

**Health Services  
Administration**

**University of Wyoming  
PHCY 5148-40  
Health Economics and  
Policy  
Summer 2021  
June 20 to July 26**



UNIVERSITY  
OF WYOMING

College of Health Sciences  
School of Pharmacy

**PHCY 5148-40**  
**Health Economics and Policy**  
**Summer 2021**

Health Economics and Policy is a 2-semester hour course designed to explore US health policy issues using macro and micro economic principles. Topics such as health care structure and financing, market failures, human capital, and producer and consumer behavior will round out the students' understanding of the economics of our health care system.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES AND GOALS:**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe how the concepts of economic efficiency and equity apply to health policy and evaluate current health policies on these dimensions
- Critically evaluate how various government regulations impact the private healthcare markets
- Critically evaluate how market forces and various government regulations impact health outcomes
- Compare and contrast public and private healthcare financing mechanisms
- Given a specific reimbursement mechanism, identify the economic incentives facing payers, providers, and patients
- Critically examine the purposes, consequences, and motivation behind various healthcare reforms

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- Feldstien, PJ. (6<sup>th</sup> ed)\* Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective
  - ISBN13: 97815679336964
  - Publisher: Health Administration Press, Chicago IL
  - \* 7<sup>th</sup> Edition is also acceptable
- Pre-recorded online lectures
- Posted expert videos
- Additional journals articles and government documents reflective of recent developments in the area of prescription benefit management decisions.

**INSTRUCTOR AVAILABILITY/ CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Edward P. Armstrong, Pharm.D.

Office Hours: by appointment

Dr. Armstrong (earmstr6@uwyo.edu) will be available via electronic mail

Responses to emails will occur within 48 hours.

**CLASS WEBSITE:**

The WyoCourses site is accessible from the University website via WyoWeb. Class slide sets and other materials will be posted or linked on this site. Assignments will also be posted there (both by the instructor and submitted by the student). The student is expected to utilize the site and accept changes from this syllabus as amended on the site. You will not be able to see the course materials until after July 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **CLASS STRUCTURE:**

This course will be taught asynchronously (i.e., no live class time). Course material will be placed on the course website via WyoWeb. Student assignments will be uploaded to the gradebook. The course assignments and final examination are listed on the course schedule.

One on-line final exam will be administered during the course and will be released after class on Week 5. The exam is cumulative and is open-book, short answer/essay format, covering the readings and lecture material.

Three papers will be due during the course covering topics presented in the course outline. The papers should be no more than two pages in length.

### **QUIZ/EXAM POLICY**

The final exam will consist of 5 short answer/essay questions and can be downloaded after the last class session and will be due by 11:59 pm MDT on **July 25<sup>th</sup>**.

### **ASSIGNMENT DEADLINES**

A 10% reduction in grade will occur for each day that an assignment or exam is submitted past the due date. This will not apply to situations where the student has made prior arrangements with the faculty.

### **COURSE PREREQUISITES, CO-REQUISITES, ENROLLMENT RESTRICTIONS:**

None.

### **COURSE PROCEDURES:**

All students will join the class at the same time (synchronous). Some activities, such as viewing recorded lectures can be done at the student's selected times (asynchronous). Opening and closing times for the modules, exam, or other activities will be posted and enforced.

A class session/assignment is the time that includes the live session, the pre-session work, and any immediate post-session work. For this class, a session/assignment will become available as noted in the Syllabus with due dates listed for each item.

Instructional procedures consist of pre-recorded lecture, discussion, participation exercises plus assigned readings and projects. The distance education model of this course requires some adaptation by the students and instructor from the traditional classroom setting. **You may be recorded with your face and name.** This recording will be placed on a password protected site, but no guarantees are made on its security.

Different people have different learning styles. Lecture where the instructor talks and students listen is passive on the part of the student. Discussion requires active participation on the part of the learner. In this class, some topics are appropriate for lectures; some are appropriate for discussion; and some will be conducted through active participation such as analysis of case studies and or discussion boards.

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS:**

Students should obtain the required textbook and complete assigned readings prior to the online

date listed in the course calendar. Active participation in the discussion board will count towards your discussion board grade (see last page of syllabus for Guideline for Evaluating Participation).

