

Faculty of Science Course Syllabus
Department of Economics
Economics 2231
Perspectives on Health Economics
Winter 2019

Instructor: Shelley Phipps C14, 6220 University Ave

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Lectures: Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 – 2:30 *Mona Campbell 1108*

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30 – 4 and Wednesday 11:30-1:00

Course Description

This course introduces students to the role of economics in health, health care, and health policy. It comprises a survey of major topics in health economics and an introduction to ongoing debates over health care policy. Topics covered this term include the measurement of health, social and economic determinants of health, models of individual and family health behaviours, the Canadian health care system, health and the labour market, health externalities, health and the environment, child development, and health issues for an aging and diverse population.

Course Prerequisites: Economics 1101

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

- Develop a basic understanding of how economists apply theoretical models and empirical techniques to aid in understanding health issues/outcomes
- Become familiar with current issues in health/health care in Canada
- Begin to read/evaluate professional literature on health economics
- Enhance economic writing skills
- Learn to access, present and analyse Canadian health economics data

Course Assessment

Component	Weight (% of final grade)	Date
<i>Midterm exam</i>	20	February 14 (in class)
<i>Final exam</i>	30	<i>(Scheduled by Registrar)</i>
<i>Mini Papers</i> (3)	30	
<i>Quizzes</i> (4)	20	

Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D (50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F (<50)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)	

Course Policies

There are no make-up opportunities for missed quizzes or the mid-term exam. The policy for the class will be to add the weight of quizzes missed to the final exam.

You must pass the final exam in order to pass the course. No make-ups will be offered for final exams missed due to conflicts with travel plans.

All three papers must be submitted to pass the class.

In the event of university closure (e.g., for weather, health or security reasons), assignments will be due the following class; the mid-term will be written in the following class.

Academic integrity applies to all work, including assignments, papers and exams; your work may be submitted for electronic plagiarism testing. Please consult the link to university policy on academic integrity provided below and feel free to ask me if you have any questions.

Plagiarism software will be used to check writing assignments.

Course Materials

There is no Canadian textbook currently available in print.

****** It is thus extremely important to attend lectures where relevant economic theory and methods will be covered.******

Consider attending a free note-taking workshop:

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring/workshops/learning-from-lectures.html

Or, consult one of the following:

<https://www.lib.uoguelph.ca/get-assistance/studying/effective-studying/note-taking-skills>

<https://lss.info.yorku.ca/resources/note-taking-at-university/>

Schedule of Topics:

Introduction

Hurley, Jeremiah E. 2010. *Health Economics. First Edition*. Chapter 1: 1-5. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Decady, Yves and Greenberg, Lawson. 2014. "Ninety Years of Life Expectancy." *Health at a Glance*. Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-624-X.

OECD. 2017. *Health at a Glance*. Chapters 1 and 3.

Bushnik, Tracey, Tjepkema, Michael, and Laurent Martel, Laurent. 2018. "Health-adjusted life expectancy in Canada." *Health Reports* 29(4): 14-22. Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 82-003-X.

Rao, D.P., Kropac, E., Do, M.T., Roberts, G.C. and Jayaraman, G.C. 2016. "Childhood overweight and obesity trends in Canada," *Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention in Canada: Research, Policy and Practice* 36(9): 1-5.

Helliwell, John. Layard, Richard and Sachs, Jeffrey. 2018. *World Happiness Report 2012. Chapter 1 and World Happiness Report 2018 Chapter 1*.

Social and economic determinants of population health

Marmot, Michael. 2006. "Health in an unequal world." Harveian Oration. *The Lancet* 365: 2081-2094.

Fortin, Nicole., Green, David. Lemieux, Thomas. Milligan, Kevin and Riddell, W. Craig. 2012. "Canadian Inequality: Recent Developments and Policy Options." *Canadian Public Policy* 38(2): 121-145.

Burton, P. and Phipps, S. 2017. "The Economic Well-Being of Canadian Children." *Canadian Public Policy*, 43(4): 299-330.

Osberg, Lars. 2018. *The Age of Increasing Inequality: The Astonishing Rise of Canada's 1%*. Chapters 1-4, 23-111. Toronto: James Lorimer and Co Ltd, Publishers.

Siddiqi, Arjumand. Brown, Rashida. Nguyen, Quynh C. Loopstra, R. and Kawachi, Ichiro. 2015. "Cross-national comparison of socioeconomic inequalities in obesity in the United States and Canada." *International Journal for Equity in Health* 14(116).

Carrière, Gisele. Garner, Rochelle and Sanmartin, Claudia. 2018. "Social and economic characteristics of those experiencing hospitalizations due to opioid poisonings." *Health Reports*, 29(10): 23-28. Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 82-003-X.

