

UNC-Chapel Hill
ECON 450 – Health Economics: Problems & Policy (Section 001)
Fall 2006

Instructor: Katherine Cloud
Office: Hanes 300B
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 12-1 (and by appointment)
Email Address: mkcloud@email.unc.edu (the best way to contact me)
Class Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 – 11:50 PM
Class Meeting Room: Gardner 209
Graduate Research Consultant: Volker Grzimek (grzimek@yahoo.com)

OBJECTIVES

Discussion of health care arouses great passion - who gets health care and how much they get is both a moral and practical challenge to a civilized society and of personal interest to all. We don't want to get ill and we want to be properly treated if we do. Economics as a discipline can provide great insight into these issues. The fundamental problem of scarcity requires choices. Even if our preference is to spend more on health care, there are limits as to how much of our personal and national income we can spend on it. However much we do decide to spend, we want to spend it efficiently so that we get more health care for a given commitment of resources. To answer these questions we need to introduce and apply a range of economic concepts.

TEXTBOOK

The textbook for this course is [The Economics of Health and Health Care](#) 5th edition by Folland, Goodman and Stano. It is available from the campus bookstore and from other textbook sources. This is a new edition, so you will not be able to find used copies. Other readings will be provided in class.

EXAMS AND GRADING

Your course grade will be determined out of 1000 points. There will be three midterms, a final exam, three homework assignments and a term project. The final exam will be cumulative.

Your final grade will be determined from your total number of points (out of 1000):

Midterms	:	300
Final Exam	:	300
Research Project	:	250
Homework	:	<u>150</u>
TOTAL	:	1000

Grade	Total # of Points
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	Below 600 total points

+/- values for each course letter grade (A-D) will be assigned at the end of the semester.

BLACKBOARD.UNC.EDU

Each day I will post an announcement on blackboard that describes what we did in class that day. I will also post any activities from class. I DO NOT post the lecture notes. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining any notes/ activities/ handouts that you missed. Your grades are also recorded and regularly updated on blackboard.

RESEARCH PROJECT

A research project will be a major component of this class. The Office of Undergraduate Research and the Center for Teaching and Learning has selected this class to be part of a program to increase research opportunities for undergraduates. Volker Grzimek, who has taught this class in the past, will be the Graduate Research Consultant for the semester. We will

present the project at the beginning of the semester - complete with due dates and specific expectations. Volker will also lead a class period to introduce you to STATA. The best way to contact Volker is by email: grzimek@yahoo.com

Rules and Regulations:

1. There will be no make-up exams for the midterms. You can choose not to take any of the midterms. In those instances, the final exam will be weighted accordingly.
2. The instructor reserves the right to assign extra credit assignments throughout the semester.
3. The final exam will be given on Monday, December 11 from 12-3 in Gardner 209. From UNC's Registrar office: "If you cannot attend the final exam, do not register for the course. The final examination schedule is fixed and cannot be changed." (unless the Dean grants permission to take the exam at another time).
4. You are expected to attend classes regularly.
5. Students are required to adhere to the UNC Honor Code. All exams will be closed book/closed note.

Dates to remember:

August 23 : First day of class (Wednesday)
September 4 : Labor Day – no class (Monday)
September 20 : Midterm I (Wednesday)
October 16 : Midterm II (Monday)
October 17 : Last day to drop courses
October 20 : Fall Break – no class (Friday)
November 15 : Midterm III (Wednesday)
November 22,24 : Thanksgiving Holiday - no class (Wednesday, Friday)
December 6 : Last day of class
December 11 : Final Exam, 12-3 (Monday)