In order for a discussion or dialogue to be successful, students must have read the assigned readings, watched any video recording and have completed some assignments **before** joining the discussion board. Assignments will be clearly indicated when they are due. Students should feel free to ask questions online. If you have a question, other students may have the same question.

### **RE-GRADING POLICY:**

Requests for a re-grade of an examination, quiz, assignment, or in-class preparedness/participation points, must be requested within 2 business days of the return of the examination, quiz, or assignment. If the 2 business day period elapses and the student does not realize this, the request for a re-grade will NOT be considered. All requests for re-grading must be made in a written statement to the course coordinator and must be supported by appropriate justification (required textbooks, reading assignments, lecture citations). A request for re-grading is a re-evaluation of your work and has the potential to increase or decrease your grade when your work is reconsidered.

### **MAKE-UP QUIZ/EXAM POLICY:**

Students who are not excused from a missed quiz or exam will receive a grade of zero on that missed assessment. Any student who misses quizzes and/or exams of a sufficient number that indicate the student has not completed enough coursework to achieve the objectives of the course will be given an incomplete (I) grade for the course.

### **POLICY ON OLD QUIZZES AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

BE ADVISED THAT the exams are an official University document, and not a public record, and therefore may not be communicated, copied or reproduced by any means, either in whole or in part, or shared with others in any form. Violators will be subject to discipline.

### **ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE POLICIES:**

Students should regularly review online content and productively participate in class. Since some of the projects may be started in the online sessions, missing class can make projects much more difficult. Because of the multiple available times for posting assignments as well as for taking any quizzes or examinations, the need for an excused absence would be a rare event. Only rationale accepted by the University of Wyoming as an excused absence will be accepted. Any anticipated absence from the live sessions should be discussed in advance with the instructor.

### **CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR POLICY:**

At all times, treat your presence in the classroom and your enrollment in this course as you would any professional activity. Act professionally, arrive on time, pay attention, complete your work in a timely and professional manner, and treat all deadlines seriously. All of us will be respectful of each other. Spirited debate and disagreement are to be expected in any graduate level course and all views will be heard fully, but at all times we will behave civilly and with respect towards one another. Personal attacks, offensive language, name-calling, and dismissive gestures are not warranted in a learning atmosphere. This is a safe environment and as the instructor, I have the right to dismiss anyone from the classroom, study sessions, electronic forums, and other areas where disruptive behavior occurs – there is zero tolerance on this issue.

## **CLASSROOM STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY:**

The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning. Diversity helps all of us gain a better understanding and perspective of the subjects we will be covering in the course.

## **DISABILITY SUPPORT:**

The University of Wyoming is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you have a disability, including but not limited to physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities, and would like to request accommodations in this course due to your disability, please register with and provide documentation of your disability as soon as possible to Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 128 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or [udss@uwyo.edu](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu). It is in the student's best interest to request accommodations within the first week of classes, understanding that accommodations are not retroactive. Visit the DSS website for more information at: [www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICIES:**

### ***Academic dishonesty, discrimination, and harassment will not be tolerated in this class!***

Cases of academic dishonesty will be treated in accordance with UW Regulation 2-114. The penalties for academic dishonesty can include, at my discretion, an "F" on an exam, an "F" on the class component exercise, and/or an "F" in the entire course. Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, which means anything that represents someone else's ideas as your own without attribution. It is intellectual theft – stealing - and includes (but is not limited to) unapproved assistance on examinations, plagiarism (use of any amount of another person's writings, blog posts, publications, and other materials without attributing that material to that person with citations), or fabrication of referenced information. Facilitation of another person's academic dishonesty is also considered academic dishonesty and will be treated identically.

Such conduct is described within and will result in sanctions pursuant to the following School of Pharmacy and University policy and regulations:

University of Wyoming Code of Conduct

<http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct/>

University of Wyoming Regulations

[http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/\\_files/docs/UW%20Reg%20Updates%202016/UW%20Reg%206-802.pdf](http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/UW%20Reg%20Updates%202016/UW%20Reg%206-802.pdf)

## **DUTY TO REPORT:**

While this is a safe environment and I want you all to feel comfortable coming to me with issues you may be struggling with or concerns you may be having, please be aware that I have some reporting obligations that are part of my faculty requirements at UW.

