

# Course Syllabus

## Husson University

### HS 411\_I2: Health Economics and Policy Spring 2020-Online (7 Weeks)

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Office Hours: Mondays 3:00 to 4:00. Tuesdays  
10:45-12:30. Wednesday 11:15 to 1:00 or by  
appt.

Class Format: Asynchronous Online

## Course Description

Healthcare reform has been an ongoing process for decades. At times, legislation and regulation have brought about major changes in the financing and delivery of medical services. At other times, competitive forces have restructured the delivery system. Healthcare reform and related legislation and regulation, together with market forces, will influence how the public pays for and receives its medical services. Because it affects the lives of so many and involves such a large portion of our country's resources, health policy will continue to be the focus of debate, legislative change, and market restructuring. This course will help clarify some of the more significant issues underlying the politics and economics of healthcare.

This course provides a comprehensive look at the rapid rise in medical expenditures in the United States over the past five decades, the measures that have been proposed to address this problem, and the political obstacles that have made enacting healthcare and

entitlement reform difficult. Specifically, students will examine the impact of managed care, the dynamics of competition in the healthcare industry, and the role of government in medical care. They will also discuss the Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010. Issues are explored from an economic perspective, which is helpful not only for understanding the forces pressuring for change in healthcare but also for

from an economic perspective, which is helpful not only for understanding the forces pressuring for change in healthcare but also for explaining why the health system has evolved to its current state. Even the political issues surrounding the financing and delivery of health services can be better understood when viewed through an economic perspective—that is, one that considers the economic self-interest of participants.

## Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Analyze the relationship between rising medical expenditures and health quality indicators
2. Explore factors that affect the patient's access to medical services
3. Discuss the health insurance system in detail, including aspects of coverage and health insurance markets
4. Analyze the Medicare and Medicaid systems
5. Discuss issues related to the practice of medicine—such as physician and RN shortages or surpluses, changes in group practice structure, and the malpractice system—from an economic perspective
6. Explore how healthcare providers' business structures and strategies affect their current and future delivery of medical services
7. Discuss managed care and long-term care as approaches to financing medical services
8. Examine the influence of competition and comparative effectiveness research in healthcare system
9. Explore the medical education market and its impact on healthcare costs and US competitiveness
10. Analyze the global, economic, and political factors that influence the cost and availability of prescription drugs in the US
11. Discuss strategies and policies for addressing the allocation of scarce resources, such as transplant organs and funding for medical research and education
12. Analyze the impact of government policies on national medical systems

**Prerequisites:** HS 101 and HS 311.

## Required Text

Paul J. Feldstein. (2019). Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective, Edition: 7. Foundation of the American College of Healthcare Executives, ISBN: 978-1-64055-010-0

## Grading and Evaluation

Current Event Assignment (3 Delivery: each 7%)	21%
Discussion Forum Activities (6 Delivery; each 6%)	36%
Policy Memo Proposal	3%
Policy Memo	15%
Mid-Term exams	10%
Final exam	15%

**Note:** Instructions for the Current Event Assignment, Discussion Forum, and Policy Memo are posted separately in greater detail on Canvas

## Submission and Assessment of Late Assignments Policy

1. Every assignment has a due date. Students are expected to submit assignments on or before the assigned due date.
2. Paper and assignments handed in after the due date will receive a 15% point deduction for each day following the due date. This late policy will apply to all assignments for which no application for extension has been made.
3. In specific circumstances, for acceptable reasons, a student may request an extension without penalty from me and/or the Center for Student Success (Formerly OASIS) (depends on the nature of the problem).
  - Examples of acceptable reasons include treatment by a physician, personal emergencies, vocational or family crisis.
  - Examples of unacceptable reasons include: broken printer or computer virus, behind on other assignments, cannot get to a library or buy a book, and general busyness at work.

## Academic Honesty

Students and faculty in colleges and universities seek new knowledge and insights. There is so much to learn and know that we must build on the work of each other. Academic integrity is essential to that building process. We rely on each other, therefore, to specify what we

know, how we know it, or where we found it. Underlying this reliance is an obligation, to be honest, forthright, and civil in all dealings with a fellow student, staff, and faculty. Behavior inconsistent with these obligations in the context of this course will not be tolerated.

Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, collusion, and assaultive, demeaning or disruptive behavior are all examples of behavior that fall below the norms of academic integrity. A student who engages in any such behavior will receive, at a minimum a grade of “F” in the pertinent assignment. The student may also have his or her final grade reduced by one or more grade points or be immediately dismissed with a failing grade from the course. Such behavior may also result in additional penalties, including suspension or dismissal from the student’s program, School, or the University, and may delay or prevent professional licensure.

