Meeting Time:  MW 3:00PM - 4:20PM

Meeting Place:  Switzler 101

Course Instructor:  Jeff Milyo
Office:  235 Professional Building
Hours:  By appointment
Phone:  882 – 3459
Email:  milyoj@missouri.edu

Course Overview:

This course analyzes the economics of public health and health care in the United States with particular attention to the role of government. It examines the demand for health care and the structure and consequences of public and private health insurance; the supply of health care, including professional training, licensure, specialization and compensation, hospital competition and finance, and the determinants and consequences of technological changes in medicine, as well as an examination of recent health care reforms.  This class may be taken for writing intensive (WI) credit; in order to receive WI credit, students must be registered for the WI section.  Graduate students must complete additional assignments for graduate credit.

Readings:


Additional required readings will be distributed in class or on the course website. In addition, class lectures will often refer to current events and policy debates; for this reason, students are strongly encouraged to read a national newspaper.

Course materials including handouts, supplemental readings, homework assignments and any important course announcements will be posted on the blackboard site.

Expectations and Decorum:

Students are expected to attend all lectures and complete all assignments.  In the case of unavoidable absence, be sure to obtain lecture notes from classmates.  Also, please refrain from creating negative externalities.  For example, mute electronic devices and avoid entering or exiting during class time, except as required by the norms of polite society.
Grading:

Non-WI Section: Course grades are based on the weighted average score of two in-class exams (80%) and class participation (20%).

WI Section: Course grades are based on the weighted average score of two in-class exams (40%), two reaction papers (40%) and class participation (20%).

Grades will be assigned according to the following schedule:

A+ = 97-100  B+ = 87-89  C+ = 77-79  D+ = 67-69
A   = 93-96  B  = 83-86  C  = 73-76  D  = 63-66
A-  = 90-92  B- = 80-82  C- = 70-72  D- = 60-62
F  = 59 and lower

Assignment Dates:

Wednesday, March 9th: Midterm Exam
(WI) Wednesday, March 16th: Last day to submit the first draft of Reaction Paper #1
(WI) Wednesday, April 6th: Last day to submit the final draft of Reaction Paper #1

Wednesday, May 4th: Final Exam (non-cumulative)
(WI) Friday, May 6th: Last Day to submit the first draft of Reaction Paper #2
(WI) Friday, May 13th: Last Day to submit the final draft of Reaction Paper #2

Exams:

Exams are taken in class and are closed book. Exams usually include several sections in order of ascending difficulty (e.g., definitions,true-false, multiple choice, short answer problems and short essay problems). There are no make-up exams; absence from an exam will be excused only in the case of a medical or personal emergency (see below).

Participation:

Participation is graded based on ability to respond to direct questions; regular attendance and attention to assigned readings and discussion questions are necessary conditions for a passing score. Each student starts with a perfect score of 100; scores are then marked down 10 points for each unexcused absence and up to 5 points for each failure to respond to a direct question. Students will be selected for questions based on a pseudo-random process; a list of responders will posted at the start of each class.

Students may obtain up to two excused absences from participation for non-emergencies (e.g., extra-curricular activities and job interviews) by notifying the instructor in advance of any such absence.
Reaction Papers:

Reaction papers are 4-6 page original essays that generate some value-added to the course material; as such, summary of other sources should be kept to a minimum. Reaction papers may be informal in tone (e.g. first person) and may include normative discussion; however, each paper must contain some positive analysis and a consistent and professional method of acknowledging and citing all sources (i.e., quotations, footnotes and a formal reference list in a standard format).

Reaction papers may critically review published research; expand or extend class discussion; analyze current news coverage or political debates; or even reflect on relevant personal experience including class lessons from other courses. Regardless of the substantive focus, reaction papers must be well-written. This means not only free of grammatical and spelling errors, but also well-crafted; in particular, papers should be succinct and logically coherent. Finally, papers must demonstrate that the author has incorporated appropriate lessons from economics (e.g. use economic terminology and concepts appropriately).

Reaction papers must be printed single-sided in 12 point font, double-spaced and with one-inch margins all around. Pages must numbered at the bottom-center and stapled together in the upper left corner. Please use footnotes instead of endnotes and employ a consistent and conventional method for citing all sources. The first page should list your name at the upper left and include a centered title in boldface 16-20 point font. Do not use a separate title page.

Reaction papers will be scored in two parts: a first draft and a final draft. Every first draft that is turned in on time will be reviewed by the instructor and returned for revision. The final draft must be attached to the original draft with the instructor’s comments.

Reaction papers will be rated on a 100-point scale, as follows:

First Draft: 50 points maximum; based on content (25 points), quality of writing and presentation (25 points).

Final Draft: 50 points maximum; based on content (50 points), quality of writing and presentation (25 points).

Emergency Related Issues:

In case of an emergency that affects your attendance (e.g., military call-ups, severe and contagious illness, or a death in the family), you will be excused from participation or an exam if and only if you provide me with your justification via e-mail and submit proper documentation in a timely manner (e.g. military order in advance, doctor’s note or published obituary). However, you do not need to contact me during your emergency, but please do so as soon as it is practicable.
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**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

**Accommodation of Disabilities**

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible. If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Disability Center, S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

**Intellectual Pluralism**

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (http://osrr.missouri.edu/); or the MU Equity Office (http://equity.missouri.edu/), or by email at equity@missouri.edu. All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.

**Academic Inquiry, Course Discussion and Privacy**

University of Missouri System Executive Order No. 38 lays out principles regarding the sanctity of classroom discussions at the university. The policy is described fully in Section 200.015 of the Collected Rules and Regulations. In this class, students may make audio or video recordings of course activity unless specifically prohibited by the faculty member. However, the redistribution of audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course is prohibited without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with provisions of section 200.020 of the Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri pertaining to student conduct matters.