



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 | SS 328 | Office Hours | By appointment |
| Instructor Email Policy | All emails sent to the instructor must come from an official University of Calgary email account. | | |
| Telephone No. | 403-220-5488 | | |
| TA Name, if applicable | | Email | |
| Class Term, Days | Winter 2020, MW | | |
| Class Times | 12:30-14:45 | | |
| Class Location | SS 423 | | |

| COURSE INFORMATION/DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE |
|--|
| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |

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.

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 | 90-94 | Excellent – superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter |
| A- | 3.70 | 85-89 | Very Good Performance |
| B+ | 3.30 | 77-84 | Good Performance |
| B | 3.00 | 72-76 | Satisfactory Performance |
| B- | 2.70 | 68-71 | Minimum Pass for Students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies |
| C+ | 2.30 | 63-67 | All grades below ‘B-‘ are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements |

| Assessment Components: The University policy on grading related matters is outlined in the 2019-2020 Calendar . | | | |
|--|---|----------|--|
| Assessment Methods | Description | Weight % | Due Date <u>and</u> Time |
| Class participation | Grade for class participation is based on attendance, interactions/contributions in class discussions, and demonstrated familiarity with course readings. | 30% | |
| Test | Close-book exam | 35% | March 30 th , 2020 (tentative) |
| Term Project | Including presentation at class mini-conference, and a term paper | 35% | Term paper due 11:59pm April 19 th , 2020 |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| |
|---|
| ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION INFORMATION |
| <p>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.</p> |



GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS:

Instructions for submitting term paper will be provided on D2L.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS:

There is no final exam for this course, only one in-class test. The in-class test is tentatively set on March 30th, 2020; the exact date for the test will be announced at least one week in advance.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP TEST under any circumstances, nor may the test be written early. Students unable to write the test because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted (equally) to class participation and the term project; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.

This test WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions. Programmable calculators, cellphones, textbooks, course notes, and other electronic devices will NOT be allowed during the writing of test. Students are reminded that simply being able to access their cellphone during an exam is academic misconduct.

EXPECTATIONS FOR WRITING:

Plagiarism check will be performed on submitted term papers.

LATE AND/OR MISSING ASSIGNMENTS:

Late submission of term paper will NOT be accepted and 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 13 th , 15 th | Introduction: Canadian Health Care System | M. Lu | |
| January 20 th , 22 nd , 27 th | Why is Health Care Industry Different | M. Lu | |
| January 29 th | RAND Health Insurance Experiment | M. Lu | |
| February 2 nd , 5 th | Efficiency | M. Lu | |



| | | | |
|--|--|-------|--|
| February 10 th , 12 th | Equity | M. Lu | |
| February 17 th , 19 th | Reading Week | M. Lu | |
| February 24 th , 26 th | Does Treatment Work? – Determinants of Health | M. Lu | |
| March 2 nd , 4 th | Physicians: Payment Systems and Economic Incentives | M. Lu | |
| March 9 th , 11 th | Hospitals | M. Lu | |
| March 16 th , 18 th | Payment Systems and Economic Incentives | M. Lu | |
| March 23 rd , 25 th | Marketing in Health Care | M. Lu | |
| March 30 th | Test | | |
| April 6 th , 8 th , 15 th | Class Mini-conference: Term Project Presentations | M. Lu | |

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/electronic-communicationspolicy.pdf>.

MEDIA AND RECORDING IN LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Media recording for lesson capture

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 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 <http://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

COPYRIGHT

It is the responsibility of students and professors to ensure that materials they post or distribute to others comply with the Copyright Act and the University's Fair Dealing Guidance for Students (library.ucalgary.ca/files/library/guidance_for_students.pdf). Further information for students is available on the Copyright Office web page (<https://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>)

A NOTE REGARDING INSTRUCTOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Generally speaking, 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



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 <http://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 (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/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 (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre), <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services> and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website <https://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: <https://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: <https://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 <http://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.