If the instructor for this course determines that a violation of academic integrity has occurred, the instructor will record the finding in a report and meet with the student to discuss the findings and proposed sanctions. The student may appeal the findings to the Dean of [according to the course] within 10 business days of the scheduled meeting with the instructor. Uncontested sanctions or those supported by the Dean will become a matter of record on the student’s file and be retained for the duration of the student’s attendance at Husson.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Husson University reasonably accommodates those who request accommodations and provide evidence of a disability. Such efforts are in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as amended. In order to request disability-related services at Husson, students must self-identify to the Office of Academic Success and Intercultural Services (OASIS), and provide appropriate and up-to-date documentation to verify their disability or special needs. Notice to other departments, faculty or staff, does not constitute self-identification to OASIS.

After the accommodations have been approved, the student must notify the instructor by providing the accommodation plan. Depending upon the nature of the request, the instructor may then coordinate with OASIS to fulfill the plan. If you have any questions regarding reasonable accommodations or need to request disability-related services, please contact Dean Wilson Barker in the OASIS Office, located in Peabody Hall room 208, or call (207) 992-1934, or e-mail [wilsonbarkers@husson.edu](mailto:wilsonbarkers@husson.edu) (<mailto:wilsonbarkers@husson.edu>).

### **Sexual Assault / Misconduct**

Administration, faculty, and staff at Husson University are interested in the intellectual, physical, and emotional well-being of its students. At the University faculty members are considered “responsible employees” under the regulations of Title IX and are therefore required to report incidences of sexual assault and/or misconduct. This reporting obligation pertains to incidents that have been observed as well as those that have been heard. Because advisors, faculty, and staff must report such matters, the ability of these individuals to maintain the

confidentiality of the information provided is limited. Confidentiality can be maintained through Husson University Counseling Center. The Husson University community encourages students to advance a culture of safety and concern for others.

For further information regarding resources available to students and policies regarding sexual misconduct, please visit:

<http://www.husson.edu/title-ix> [.\(http://www.husson.edu/title-ix\)](http://www.husson.edu/title-ix)

## **Non-Discrimination**

Husson University is committed to maintaining an environment that is free of unlawful harassment and discrimination. In accordance with federal law and its commitment to a fair and open campus environment, Husson cannot and will not tolerate unlawful discrimination against or harassment of any individual or group based upon race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or any factor that is a prohibited consideration under applicable law, in matters of admissions, employment, housing, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates.

## **Religious observance policy**

Husson University recognizes that the student body includes adherents of many faiths, and that observance of religious holidays is an important part of religious practice. In support of this sentiment, any student who is unable to attend classes or to participate in any examination, study, or course requirements on a day of observance because of his or her religious belief, shall be provided with an opportunity to make up the course requirements so long as the effort to do so does not create an unreasonable burden upon the instructor, department of the University. The student must provide advanced notice as established in the syllabus such that the instructor has adequate opportunity to prepare for makeup. At the discretion of the instructor, the occasion for making up coursework could occur prior to the examination or due date of the assignment. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result in a student's grade for the examination, study, or course requirement on the day of religious observance because he or she relies upon these provisions. In the case of an internship or clinical, students should refer to the applicable policy in place by the employer or site.

## **Instructors Discretion to Modify the Syllabus**

The instructor has the authority to modify the syllabus based on (her/his) determination that such changes would better meet the learning objectives of the course. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain awareness of those modifications and note them as necessary. The instructor also has full discretion to determine the extent to which (if at all) technology will be used and/or available within the classroom. Such determination could be based on technology as a learning tool or simply to minimize distractions among students.

## **Integrated Academic Services Center**

The Office of Academic Success & Intercultural Services—OASIS—in 208 Peabody Hall offers an integrated academic services center,

which includes the following departments:

- **Academic Services**

The Academic Services staff members serve as advisors to students who have not yet declared a major area of study (Undeclared) and provide advice and guidance on academic requirements to all students. They offer assistance with study skills and time management, as well as coordinating appointments with tutors in the Learning Center and Writing Center. Academic Services staff can advise students every step of the way from declaring a major, to registering for classes, to preparing to graduate.

- **Career Services**

Husson Career Services helps students and alumni make informed career decisions, connect with employers, pursue further education, and develop their professional lives and goals. They provide guidance on careers, majors, internships, job searching, graduate school advising, using social media, and much more. Get started by signing up on the Husson Eagle Career Link through the College Central Network where jobs, internships, and all Career Services events are posted.

- **Disability Services**

Disability Services staff work with students who have all types of disabilities to make sure they have equal access to a Husson education. To receive accommodations, a student must provide documentation of a qualifying disability and initiate contact with Disability Services. The reasonable accommodations determined by the Disability Services office cannot substantially alter the course or program requirements. For out-of-classroom experiences, accommodations are reevaluated and do not necessarily match classroom accommodations.

