
ECO402: TOPICS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS, SPRING 2021
DEPT. OF ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
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1. COURSE LOGISTICS:

Course website: <https://q.utoronto.ca/courses/191337>

Course email: eco402.ward@utoronto.ca

Course schedule: There are two sections of ECO402 with scheduled meeting times of Mondays 10am-12pm (section L0101/9101) and Mondays 1pm-3pm (section L0201/9201). We have a common meeting time on Tuesdays 1pm-3pm.¹ Each week there are asynchronous events (events that you “attend” at a time of your choosing) and synchronous events (events where we “meet” at a specific time). Monday lectures are pre-recorded and thus allow for asynchronous attendance (provided the lecture is viewed in time to satisfy the weekly schedule). Discussion hours, office hours and term tests are all Tuesday synchronous events, and the two Presentation and Writing workshops are Monday synchronous events. These events will all be held during the timetable noted above. We assume all students are available at the times given in the university timetable.

Communication: Most points of communication for the course (discussion hours, Piazza) go through the course website. Please see the section on course communication below for details on how to communicate with me, your fellow students, and the course staff.

Prerequisites: The Department checks whether students have the correct course prerequisites, and students will be removed if they do not have them. Please note that I cannot waive prerequisites. The prerequisites for ECO402 are as follows: ECO200Y1/ECO204Y1/ECO206Y1; ECO202Y1/ECO208Y1/ECO209Y1; ECO220Y1/ ECO227Y1/ (STA237H1, STA238H1)/ (STA247H1, STA248H1)/ (STA257H1, STA261H1); at least 1.0 FCE in ECO at the 300+ level.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Overview: 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 is designed to introduce you to the issues, theory and practice of health economics. Topics include the economic determinants of health, the role of moral hazard and adverse selection on the market for health insurance, the role of the government in health care, and health care reform.

There are 11 course topics, and for each course topic you will find lecture slides, discussion questions, videos and a detailed reading list posted on the course webpage. Please check the website frequently for new announcements.

There is no required textbook for the course, but you may find the following useful introductory material:

- Sherman Folland, Allen Goodman and Miron Stano, *The Economics of Health and Health Care* (Prentice Hall), 7th edition.

¹ All times are in local Toronto time.

- Jeremiah Hurley, *Health Economics* (McGraw-Hill Ryerson), 2nd edition.
- Jones, Andrew, *Applied econometrics for health economists: a practical guide*, Radcliff Publishing.

3. CHECKLIST OF REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE DELIVERY

- Paper and a pencil (and probably an eraser, unless you're the kind of person that never makes mistakes)
- Regular access to a reliable laptop and/or desktop with a working microphone and webcam
 - A phone and/or a tablet is NOT sufficient for this course
- A current installation of Office 365, available at no cost to current U of T students, via the page Office 365 ProPlus: https://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/ic-faq-categories/o_ce-365-proplus
- Regular access to reliable high-speed internet and reliable electricity
- Ability to correctly convert local Toronto time to your time zone: we will not accept confusion about deadlines (always given in local Toronto time) as an excuse for lateness or missed work
- Your TCard (your U of T Student ID card) ready
- The hardware, software, and knowledge to scan your work to be uploaded
 - Most phones can scan (a separate scanner is unnecessary) to create PDF, JPG, or PNG files
 - You must scan efficiently and without creating very large files: you may need to learn about your phone or scanner, install software/updates, and/or search for solutions online
- To be proactive to avoid technical and other difficulties, which includes submitting well before dead-lines, maintaining your devices, keeping software up to date, minimizing the strains on your internet bandwidth, learning how to scan efficiently, carefully reading all assessment instructions, and contacting your instructor/TAs immediately with any problems
 - Regularly follow our Quercus site for detailed guidance, updated as our situation evolves.

4. COURSE COVERAGE

Week	Topic	Workshops
Week 1:	The Economics of Health and Health Care	
Week 2:	Economic Evaluation	Econometrics Workshop I
Week 3:	Pharmaceutical markets	Econometrics Workshop II
Week 4:	Health Insurance	
Week 5:	Physician Behaviour and Remuneration	
Week 6:	Reading Week	

Week 7:	Health Production, Term Test 1	
Week 8:	The Health Endowment	
Week 9:	Business cycles, Pollution, Climate Change	Presentation Workshop
Week 10:	Socioeconomic gradients in health	
Week 11:	Health externalities	Writing Workshop
Week 12:	Smoking, Obesity or Health System Comparisons	
Week 13:	Term Test 2	

5. EVALUATION

There are two types of assessments in ECO402: 2 term tests, and the capstone project. The project is due in phases including oral presentation (brief), self-editing assignments, and peer feedback. Details are provided in full on the course website. Note that peer review marks are given for your completion of a peer review and not based on feedback from your peers.