For example, if you inform me of an issue of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination

I will keep the information as private as I can, but I am required to bring it to the attention of the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to talk to those offices directly, you can contact Equal Opportunity Report and Response (Bureau of Mines Room 319, 766-5200, [report-it@uwyo.edu](mailto:report-it@uwyo.edu), [www.uwyo.edu/reportit](http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit)). Additionally, you can also report incidents or complaints to the UW Police Department. You can also get support at the STOP Violence program ([stopviolence@uwyo.edu](mailto:stopviolence@uwyo.edu), [www.uwyo.edu/stop](http://www.uwyo.edu/stop), 766-3296) (or SAFE Project ([www.safeproject.org](http://www.safeproject.org), [campus@safeproject.org](mailto:campus@safeproject.org), 766-3434, 24-Hour hotline: 745-3556).

Another common example is if you are struggling with an issue that may be traumatic or unusual stress. I will likely inform the Dean of Students Office or Counseling Center. If you would like to reach out directly to them for assistance, you can contact them using the info below or going to [www.uwyo.edu/dos/uwyocares](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/uwyocares).

Finally, know that if, for some reason, our interaction involves a disruptive behavior or potential violation of policy, I must inform the Dean of Students, even when you and I may have reached an informal resolution to the incident. The purpose of this is to keep the Dean apprised of any behaviors (by students or faculty) and what was done to resolve them.

### **SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS:**

All deadlines, requirements, and course structure are subject to change if deemed necessary by the instructor. Students will be notified verbally in class or on our WyoCourses announcement page and/or via email of these changes.

### **STUDENT RESOURCES:**

- **DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES:** [udss@uwyo.edu](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu), 766-3073, 128 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)
- **COUNSELING CENTER:** [uccstaff@uwyo.edu](mailto:uccstaff@uwyo.edu), 766-2187, 766-8989, 341 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/ucc](http://www.uwyo.edu/ucc)
- **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS:** 766-4286, 312 Old Main, [www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs](http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs)
- **DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE:** [dos@uwyo.edu](mailto:dos@uwyo.edu), 766-3296, 128 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/dos](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos) UW
- **POLICE DEPARTMENT:** [uwpd@uwyo.edu](mailto:uwpd@uwyo.edu), 766-5179, 1426 E Flint St, [www.uwyo.edu/uwpd](http://www.uwyo.edu/uwpd)
- **STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT WEBSITE:** [www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct)

"If you have a physical, learning, sensory or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and possibly provide documentation of your disability to Disability Support Services (DSS), room 109 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or [udss@uwyo.edu](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu). Visit their website for more information: [www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)."

### **COVID-19 POLICIES:**

During this pandemic, you must abide by all UW policies and public health rules put forward by the City of Laramie (or by Natrona County if at UW-Casper), the University of Wyoming and the State of Wyoming to promote the health and well-being of fellow students and your own personal self-

care. The current policy is provided for review at: <https://www.uwyo.edu/alerts/campus-return/index.html>

As with other disruptive behaviors, we have the right to dismiss you from the classroom (Zoom and physical), or other class activities if you fail to abide by these COVID-19 policies. These behaviors will be referred to the Dean of Students Office using the UWYO Cares Reporting Form for Student Code of Conduct processes ([https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofWyoming&layout\\_id=5](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?UnivofWyoming&layout_id=5)).

**Syllabus Changes:** I will alert you to any possible course format changes in response to UW decisions about community safety during the semester.

**HyFlex, Zoom, and WyoCourses expectations:**

As with all UW coursework, this course will be educational and useful to you. I will respond to questions, concerns, and feedback in a timely manner.

Your responsibilities:

- Give and receive feedback from me and your classmates respectfully and constructively in all interactions. This includes in Zoom chats, on WyoCourses boards, and within physical classroom spaces.
- Actively engage in civil discourse in a respectful manner. Use professional language in all course related forums.
- Communicate professionally. Whenever you send class-related email or messages, please include a clear, specific subject line and use the body of the email or message to explain the purpose for the email and any attached materials. Conduct yourself professionally.
- Meet assignment deadlines. We expect that you're interacting with course material multiple times during the week.
- Ask for help when you need it. For academic assistance for this course please contact me for available resources. For Dean of Students assistance please see: <https://www.uwyo.edu/dos/student-resources/covid-19-student-resources.html>
- Please let us know if you notice another student who needs help in our (anonymous) WyoCares referral option (<https://www.uwyo.edu/dos/students-concern/index.html>).