- **International Student Services**

International students will find a full range of support and advocacy services within OASIS. A designated Student Success Advisor will assist international students in academic as well as personal advising, as well as facilitating contact with the Learning or Writing Centers. Additionally, international students can access Immigration and Visa Services, orientation programming, peer mentors, and Career Services through their Student Success Advisor.

- **Learning Center**

The Learning Center is a student-central resource dedicated to providing tutoring for both general undergraduate classes and degree-specific courses. The atmosphere is laid-back, with both peer tutors and faculty tutors available to help. Classes tutored include anatomy and physiology, chemistry, algebra, probability and statistics, physics, psychology, and Spanish. Classes are added to the tutoring schedule as need dictates. Supplemental Instruction is also offered in many science classes, again as dictated by student needs.

- **Writing Center**

The Writing Center is geared towards all things writing: composition, the creative process, grammar, and even style. Writing consultants can help with inventing, organizing, and revising documents to meet the specific requirements established by courses. Throughout the term, the Writing Center also conducts informational workshops, such as how to use APA citation format. Information regarding these workshops is posted outside the Writing Center.

- **Online Tutoring**

If you are enrolled in one of Husson University's extension campuses or online courses and need to access a tutor, please use the appropriate link below to set up an appointment.

For an appointment with a Writing Consultant, please email:

writingcenter@husson.edu

For an appointment with a tutor in the Learning Center, please email:

[learningcenter@husson.edu](mailto:learningcenter@husson.edu) (<mailto:learningcenter@husson.edu>)

### **Tentative Course Outline and Important Dates**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment/Exam</b>
Module 1 (Week 3/16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The Rise of Medical Expenditures</li> <li>· How Much Should We Spend on Medical Care?</li> <li>· Do More Medical Expenditures Produce Better Health?</li> </ul>	Feldstein Ch. 1-3	Discussion Forum 1 due








	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Rationing Medical Services</li> </ul>		
Module 2 (Week 3/23)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· How Much Health Insurance Should Everyone Have?</li> <li>· Why Are Those Who Most Need Health Insurance Least Able to Buy It?</li> </ul>	Feldstein Ch. 5-7	Current Event 1 due Discussion Forum 2 due
Module 3 (Week 3/30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Medicare</li> <li>· Medicare and Physicians</li> <li>· Medicaid</li> </ul>	Feldstein Ch. 8-10	Proposal Due Discussion Forum 3 due
Module 4 (Week 4/6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· The Role of Government in Medical Care</li> <li>· Do Nonprofit Hospitals Behave Differently from For-Profit Hospitals?</li> <li>· Hospitals and Health Reform</li> </ul>	Feldstein Ch. 15-16, 31	Mid-term Exam Discussion Forum 4 due
Module 5 (Week 4/13)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Cost Shifting and Competition: Who pays for healthcare?</li> <li>· Price Controls and Competition</li> </ul>	Feldstein Ch. 18, 23	Current Event 2 due Discussion Forum 5 due
Module 6 (Week 4/20)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Physician Workforce: Shortage or Oversupply?</li> <li>· Nursing Workforce: Shortage or Oversupply?</li> <li>· Role of Physicians in Healthcare</li> </ul>	Feldstein Ch. 4, 11, 24	Discussion Forum 6 due
Module 7 (Week 4/27)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· National Health Insurance</li> <li>· The Canadian Healthcare System</li> </ul>	Feldstein Ch. 34, 36	Current Event 3 due Final Policy Memo due











TBA

Final Exam

## Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Sun Mar 22, 2020	 <a href="#">Discussion Forum 1</a> ( <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439058">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439058</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 29, 2020	 <a href="#">Current Event Assignmet 1</a> ( <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439066">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439066</a> )	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Discussion Forum 2</a> ( <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439059">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439059</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 5, 2020	 <a href="#">Discussion Forum 3</a> ( <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439060">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439060</a> )	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="#">Proposal</a> ( <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439070">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439070</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Wed Apr 15, 2020	 <a href="#">Discussion Forum 4</a> ( <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439061">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439061</a> )	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 19, 2020	 <a href="#">Current Event Assignment 2</a> ( <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439064">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439064</a> )	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
	 <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439062">Discussion Forum 5</a> <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439062">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439062</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 26, 2020	 <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439063">Discussion Forum 6</a> <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439063">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439063</a>	due by 11:59pm
Sun May 3, 2020	 <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439065">Current Event Assignment 3</a> <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439065">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439065</a>	due by 11:59pm
Mon May 4, 2020	 <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439069">Policy Memo</a> <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439069">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439069</a>	due by 11:59pm
	 <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439067">Final Exam</a> <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439067">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439067</a>	
	 <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11931634">Final Exam</a> <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11931634">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11931634</a>	
	 <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439068">Midterm Exam</a> <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439068">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11439068</a>	
	 <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11851243">Midterm Exam</a> <a href="https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11851243">https://husson.instructure.com/courses/1709631/assignments/11851243</a>	