Additionally, there are discussion questions that draw on each lecture topic. While ungraded, these questions form a reasonable basis for test content and participation serves as an input into test preparation.

The overall course grade will be determined as follows:

Assessment	Weight	Due Date	Collaboration
Term Test 1	25%	February 23	None
Capstone Project	50%		Limited*
Phase 1: Topic selection	5%	March 1	
Phase 2: Oral presentation	13%	March 8 - 15	
Phase 3: Peer review & draft	5%	March 22	
Phase 4: Final project	27%	April 13	
Term Test 2	25%	April 6	None

* Limited discussion/interaction regarding assignments (within the narrow parameters described below) is allowed.

Collaboration: There is absolutely no collaboration allowed on the term tests. Your submissions must be entirely your own work, and any collaboration for any portion is a serious infraction. Note that this means you may not post any material related to the tests, discuss any of the test, or share any files related to the tests for the duration of the test period. In terms of the capstone project, you may engage in reasonable discussion with your classmates about how you are approaching your project. In fact, you will be expected to engage in productive discussion with your classmates in the presentation and writing workshops (participation here is mandatory). In all cases, these discussions should take place through course infrastructure: e.g., on piazza, during workshops, or class discussion time. Other collaboration outside the course (such as sharing files, copying text or code, submitting text or code that is not you own) is prohibited. Remember also that all course materials, including tests, are copyright protected and you may not distribute them outside the course at any time.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site. The University of Toronto may adopt a replacement for Turnitin.com during our course. Be prepared for a possible switch.

Capstone Project: The project allows for substantial revision beyond what is possible during timed assessments, and it gives you an opportunity to hone your presentation and writing skills while gaining a deeper knowledge of a specific topic in health economics. Detailed instructions and expectations will be posted on Quercus, and these expectations will include participation in presentation and writing workshops on key weeks of the course. You will participate and submit work product online according to the instructions on Quercus and on the schedule listed above. You must manage your time: you assume all risk of working on these in the final days before the deadline. There is a short grace period of 1 hour after the deadline but beyond that we do not accept late submissions (no exceptions). There are no make-ups and no extensions for ANY reason.

Remark Requests: Remark requests must: (1) Be submitted to Remark Request, which is an MS Form, (2) Explain WHY more points are justified, (3) Be submitted within TWO WEEKS of the work's return to the class. The entire submission may be remarked: your mark can go up, down, or remain unchanged. Requests are reviewed together after the two-week deadline, not immediately. We will not consider any remark requests after the deadline.

Accommodations for Term Tests: There is a very strict policy concerning a missed material, and any missed work earns an automatic mark of zero. This section explains special accommodations for: illness, injury, personal/family problems, enrolling after the course has begun, religious reasons, extracurricular conflicts, technology problems, internet or power outages, quarantine issues, accessibility concerns, and/or other challenging situations. For any issues that extend beyond our course, or last more than a week, you MUST contact your College Registrar immediately.

Missed term tests will receive a grade of a zero. In exceptional circumstances, we may grant an exemption for not more than one entirely missed term test. We determine whether an exemption will be granted; you need to complete ALL of the following steps to be considered.

1. Complete "Missed Term Test," which is an MS Form. It must be submitted AT LEAST FIVE HOURS BEFORE THE DUE TIME for the missed term test. For example, if the due time is 3pm on February 23rd, the LATEST you can request an accommodation is that morning: 10 am on February 23rd. It is unacceptable to fail to show up for an important engagement without advance notice. We do NOT wish to see any document completed by a doctor or other professional. All questions in the MS form are required.
2. Check your U of T e-mail. If an immediate resolution is possible, we may e-mail you quickly. Otherwise, within one week of the missed work you should receive an e-mail from us. Follow any instructions in it. Not seeing an e-mail from us is not an acceptable excuse for your failure to follow any time-sensitive or other instructions.
3. Complete a cumulative make-up to be scheduled by us. Your performance on both the make-up and other graded course work, as well your MS Form submission and correspondence, will be taken under advisement in determining your final course grade. We do not report marks for

make-ups. However, after all regular course work is complete and returned, we will report the mark assigned for the original missed assessment.

