UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

CUMMING SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
GRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: MDCH 661			
Course	Health Economics I		
Pre/Co-Requisites	None		
Faculty	Cumming School of Medicine, Graduate Science Education		
Instructor Name(s)	Mingshan Lu	**Email**	lu@ucalgary.ca
Office Location	ZOOM Delivery https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/6796995035	**Office Hours**	MW 13:00-13:50
Instructor Email Policy	All emails sent to the instructor must come from an official University of Calgary email account.		
Telephone No.	N/A		
TA Name, if applicable		**Email**	
Class Term, Days	Winter 2021, MW		
Class Times	14:00 - 15:15		
Class Location	Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times (synchronous) and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.		

COURSE INFORMATION/DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

Health care industry is a multi-billion dollar industry; it is largely complex and constantly evolving. Health care reform is one of the most critical and challenging issues facing countries around the world; countries including Canada are experimenting with various approaches to make the existing system work more efficiently. These on-going efforts will generate profound impacts on all sectors in the health care industry for many years to come.

This course introduces students to the fundamental tradeoffs and principles common to global health care systems. Students will learn how to apply basic economic concepts, theories, and analytical tools to understanding the special features of health care markets as well as the role of government interventions. Specifics of health care financing policy and reforms from the Canadian health care system as well as other systems that are of particular interest will be discussed. This highly interactive course is designed to help student to establish a conceptual framework to evaluate health care system and policy, to be able to understand and participate in evidence-based decision making in health care.

Health care industry is a multi-billion dollar industry; it is largely complex and constantly evolving. Health care reform is one of the most critical and challenging issues facing countries around the world; countries including Canada are experimenting with various approaches to make the existing system work more efficiently. These on-going efforts will generate profound impacts on all sectors in the health care industry for many years to come.

This course introduces students to the fundamental tradeoffs and principles common to global health care systems. Students will learn how to apply basic economic concepts, theories, and analytical tools to understanding the special features of health care markets as well as the role of government interventions. Specifics of health care financing policy and reforms from the Canadian health care system as well as other systems that are of particular interest will be discussed. This highly interactive course is designed to help student to establish a conceptual framework to evaluate health care system and policy, to be able to understand and participate in evidence-based decision making in health care.

All students with an interest in health economics, health services research, and health policy are encouraged to enroll; background in health care field or advanced economics is not required.

LEARNING RESOURCES/REQUIRED READING

None. (For each topic covered, journal publications will be provided as reading materials.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is geared to graduate students with research interests in the fields of health economics, health services research, and health care policy. It is specifically designed to help students to apply the concepts and methodologies of health economics in health care. Throughout the term, students will be exposed to various applied health economics issues with high policy relevance. The course is designed to provide guidance for the students to explore, select and develop their own research project, which will lead to a research proposal or research paper delivered at the end of the term.

Communication:

D2L (including Class Announcement, Discussion, etc.) will be used extensively for communication with Students. A link to the zoom class will be provided on D2L. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they receive all posted communications and documents and that they receive e-mails send by instructors of fellow students through D2L. Only your @ucalgary.ca e-mail address maybe linked to D2L. Please ensure that you are regularly checking your @ucalgary.ca account.

Learning Technology Requirements

In order to successfully engage in learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Please see the following for a detailed explanation of the minimal required technology for online learning
https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/technology-requirements-for-students/

A laptop, desktop, tablet or mobile device is required for D2L access. If you need help accessing or using D2L, please visit the Desire2Learn resource page for students: http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/d2l-student/.

