Special focus will be placed on the role of health insurance, public financing, funding arrangements and reimbursement methods in the provision and utilization of health services. Economic analysis of physicians, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies and implications to current health policy debates will also be discussed.

COURSE TEXT / READINGS

- Full detailed lecture notes will be provided on the course website.
- (Optional – NOT REQUIRED) Hurley, Jeremiah E. 2010. Health Economics. 1st edition. McGraw-Hill Ryerson.
 - Access to the textbook is NOT REQUIRED as all required material will be provided on the eClass course website. It is optional for students who want to read more details on a topic(s).
 - Additionally, the textbook is available for free 24-hour loan on reserve at Scott Library.
 - If you can find second-hand print editions of the textbook, those are fine as well.
 - For students who wish to purchase the digital textbook (\$55 + taxes), it is available from Top Hat. Please follow the instructions below:

We will be using Top Hat to access the digital textbook: if you already have a Top Hat account, you can go to (<https://app.tophat.com/e/614817>) to be taken directly to our course digital textbook.

If you are new to Top Hat:

Go to <https://app.tophat.com/register/student>

Search for our course textbook with the following join code: 614817

For more information about the interactive features in the textbook, click here: <https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Using-Your-Textbook>

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com) or through the in-app support button. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

- Note: Additional readings may be assigned or recommended during the course.

EVALUATION

Task	% of Course Grade	Date	Notes
iClicker Quizzes	15%	12 throughout course First 2 are for practice only	In-person during lecture time Average on remaining 10 quizzes will be multiplied by 1.11, with max of 100%
Test 1	20%	Wed, 12 February 2025, 11:30 AM (duration: 50 min)	In-person during lecture time (in our regular classroom)
Test 2	20%	Wed, 19 March 2025, 11:30 AM (duration: 50 min)	In-person during lecture time (in our regular classroom)
Final Exam	45%	April 8 – 15, 2025 (duration: 120 min)	Scheduled by the Registrar's Office
Totals	100%		

Note:

- Course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

iClicker Quizzes (In-Person During Lecture Time)

The iClicker quizzes will count for 15% of your overall course grade. We will run an iClicker quiz in each class. We will be meeting for 12 classes so there will be 12 iClicker quizzes throughout the term. The first 2 quizzes WILL NOT count towards your grade. These are for practice, so you can work out any technical issues with using iClicker. We will take your average grade of the remaining 10 quizzes (quizzes 3 – 12) and multiply it by 1.11, with a maximum grade of 100%. This effectively means that you can miss 1 iClicker quiz and still get 100% of the iClicker Quizzes grade. For example, if your average grade over quizzes 3 - 12 was 90%, we will multiply this by 1.11 and your recorded grade for the iClicker quizzes would be 100%. *Because of this, no other accommodations for missing quizzes/classes will be granted for any reason.* Attendance for this class is mandatory.

Your iClicker quiz grade for each class will be based on participation and correctness. Each quiz is out of 10 points. The questions will be delivered throughout the class and the number of questions may vary across quizzes/classes. You get 5 points for simply being in attendance and answering at least 75% of the questions delivered that class, regardless of whether you answer the questions correctly or not (you get these 5 points even if all of the questions are answered incorrectly, for instance if there are 6 questions, you would need to answer at least 5). The remaining 5 points are based on correctness and will be spread evenly across the questions delivered in the quiz (so if 5 questions were delivered in the quiz, you would get 1 point for each question you answered correctly; if 6 questions were delivered and you answered 3 correctly, you would get 2.5 points). Unanswered questions will be marked as incorrect. You can view your iClicker grade on eClass, once I have synched the grades after class. This grade is your average iClicker Quizzes grade to date. We will review how to set up and use your iClicker account in our first class.

Graded Tests and Exam (In-person)

Both the term tests and the final exam will be **closed book**. With the exception of a non-programmable calculator, no other AIDS are permitted (NO cheat sheets, notes, etc. may be used).

The term tests and final exam consist of multiple choice (MC), short answer and long answer questions, which will cover the material covered during lectures and in the lecture slides.

Sample questions and answers will be provided on the course website for practice.

Test 1 will cover the material covered in Topics 1-4* and the corresponding lectures.

Test 2 will cover the material covered in Topics 5-7* and the corresponding lectures.

The final exam will cover material from the entire course but will be weighted heavier on material covered after the second test (Topics 8, 9 & 10*). More details about the final exam coverage will be provided as we get closer to the exam date.

**Test and exam topic coverage subject to change. Please check the course website for the most up-to-date information.*

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Dates below show approximate topic coverage (subject to change).

DATE	LECTURE
Jan 8	<p>Topic 1: Introduction, Course Outline, Review of the Canadian Healthcare System [Highlights: Cross country comparisons, Canada Health Act] iClicker Quiz – Not Graded. For practice only.</p>
Jan 15	<p>Topic 2: Efficiency and Equity in Healthcare [Highlights: Technical and Allocative Efficiency, Distributional vs. Procedural Equity] iClicker Quiz – Not Graded. For practice only.</p>
Jan 22	<p>Topic 3: Market Principles and Analysis of Healthcare Data [Highlights: Market Failure, Efficiency, Externalities, How to Interpret Health Statistics/Analysis] iClicker Quiz – Graded</p>
Jan 29	<p>Finish Topic 3 Topic 4: Economic Evaluation in Healthcare [Highlights: Cost-effectiveness and Cost-Utility Analysis, QALYs] iClicker Quiz – Graded</p>
Feb 5	<p>Finish Topic 4 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] iClicker Quiz – Graded</p>
Feb 12	<p>TEST 1: Topics 1 – 4 (first 50 minutes of class; lecture to follow) Finish Topic 5 iClicker Quiz – Graded</p>
Feb 19	<p>Winter Reading Week (no class)</p>