Failing to complete all three steps above, regardless of the reason, results in a mark of zero on the original missed work. We do not accept late submissions and there are no make-ups for the make-up and no extensions for any reason. Accommodations for missing more work than addressed above are extremely limited: (1) an ongoing and substantial injury, illness, or personal/family problem seriously affecting the student's ability to complete term work across all courses over an extended period of time where the student's College Registrar writes to me after meeting with the student and formally requests an accommodation on the student's behalf or (2) more than one conflict not related to injury, illness or personal/family problems where I am contacted by the student very far in advance. In these limited situations, I will consider whether accommodations can still meet all course requirements or whether the student must be advised to drop the course and retake it when able to complete the required work. Any such extraordinary accommodations are at my discretion and may involve completing work at an alternate time, an oral and/or other assessment, re-weighting, and/or may be contingent on performance on other work.

6. COURSE COMMUNICATION

This is a challenging course, and you will likely have many questions throughout. We welcome these questions, and to facilitate our collective discourse, we have organized the following as part of our semester:

1. Questions on course content (including the material covered in course assessments):
 - A primary way to address questions on course content is to come to the Tuesday discussion time to discuss.
 - Second, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza (instead of using email). The Piazza system is highly catered to getting you help fast and efficiently and, importantly, it builds an online community here in Eco 402. Piazza facilitates discussion primarily between you and your peers (there's more of you to populate the site), but our course TAs also check-in weekly to address any unresolved areas of confusion. They will also flag questions for me where cases warrant. If you have any problems/feedback, email team@piazza.com. Find our class signup link at: <https://piazza.com/utoronto.ca/winter2021/eco402h1slec0101/home>
2. Technological issues:
 - If you are having an issue with your technology, try posting to Piazza first as some others may share your issue and still more may have a potential solve for it. This also allows the course staff to become aware of it at the same time. Remember from Section 3 above; you should be proactive about avoiding technical and other difficulties, which includes learning to use the technology laid out in Section 3 ahead of "crunch" time.
3. For remark requests on course assessments OR inquiries regarding a missed term test:
 - Please use the MS forms links on Quercus.

Maybe you want to kick it old-school and email us. Please note, however, that asking questions via e-mail is almost never the best way to get an answer. It leaves others out of valuable discussions and, more generally, requires a lot of repetitive effort for us; effort better put towards course

improvement (pareto improvement, even). Instead, consider the avenues of communication listed above, and choose one that best fits your inquiry. If you somehow missed this section of the syllabus the first time around and email me about something of general interest to others or something that has a structured process already attached to it, please do not take offence if you receive a canned reply directing you back to this section of the syllabus.

While most questions can be handled through points 1-3 above, for those of a private nature, please reach out to me directly through email (e.g. for concerns about accessibility accommodations, TA issues, typos or broken links on the website). The course email is eco402.ward@utoronto.ca. If you need to send an e-mail, please (1) email from your UofT email address (it will be ignored as spam otherwise), and (2) include your student number in your signature. If we can answer briefly, we will reply within three business days. If you receive no reply please check the syllabus, review Quercus announcements, post to Piazza, or make an appointment to see me during office hours (weekly in the Tuesday course time slot or at another mutually agreed time).

Lastly, please note that we will make important announcements through Quercus, which means you need to check in here regularly. You may also wish to customize your Quercus notification preferences to receive immediate notification of course messages.

7. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please read/refamiliarize yourself with the Faculty Arts & Science's Statement on Academic Integrity at the start of our course: <https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity>. As part of an academic community it is your responsibility to be aware of appropriate conduct. Any academic offence will be reported and acted upon immediately.

8. STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY

For accessibility concerns *immediately* visit <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as> and also register with Accommodated Testing Services (ATS): <https://www.ace.utoronto.ca/ats/>. We can only provide accommodations for assessments as directed by ATS. If you have trouble, seek help right away from us, your College Registrar, and/or the Academic Success Centre. For any issues that extend beyond our course, or last more than a week, contact your College Registrar immediately.

9. PRIVACY

We are all expected to respect university privacy and copyright restrictions in this course.

Synchronous events: weekly synchronous events (where students participate) *may not* be recorded by students for privacy reasons. The relevant policy states “Students may not create recordings of weekly synchronous events with the exception of those students requiring an accommodation for a disability, who should speak to the instructor prior to beginning to record these events.” Recordings of synchronous events by me, the meeting host (including your participation) will be recorded on video and will be available to students in part or whole for viewing remotely and after each session.

Course Recordings: Course lectures will be recorded on video and will be available to students in the course for viewing remotely. The relevant policy states “Download and re-use is prohibited.

Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation and are protected by copyright. Do not download, copy, or share any course or student materials or videos without the explicit permission of the instructor.”