If your technology requirements are different from what is noted above, please advise in this section

The University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine would like to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), as well as the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

CUT POINTS FOR GRADES			
This course adheres to the grading system outlined in the University of Calgary, Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar. Grades of A+ and A are not distinguished in the calculation of GPAs. Percentage/letter grade conversion used for this course is as follows			
Grade	**Grade Point Value**	**Percentage Conversion**	**Graduate Description**
A+	4.00	95-100	Outstanding
A	4.00	85-94	Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	80-84	Very Good Performance
B+	3.30	75-79	Good Performance
B	3.00	70-74	Satisfactory Performance
B-	2.70	65-69	Minimum Pass for Students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies

C+	2.30	55-64	All grades below 'B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements
C	2.00	50-54	

Assessment Components: The University policy on grading related matters is outlined in the 2020-2021 Calendar.			
Assessment Methods	**Description**	**Weight %**	**Due Date and Time**
Class participation	Grade for class participation is based on attendance, interactions/contributions in class discussions, and demonstrated familiarity with course readings.	15%	
3 Quizzes	The quizzes are take-home exams designed and intended to be completed in 90 minutes. The exam(s) will be open book. The exam(s) will be available on D2L. Student will download the exam from D2L, complete the exam, scan it, and submit using Dropbox in D2L. All students will be accommodated to have 100% additional time to complete and upload the exam, at a time of your choosing, within a 24-hour period determined by the instructor.	45% (15% each)	January 25th, 2021 February 24th, 2021, March 31st, 2021 (tentative)
Term Project	Including presentation at class mini-conference, and a term paper	40%	Term paper due 11:59pm April 20th, 2021

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION INFORMATION
ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS: Students are expected to attend all lectures and participate in the class discussions. Attendance will be taken for each class. Grade for class participation is based on attendance, interactions/contributions in class discussions, and demonstrated familiarity with course readings. There will be class discussions for almost every class (e.g. designing a project to address a specific policy relevant question). Students are expected to engage in these discussions and demonstrate their understanding of the course materials as well as research abilities.   **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:** The quizzes and the final project report are to be submitted using Dropbox in D2L.   **FINAL EXAMINATIONS:**

The quizzes are take-home exams designed and intended to be completed in 90 minutes. The exam(s) will be open book. The exam(s) will be available on D2L. Student will download the exam from D2L, complete the exam, scan it, and submit using Dropbox in D2L. All students will be accommodated to have 100% additional time to complete and upload the exam, at a time of your choosing, within a 24-hour period determined by the instructor. This course has no final examination. Instead, the course emphasized writing and presentation skills.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING:
Plagiarism check will be performed on submitted term papers.

LATE AND/OR MISSING ASSIGNMENTS:
THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the written final project; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.

Is a passing grade on a particular component essential to pass the course as a whole?
Students must receive a passing grade on CLASS PARTICPATION and TERM PROJECT to pass the course as a whole.

COURSE TIMETABLE (Tentative)			
Course Schedule Date	Topic & Reading	Instructor	Assignments/Due Dates & Times
January 11th, 13th	Introduction: Canadian Health Care System	M. Lu	
January 18th, 20th	Why is Health Care Industry Different	M. Lu	
January 25th	Quiz 1		
January 27th February 1st, 3rd	RAND Health Insurance Experiment Efficiency	M. Lu M. Lu	
February 8th, 10th	Equity	M. Lu	
February 15th, 17th	Reading Week	M. Lu	

February 22nd	Quiz 2		
February 24th, March 1st	Does Treatment Work? – Determinants of Health	M. Lu	
March 3rd, 8th	Physicians: Payment Systems and Economic Incentives	M. Lu	
March 10th, 15th	Hospitals	M. Lu	
March 17th, 22nd	Payment Systems and Economic Incentives	M. Lu	
March 24th, 29th	Marketing in Health Care	M. Lu	
March 31st	Quiz 3		
April 5th ~ 14th	Class Mini-conference: Term Project Presentations	M. Lu	

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a 'live' video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions, you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies. If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity (where available). Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (such as for group work, presentations, etc).

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only.

Conduct During Lectures

The classroom should be respected as a safe place to share ideas without judgement - a community in which we can all learn from one another. Students are expected to frame their comments and questions to lecturers in respectful and appropriate language, always maintaining sensitivity towards the topic. Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment.