Feb 26	<p>Topic 6: Healthcare as an Economic Commodity [Highlights: Informational Asymmetry, Agency Relationship, Demand vs. Need vs. Utilization, Supplier-Induced Demand] iClicker Quiz – Graded</p>
Mar 5	<p>Finish Topic 6 Topic 7: Fundamentals of Healthcare Insurance [Highlights: Risk Aversion, Actuarially Fair Insurance, Moral Hazard, Adverse Selection] iClicker Quiz - Graded</p>
Mar 12	<p>Finish Topic 7 Topic 8: Healthcare Financing [Highlights: Financing Privately vs Publicly vs Social Insurance Contributions, Supplemental vs. Substitutive Parallel Finance, Technical and Allocative Efficiency of Finance] iClicker Quiz – Graded</p>
Mar 19	<p>TEST 2: Topics 5 – 7 (first 50 minutes of class; lecture to follow) Finish Topic 8 iClicker Quiz – Graded</p>
Mar 26	<p>Finish Topic 8 Topic 9: Healthcare Funding [Highlights: Case/Diagnosis-based Payments vs. Capitation vs. Fee-for-Service, Efficiency vs. Strategic Selection Incentives] iClicker Quiz – Graded</p>
Apr 2	<p>Finish Topic 9 Topic 10: Delivery of Healthcare (Pharmaceuticals, Hospitals and Physicians) [Highlights: Patent Protection, Wait times, Target Income Hypothesis] iClicker Quiz – Graded</p>
Apr 8 - 25	<p>Final Exam (Scheduled by the Registrar's Office)</p>

WHERE TO GET HELP

Discussion Boards

All questions about course content (economics) must be posted to the eClass Discussion Board. The TA and myself will monitor the Discussion board, but often a classmate will provide a correct answer more quickly. Post questions, responses, comments about any course material. All new postings/threads require a subject line. **It is very inefficient to answer individual content questions by email, so please reserve email for personal issues and use the Discussion Board to get your content questions answered.**

Instructor Office Hours

Another great place to get your questions answered (or just drop by to say hello) are in my weekly office hours.

My office hours are on Tuesdays from 1:15PM – 2:15PM or by appointment. Instructor Office Hours will be held over Zoom. The Zoom meeting information can be found on the course website.

Office hours will begin the week of January 13th.

COURSE POLICIES

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., the improper crediting of another's work, the representation of another's ideas as your own, asking for credit for work not done, etc.). 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](#).

Recordings and Copyright

Any recordings or course materials posted to the course website should be used for individual educational purposes only. Students do not have permission to record, duplicate, copy and/or distribute these recordings or course materials outside of the class (these acts can violate not only copyright laws but also [FIPPA](#)).

Missed Tests

There are no make-up tests for any reason. Should you miss either or both of the tests, the weight of the missing test(s) will be automatically transferred to your final exam (no emails, forms or documents are required). Students are strongly urged to write both term tests if they are able, as this has been correlated with higher grades in past terms.

Deferred Final Exam Policy

Students who miss the final exam for a valid reason are required to notify the instructor by email (gcolby@yorku.ca) of why they have missed the exam within 48 hours of the missed final exam. They must also submit the Deferred Standing Mach form (the link to the form will be posted to eClass closer to the exam date) **within 7 days of the original exam date** before a deferred exam will be granted (the deferred exam will likely be held in May). Students who do not submit the Deferred Standing Mach form within 7 days of the missed exam, will receive a zero for their final exam score.

Accessibility Needs

York University is committed to accessibility.

Students no longer submit Letters of Accommodation to their instructor. Rather, students submit their Letter of Accommodation through a companion Student Portal available through Student Accessibility Services. Instructors will then access the Letters of Accommodation directly via a Faculty Portal.

Religious Accommodations

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the community. If a test or exam date clashes with the day of your religious observance, we will arrange an alternative date **only if you submit a completed Religious Accommodation Form (see Important Academic Forms section) at least two weeks in advance.** Please email your completed form to your instructor (gcolby@yorku.ca).

Additional Information

Students are expected to check the course website found at <http://eclass.yorku.ca> regularly for updated course information.

Important Academic Forms

- Religious Accommodation - <https://secure.students.yorku.ca/pdf/religious-accommodation-agreement-final-examinations.pdf>
- Deferred Standing – link to online mach form will be available closer to the final exam date.
- Attending Physician’s Statement Form - <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>

Important Dates

	Winter 2025
First Day of Classes	Jan 6
Last date to add a course without permission of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Jan 20
Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Mar 14
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of “W” on transcript)	Mar 15 – Apr 4
Last Day of Classes	Apr 4
Final Exam Period	Apr 8 - 25

Important Information for Students

- All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the [Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage](#).
- York’s Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures is located on the [York University Senate webpage](#). As per Senate Policy, academic honesty and integrity is defined as conduct that violates the ethical or legal standards of the University community or of one’s program or specialization is subject to severe penalties. Students are responsible for understanding the nature and consequences of these offences, as contained in the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. More information on academic integrity for students can be found on the [York Academic Integrity Website](#).

- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants located using the [Senate Policy Research Involving Human Participants link](#)
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities can be accessed using the [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities link](#).
- Information on student conduct standards can be reviewed on the [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities webpage](#).
- Students requiring religious accommodation should review the Religious Accommodations Guidelines using the [Religious Observance link](#).