**Information Technology (IT):** If you have any IT related challenges, please contact the UWIT Service Center: [https://uwyo.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1940/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=8890\\_](https://uwyo.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1940/Portal/Requests/ServiceDet?ID=8890_)

**GRADES**

- A: 90.0 – 100.0
- B: 80.0 – 89.9
- C: 70.0 – 79.9
- D: 60.0 – 69.9
- F: <60.0

The +/- system is not used by the School of Pharmacy. Graduate students, including those

enrolled in the Master of Science in Health Services Administration, must maintain a 3.00 GPA (B or better). Note: there is no rounding of grades – an 89.9 is not 90.

Paper assignment 1	25 points
Paper assignment 2	25 points
Paper assignment 3	25 points
Discussion participation	50 points
Final examination	<u>100 points</u>
Total points	225 points

**COURSE SCHEDULE:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Chapters</b>	<b>Paper Topic</b>	<b>Discussion Topic</b>
June 20	Healthcare Costs	Chapters 1 (Rise in Med Expenditures), (Chp 1-7th Edition) 2 (How Much Should We Spend on Medical Care) (Ch 2-7th Ed), and 6 (How Much Insurance Should Everyone Have) (Ch 6-7th Ed)	None	Do the health insurance exchanges: a.) Contribute to or mitigate rising healthcare costs and b.) Improve or hinder efficiency in the US healthcare system?  Insurance benefit packages include a drug benefit. Explain how the state insurance exchanges could lead to overutilization, underutilization, or efficient utilization of insurance and medications?
June 27	Impact of Health Care and Healthcare Costs	Chapters 3 (Do More Med Expenditures Produce Better Health) (Ch 3-7th Ed), 4 (In Whose Interest Does the Physician Act) (Ch 4-7th Ed), 21 (How will the Internet Change Healthcare), (No equivalent ch 7th Ed) 22 (US Competitiveness and Rising Health Costs) (Ch 23-7th Ed)	Can you cost-effectively increase a population's level of health without rationing care?	How do medical expenditures impact health?  What is the impact of rising health care costs?
July 4	Healthcare Markets 1	Chapters 5 (Rationing Med Services), 10 (How Does Medicare Pay Physicians) (Ch 10-7th Ed), 12 (The Changing Practice of Medicine) (Ch 13-7th Ed), 13 (The Malpractice Crisis) (Ch 14-7th Ed)	Do we ration medical and pharmacy services in the US? What is the evidence to support your claim?	How could the Malpractice system be modified to make the system more efficient?

July 11	Healthcare Markets 2	Chapters 15 (Competition Among Hospitals) (Ch16-7th Ed), 17 (Cost Shifting) (Ch 18-7th Ed), 18 (Can Price Controls Limit Medical Expenditure Increases) (Ch 19-7th), 25 (The High Price of Prescription Drugs) (Ch 25-7th Ed), and 29 (Should Kidneys and Other Organs Be Bought and Sold) (Ch 29-7th)	What are the two most important reasons for high prescription drug prices? What evidence or reasons do you use to back up this declaration?	Describe a payment system that would reduce cost shifting and induce competition among hospitals that would lower costs/increase value.  Can a case for price controls on pharmaceuticals or medical services ever be made? Why or why not (or under what circumstances)?
July 18	Healthcare Markets 3	Chapters 19 (The Evolution of Managed Care) (Ch 20-7th Ed), 20 (Has Competition Been Tried – And Has it Failed) (Ch 21-7th Ed), 26 (Ensuring Safety and Efficacy of New Drugs: . . . ) (Ch 26-7th Ed), 27 (Why are Prescription Drugs Less Expensive Overseas) (Ch 27-7th), & 33 (Employer-Mandated National Health Insurance) (Ch 35-7th Ed)	None	In response to the federal budget deficit, the congress is looking for ways to cut costs. You have been called to testify before congress on prescription drug expenditures in the US, specifically to propose arguments against drug re-importation and price controls.
July 25				Final Exam Due