As members of the University community, students, employees and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/forms/title.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
The Cumming School of Medicine recognizes that equity, diversity, and inclusion benefits and strengthens all communities, including the medical community and those served by it. We aim to actively engage all learners, particularly those from equity seeking groups including women, Indigenous peoples, visible/racialized minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ+. While our faculty continues to learn about more equitable, diverse, and inclusive approaches to education, we welcome and appreciate suggestions to help us ensure that all learners are well served by our courses. To help cultivate learning environments that support diverse and inclusive perspectives and lived experiences, learners are invited to let instructors know if: • they have names and/or pronouns they would prefer to use that differ from those that appear on official records • scheduled class meetings conflict with religious events so that alternative arrangements can be made If they are not already, learners are also encouraged to become familiar with the various opportunities for diverse engagement, learning, and support on campus, including, but not limited to the following resources: **The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** https://www.ucalgary.ca/equity-diversity-inclusion **The Q Centre** https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/programs-services/student-services/the-q-centre/

The Writing Symbols Lodge
https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/writing-symbols/home

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICE INFORMATION

Cell phones must be turned off in class unless otherwise arranged with the instructor.

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Students are to refrain from accessing websites that may be distracting for fellow learners (e.g. personal emails, Facebook, YouTube). Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.pdf

MEDIA AND RECORDING IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Media recording for lesson capture
Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

Media recording for assessment of student learning
 The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices
The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

Student Recording of Lectures
 Audio or video/visual recording of lectures is prohibited except where explicit permission has been received from the instructor.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY POLICIES AND SUPPORTS

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS
Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Any research in which students are invited to participate will be explained in class and approved by the appropriate University Research Ethics Board

INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Course materials created by professor(s) (including course outlines, presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the professor(s). These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the professor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION
All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdfand requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
The Cumming School of Medicine expects intellectual honesty from its students. Course participants should be aware of University policies relating to Principles of Conduct, Plagiarism and Academic Integrity. These are found in the printed Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar, or online under Academic Regulations in the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar, available at **Faculty of Graduate Studies Academic Regulations**

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT
For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

EMERGENCY EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY POINTS

Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. The primary assembly points for South Campus (Health Science Centre (HSC); Health & Research Innovation Centre (HRIC); Heritage Medical Research Building (HMRB) and Teaching, Research and Wellness (TRW)) are:
- HSC and HMRB: HRIC Atrium (alternate assembly point is Parking Lot 6)
- HRIC: HMRB Atrium (alternate assembly point is Parking Lot 6)
- TRW: McCaig Tower (alternate assembly point is HMRB – Atrium)

APPEALS
If there is a concern with the course, academic matter or a grade, first communicate with the instructor. If these concerns cannot be resolved, students can proceed with an academic appeal, as per Section N of the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar. Students must follow the official process and should contact the Student Ombuds Office (www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds)for assistance with this and with any other academic concerns, including academic and non-academic misconduct

THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT
This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and students should identify themselves on written assignments (exams and term work.) by their name and ID number on the front page and ID on each subsequent page. Assignments given by you to your course instructor will remain confidential unless otherwise stated before submission. The assignment cannot be returned to anyone else without your expressed permission to the instructor. Grades will be made available on an individual basis and students will not have access to other students' grades without expressed consent. Similarly, any information about yourself that you share with your course instructor will not be given to anyone else without your permission

WELLNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES
The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre, at www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website at www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/

SUPPORTS FOR STUDENT LEARNING, SUCCESS, AND SAFETY

Student Ombudsman: The Student Ombuds' Office supports and provides a safe, neutral space for students. For more information, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/ or email ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Student Union: The SU Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220-3911 or suvpaca@ucalgary.ca; Information about the SU, including elected Faculty Representatives can be found here: www.su.ucalgary.ca/

Graduate Student's Association: The GSA Vice-President Academic can be reached at (403) 220- 5997 or gsa.vpa@ucalgary.ca; Information about the GSA can be found here: gsa.ucalgary.ca

SAFEWALK

Campus security will escort individuals, day or night, anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences Centre, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). Call 403-220-5333 or visit www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths. Please ensure your personal safety by taking advantage of this service.