

ECONOMICS OF HEALTH CARE

ECONOMICS 2169G-001

Department of Economics

Western University

January 2025

General Information:

Instructor: Mohammad Iftekher Hossain
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Email: mhossa87@uwo.ca
Office hours: W 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, In Person, Room: SSC 4081
Class Schedule: M, 9:30 -11:30, Room: AHB-2B04
W, 9:30 -10:30, Room: AHB-2B04
Course website: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>
Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

Registration:

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct course. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite/Antirequisite Note:

Prerequisite Note: The prerequisites for this course are Economics 1021A/B and 1022A/B, or 2001A/B.

Antirequisite Note: The antirequisite for this course is Health Sciences 3090B if taken in 2016

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Course Description:

This course provides students with the opportunity to apply economic principles and analytical tools to understand the organization, delivery, and financing of health care systems. The course examines key economic aspects of health care by integrating the methods of constrained optimization, equilibrium analysis, and comparative statics. Additionally, it explores policy options for health care reform in Canada and internationally, offering insights into their economic implications.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to apply economic reasoning and methods effectively to make sense of the health sector in modern societies. They will be able to identify and explain economic concepts and theories related to the behaviour of economic agents, markets, firm structures, social norms and government policies in the field of health care. They will be able to use elementary cost-benefit analysis to measure the effectiveness of health care policies. Students will be able to identify the institutional features of the Canadian health care system.

Recommended Books/ Resources:

Kobernack and Getze, Health Economics And Financing, Sixth edition, Wiley

For the Textbook, please visit the Book Store link:

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2024B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/ECO2169G

Textbook Cost: EBook \$50.00 OR Pb \$181.55

Students are welcome to use only the EBook.

Students may also choose to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this Textbook.

To support students, supplementary materials such as PowerPoint slides and lecture notes will be provided through their course website.

Assessments and Grading:

Your grade point is the total points (out of 100) that you will earn in this course when the semester ends. **Please see the weight below.**

<i>Exam</i>	Date and Time* (Tentative)	Covers (Tentative)	Weight
Midterm Exam 1 (IN-PERSON)	February 10, 9:30 - 10:30	TBA	20%
Midterm Exam 2 (IN-PERSON)	March 10, 9:30 – 10:30	TBA	15%
Final Exam (IN-PERSON)	TBA	Cumulative	40%
Proposal Submission	February 13, 5:00 pm (Optional)		
Essay (2500 – 3000 words)	April 2 - April 6, Online Submission		25%

*The midterm and final exams will be in mixed format, containing some or all of the following types of questions: True/False Questions. Multiple Choice Questions, Questions Require Written Responses, Questions Require Calculations

Essay (Proposal and Essay Submission or Only Essay Submission)

Students are required to write an essay on a topic in health economics, preferably selected from the following areas:

- **Drug Pricing in Canada:** Rationale, effects, and the case for national pharmacare.
- **Economics of Canada's Dental Benefit:** Rationale, effects, and the case for universal dental care.
- **Economics of COVID-19 Vaccines:** Demand, supply, and market analysis.
- **Economics of COVID-19 Vaccines:** Firm behaviour and market dynamics.
- **Financing and Delivery of Health Care in Canada.**
- **Economics of Health Insurance:** An assessment of Ontario's health insurance policy.

Proposal (Optional):

- **Weight:** 5% (optional). If submitted, the essay will carry 20%. If not submitted, the essay alone will carry 25%.
- **Deadline:** Submit the proposal by **February 13, 2025**.
- **Content Requirements:**
 - Provide background information on your selected topic.
 - Clearly state the objectives of your study.
 - Outline your planned analysis and methodology.
 - Specify the economic concepts and tools you intend to use.
 - Include at least **5 references**.
- **Formatting Guidelines:**
 - Word limit: 400–500 words (approximately 2 pages, excluding title page, figures, tables, and references).
 - File format: Word document, named as **surname.givenname.docx**.
 - Include your name, UWO username, and word count (excluding tables and bibliography) on the cover page.
 - Use double-spacing, 12-point font with 2.5 cm margins on all sides.
- **Feedback:** Proposals submitted by the deadline will receive feedback by **February 25, 2025**, allowing students to revise their approach as necessary.

Final Essay:

- **Deadline:** Submit the final essay between **April 3 and April 6, 2025**, no later than **11:55 pm on April 6, 2025**.
- **Content Requirements:**
 - Length: 2500–2800 words.
 - The essay should demonstrate in-depth analysis and application of economic principles.