The Canadian health care system

Hurley, Jeremiah E. 2010. *Health Economics. First Edition*. Chapter 1: 5-27. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Curtis, L. and MacMinn, W. 2008. "Health Care Utilization in Canada: Twenty-five Years of Evidence." *Canadian Public Policy* 34(1): 65-87.

Sanmartin, C., Hennessy, D., Lu, Y., and Law, M.L. 2014. "Trends in out-of-pocket health care expenditures in Canada, by household income, 1997 to 2009." *Health Reports* 25(4): 13-17. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-003-X.

Wang, C., Li, Q, Sweetman, A., and Hurley, H. 2015. "Mandatory universal drug plan, access to health care and health: Evidence from Canada." *Journal of Health Economics* 44: 80-96.

Burton, P. and Phipps, S. 2009. "Economic Costs of Caring for Children with Disabilities in Canada." *Canadian Public Policy* 35(3): 269-290.

Health Behaviours

Hurley, Jeremiah E. 2010. *Health Economics. First Edition*, Chapter 5: 133-142. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Emma, Peter. Scarborough, Peter. Rayner, Mike and Briggs, Adam D.M. 2018. "Should we tax unhealthy food and drink? *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society* 77: 314–320.

Leonard, Philip S.J. 2017. "Do School Junk Food Bans Improve Student Health? Evidence from Canada." *Canadian Public Policy* 43(2): 105-119.

Ngyugen, Hai V. 2013. "Do Smoke-Free Car Laws Work? Evidence from a Quasi-Experiment." *Journal of Health Economics* 32:138-148.

Carpenter, C., Postolek, S., and Warman, C. 2016. "The Mechanisms of Alcohol Control." *Journal of Human Resources* 51(2): 328-356.

Garcia-Romero, MT., Geller, AC, and Kawachi, I. 2015. Using behavioral economics to promote healthy behavior toward sun exposure in adolescents and young adults." *Preventive Medicine* 81:184-188.

Schwartz, J et al., 2012. "Inviting Consumers To downsize Fast-Food Portions Significantly Reduces Calorie Consumption." *Health Affairs* 31(2): 399-407.

Goberstein, Ezra. Eisenberg, Daniel and Downs, Marilyn F. 2016. "Spillover Effects in Health Service Use: Evidence from Mental Health Care Using First-Year College Housing Assignments." *Health Economics* 25: 40-55.

Child Development

Oreopoulos, Philip, Stabile, Mark, Walld, Randy, and Roos, Leslie L. 2008. "Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Consequences of Poor Infant Health: An Analysis Using Siblings and Twins." *Journal of Human Resources* 43(1): 88–138.

Almond, Douglas, and Janet Currie. 2011. "Killing Me Softly: The Fetal Origins Hypothesis." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 25(3): 153–72.

Cunha, F. and J. J. Heckman. 2009. "The Economics and Psychology of Inequality and Human Development." *Journal of the European Economic Association* 7 (2-3): 320-364.

Hertzman, C. and T. Boyce. 2010. "How Experience Gets Under the Skin to Create Gradients in Developmental Health." *Annual Review of Public Health* 31: 329-347.

Aizer, A., Stroud, L. and Buka, S. 2016. "Maternal Stress and Child Outcomes: Evidence from Siblings." *Journal of*

Human Resources 51(3): 523-555.

Hair, Nicole; Hanson, Jamie; Wolfe, Barbara and Pollak, Seth, 2015. "Association of Child Poverty, Brain Development, and Academic Achievement," *Journal of the American Medical Association. Pediatrics* 169(9):822-829.

Health and the Labour Market

Hollingsworth, Alex, Ruhm, Christopher J., Simon, Kosali. 2017. "Macroeconomic conditions and opioid abuse." *Journal of Health Economics* 56: 222–233.

Watson, Barry and Osberg, Lars. 2018. "Job Insecurity and Mental Health in Canada." *Applied Economics*, 50(38): 4137-4152.

Marcus, Jan. 2013. "The effect of unemployment on the mental health of spouses: Evidence from plant closures in Germany." *Journal of Health Economics* 32(3): 546-558.

Reeves, Aaron. McKee Martin. Mackenbach, Johan. Whitehead, Margaret and Stuckler, David. 2016. "Introduction of a National Minimum Wage Reduced Depressive Symptoms in Low-Wage Workers: A Quasi-Natural Experiment in the UK." *Health Economics* 1-17.

Externalities and Health

Ward, Courtney J. 2014. "Influenza Immunization Campaigns: Is an Ounce of Prevention Worth a Pound of Cure?" *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 6(1): 38-72.

Health and the Environment

Deschenes, Olivier. Greenstone, Michael and Guryan, Jonathan. 2009. "Climate Change and Birth Weight." *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings* 99(2): 211-217.

Hill, Elaine L. 2018. "Shale gas development and infant health: Evidence from Pennsylvania." *Journal of Health Economics* 61: 134–150.