- The grade will be based on both **content** and the **quality of writing** (organization, grammar, and style).
- **Formatting Guidelines:**
 - File format: Word document, named as **surname.givenname.docx**.
 - Include your name, student number, and word count (excluding tables and bibliography) on the cover page.
 - Use double-spacing, 12-point font with 2.5 cm margins on all sides.

Important Notes:

- **Proposal Submission:**
 - If a student does not submit a proposal, the essay will carry the full weight of **25%**.
 - Students who skip the proposal do not need academic counselling approval.
- **Essay Submission:**
 - Late essays will not be accepted, and failure to submit the essay will result in failure of the course in accordance with university policy.

This assignment is an opportunity for students to explore critical issues in health economics while demonstrating their ability to conduct rigorous research and present their findings effectively.

All required papers may be subject to Submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database to detect plagiarism in papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). Your essay must be submitted electronically to Turnitin on the Assignments page of the course website. Late submissions will not be accepted, and students will be given a zero grade and automatically fail the course. These rules will be **FIRMLY ENFORCED**.

Important dates for Proposal and Essay:

Week 2: We will discuss the proposal and essay format in one class

February 13: Proposal submission (optional) electronically through OWL/ Assignment

February 25 or before: Students required to update their proposals will be notified.

April 6, 11:55 pm: Deadline to submit your essay

I will announce a day in each of the **third week, sixth week and tenth week** when students will be allowed to book a meeting to discuss the progress of their essays. The meeting is optional and will not be graded.

Policy Regarding Missed Exams:

Midterm Exams

- There will be no make-up exams for missed midterm exams.
- Students are allowed to miss one midterm exam using self-attestation and notification to the instructor within 24 hours. If a student misses both midterm exams, they must obtain approval from Academic Counselling for the other missed exam and must notify the instructor within 24 hours. If a student misses both midterms without using self-attestation and without approval from Academic Counseling, they will receive a grade of zero for both exams.
- The weight of any approved missed midterm exam or exam using self-attestation will be transferred to the final exam.

Reallocation of Missed Exam Weight to the Final Exam

If a missed exam's weight is reallocated to the final exam, the student will take the regular final exam with the rest of the class. However, the weight of the final exam will be higher for students with such reallocations.

Final Exam

The final exam will cover materials from the entire term. Students who miss the final exam must take their documentation to Academic Counselling and notify the instructor within 24 hours. The instructor will set a makeup date once Academic Counselling approves your documentation for the missed final exam.

Students who miss any assessment must follow Western University's procedures to approve their absence to receive accommodation. If a student does not receive approval from the Academic Counselling for the Final exam, the instructor will assign a grade of zero for that exam.

Course Schedule (Tentative):

Please see the tentative course schedule below.

Introduction

Economic Principles as Conceptual Tools

Microeconomic Tools for Health Economics

The Demand and Supply Curves

Price Sensitivity

Consumer Choice and Demand

Production of Health

The production, Cost and Technology of Health Care

Markets

Social Determinants of Health

Midterm 1

Economic Efficiency

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

Cost-Utility Analysis

Demand and Supply of Health Insurance

Midterm 2

Equity, Efficiency and Need

Government Intervention in Health Care Market

Social Insurance

International Comparison of Health and Health Expenditure

The Canadian Health Care System

Essay Submission

Final Examination

Professionalism, Privacy, and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit written permission. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

PLEASE NOTE
DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY POLICIES FOR WINTER 2025

The University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. A [*new academic consideration and flexibility in assessment*](#) policy is in effect starting September 2024. Students can miss one assessment per course per term without medical documentation. Faculty can designate one assessment per course for which students **cannot** self-attest.
3. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
4. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.
5. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 4.

6. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
7. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14. **Please note the relevant deadlines.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals. The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle

the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

8. **Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution** (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.
9. **ADD AND DROP DEADLINES:**

- Deadline to **ADD** second term full or half course: **January 14, 2025**
- Deadline to **DROP** second term full or half course: **March 31, 2025**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).
- **Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted:** Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **48 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medical_certificate.pdf
- **Documentation for Accommodation:** Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here:
https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the 2024 Diversity Calendar available at <https://www.edi.uwo.ca/> (see bottom right of page).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Get Help](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unit may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.

Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses¹

An essay course is a course in which the cumulative amount of written work, excluding written work in examinations, is at least 2,500 words (for a half course).

To pass an essay course, students must exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing in addition to comprehension of the course content.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades²

Written work that demonstrates a lack of English proficiency will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable level.

To foster competence in the English language, *all instructors will take English proficiency into account when marking*. This policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

Recycling of Assignments

Students are prohibited from handing in the same paper for two different courses. Doing so is considered a scholastic offence and will be subjected to academic penalties.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “the act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.”³

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:⁴

- Submitting someone else’s work as your own
- Buying a paper from a mill, website or other source and submitting it as your own
- Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without citing them
- Replacing selected words from a passage from someone else’s work and using it as your own without citing them
- Copying multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without citing them
- Piecing together phrases and ideas from a variety of sources without citing them
- Building on someone else’s ideas or phrases without citing them

Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the course, and expulsion from the university.

¹From the UWO Academic Handbook. See

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenummering.pdf

² From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf

³Excerpted from HC Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, West Publishing Co., 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

⁴ Adapted from the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>

Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to <http://www.turnitin.com>. This is a service that assists instructors in detecting plagiarism.

Students seeking further guidance on avoiding plagiarism should consult their instructor. ***Claiming ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.***

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly cite reference sources.

Referencing and Citation Guidelines

The Economics Department has adopted the citation guidelines used in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. You can find an online version on the Western Libraries website. Go to <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html> and click on 'style guides'. For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library's homepage.

Economics papers often use the in-text **author-date** style of citations and references. Details and examples of this style are shown in chapter 15 of the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*. See also the handy "Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide" under Tools on the homepage.

In the body of an essay, in-text citations list the last names of the authors of the piece that are referenced, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. In-text citations refer the reader to a complete list of bibliographic references at the end of the essay. Papers that cite multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year should add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and References (e.g., 1993a and 1993b). In doing so, the in-text citation points the reader to the relevant work.

Examples of in-text citations:

Diamond (1981, 1982) and Mortensen (1982a, 1982b) find these externalities can cause an inefficient level of search activity...

The "new view of unemployment" which emerged during the 1970s emphasized the importance of turnover in the labour force and the brief duration of many employments spells (Hall 1970, 1972; Perry 1972; Marston 1976).

The primary objectives of the LMAS are "1. To provide measures of the dynamic...the Labour Force Survey" (Statistics Canada 1990, 5).

The list of references at the end of the essay should be titled References or Works Cited. It should provide complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This can be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Examples of the format and content of references can be found here:
<https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ChicagoStyleAuthorDate.pdf>

Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor's instructions. Read published work written by economists, which will give you examples of the structure and content of economics writing. Examples are readings in the course outline, journals, working papers, etc.

Two helpful sources that give information about how to write for economics are:

McCloskey, Dierdre N. 2000. *Economical Writing*, 2nd edition. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.

Greenlaw, Steven A. 2006. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Doing Economic Research*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

The **Resources Link** on Western University's Department of Economics website (<http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html>) provides a link to a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc. Western Libraries has a very useful economics resource page <https://guides.lib.uwo.ca/economics>.

DB Weldon Library has a collection of bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals in economics. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>. These can be accessed off-campus with the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

Students are encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about where sources of information are located both physically and online. Consult library staff for questions

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is the most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today. It is available online through the library catalogue, or in print in the Weldon's Reference section (call # HB 61.N49 2008 v. 1-8).

EconLit (*Economic Literature*) is an electronic bibliography of literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, collected articles, books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. It also provides citations, selected abstracts, and links to Western's full-text resources. Students can also print records by downloading marked records to a text file, sending marked records by email, or exporting them to a citation manager such as *Zotaro*. For a list of citation software, see <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/citationmanagementsoftware.html>.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's database of time series data covering a variety of economic aspects of Canadian society. Access the database by a Title Search on the Western Library's Catalogue, or from the Library's list of Databases under "Research Tools" on the Library's homepage.

Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER)

The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, a journal published annually by the Department that showcases student work in economics. For further information, please visit http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html.

Essay Prize in Economics

Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic year. One prize is for a student registered in a 2100 level course, and one is for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at \$500.

Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own essay award.

Instructors will nominate student essays for the prize. The essay should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner. The Essay Prize Committee will consist of the Undergraduate Program Director, WUER Faculty Advisor and one other faculty member. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appeal.

Papers will be judged on content, originality, use of references, spelling, and grammar.

The grade given to the paper will not influence the decision of the Essay Prize Committee as all comments by the original marker will be removed.

The deadlines for instructor submissions are:

Fall courses: January 1st

Winter courses: May 1st

The winner of the essay prize is encouraged to submit their paper to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.