Ward, Courtney J. 2015. "It's an Ill Wind: The Effects of Fine Particulates on Respiratory Hospitalizations," *Canadian Journal of Economics* 48(5): 1694–1732.

Health Issues for an Aging Population

Smith, P., Chen, C., Mustard, C., Bielecky, A., Beaton, D., and Ibrahim, S., 2014. "Examining the Relationship Between Chronic Conditions, Multi-Morbidity and Labour Market Participation in Canada, 2000-2005." *Ageing and Society* 34(10): 1730-1748.

Eibich, P. 2015. "Understanding the Effect of Retirement on Health." *Journal of Health Economics* 43:1-12.

McDonald, J.T., and Conde, H. 2010. "Does Geography Matter: The Health Service Use and Unmet Health Care Needs of Older Canadians" *Canadian Journal on Aging* 29(1): 23-37.

Paul Spin and Martha MacDonald. 2018. "Elderly Financial Well-Being: The Role of Nursing Home Costs in Canada" PhD Dissertation, Department of Economics, Dalhousie University.

Turcotte, M. 2013. "Family Care-giving: What are the Consequences," *Insights on Canadian Society*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 75-006-X.

Gender and Health

Spitzer, Denise. 2005. "Engendering Health Disparities." *Canadian Journal of Public Health*, 96:2 (Supplement), S78-S96.

Simpson, Laura. 2014. "Violent victimization of lesbians, gays and bisexuals in Canada." *Juristat*, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 85-002-X.

Aboriginal Health

Sheppard, Amanda J. Shapiro, Gabriel D. Bushnik, Tracey. Wilkins, Russell. Perry, Serenity. Kaufman, Jay S. Kramer, Michael S. and Yang, Seungmi. 2017. "Birth outcomes among First Nations, Inuit and Métis populations." *Health Reports* 28(11): 11-16. Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 82-003-X.

Bruce, S.G. Riediger, S. and Lix, LM. 2014. "Chronic disease and chronic disease risk factors among First Nations, Inuit and Metis populations of northern Canada" *Chronic Diseases and Injuries in Canada* 34(4): 210-217.

Kenny, Tiff-Annie. Fillion, Myriam. MacLean, Jullian. Wesched, Sonia D. Can, Hing Man. 2018. "Calories are cheap, nutrients are expensive – The challenge of healthy living in Arctic communities." *Food Policy* 80: 39-54.

Elias, B., Mignone, J., Hall, M., Hong, SP, Hart, L., Sareen, J., 2012. "Trauma and suicide behaviour histories among a Canadian indigenous population: An empirical investigation of Canada's residential school system." *Social Science and Medicine*, 74: 1560-1569.

Immigrant Health

McDonald, JT and Kennedy, S. 2004. "Insights into the 'healthy immigrant effect': health status and health service use of immigrants to Canada." *Social Science and Medicine* 59: 1613-1627.

Kim, Il-Ho. Carrasco, Christine. Muntaner, Carles. McKenzie, Kwame and Noh, Samuel. 2013. "Ethnicity and Postmigration Health Trajectory in New Immigrants to Canada." *American Journal of Public Health*

Ng, Edward. Sanmartin, Claudia and Manuel, Douglas. 2016. "Acute Care Hospitalization of Refugees to Canada: Linked Data for Immigrants from Poland, Vietnam and the Middle East." *Health Reports* 27(8): 12-18. Statistics Canada, Catalogue no. 82-003-X.

University Policies and Statements

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and by Senate

Academic Integrity

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

Information: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

Accessibility

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a result of a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (Canada and Nova Scotia).

Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

Student Code of Conduct

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

Code: https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/student-life/code-of-student-conduct.html

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness

Statement: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>)

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit or e-mail the Indigenous Student Centre (1321 Edward St) (elders@dal.ca).

Information: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)

https://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

University Grading Practices

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

Missed or Late Academic Requirements due to Student Absence (policy)

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/missed-or-late-academic-requirements-due-to-student-absence.html

Student Resources and Support

Advising

General Advising https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html

Science Program Advisors: <https://www.dal.ca/faculty/science/current-students/academic-advising.html>

Indigenous Student Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Black Students Advising Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre/current-students.html

Academic supports

Library: <https://libraries.dal.ca/>

Writing Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

Studying for Success: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

Copyright Office: <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

Fair Dealing Guidelines <https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/fair-dealing.html>

Other supports and services

Student Health & Wellness Centre: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/services-support/student-health-and-wellness.html

Student Advocacy: <https://dsu.ca/dsas>

Ombudsperson: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html

Safety

Biosafety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/biosafety.html>

Chemical Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/chemical-safety.html>

Radiation Safety: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/radiation-safety.html>

Scent-Free Program: <https://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>