



Econ2169F 570
Economics of Health Care
Fall 2026

Instructor: Kristin Denniston
Email: kdennist@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: In-Person

Calendar Description:

Examination of health as an economic good and the economics of health services. Topics include international comparison of health services systems, private versus public financing, consequences of information asymmetry between buyers and sellers of medical services, and valuation of life and health in cost-benefit analysis.

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 1021A/B and Economics 1022A/B, or Economics 2001A/B.

Anti-requisite(s): Economics 2192A/B if taken at King's University College in 2022-2023.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: ECONOMIC

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

King's University College
ECO 2169F – 570
Economics of Health Care

Fall 2026-27

Course information:

Course: Economics 2169A section 570

Instructor: Kristin Denniston

Contact Information: kdennist@uwo.ca

Office hours: See OWL Contents > Course overview

Course description:

Waitlists for emergency room care and for specialist care have ballooned. Rural hospitals are reducing hours or closing altogether. Is Canada's health care system broken? How should it be improved? How will Alberta's introduction of private care impact health care delivery overall? This course utilizes economic analysis to help students think about health behavior, health care delivery, cost-control, equity, and the use of private markets in health care reform. Everyone desires health care at some point in their lives, albeit for the treatment of illness, prevention of disability, health of their child, or prolongation of life. We will examine health as an economic good and study the economics of health services. Topics include international comparison of health services systems, private versus public financing, consequences of information asymmetry between buyers and sellers of medical services, and the valuation of life and health in cost-benefit analysis.

Course learning outcomes:

By the end of the semester, successful students will be able to:

- Apply economic reasoning and methodology to evaluate health care in modern societies.
- Identify and explain economic concepts and theories related to the behavior of economic agents, markets, firm structures, social norms, and government policies in the field of health care.
- Use elementary cost-benefit analysis to measure the effectiveness of health care policies.
- Identify and evaluate pertinent institutional features of the Canadian health care system.
- Use economic reasoning and statistical analysis to understand and evaluate health care policies.

Mode of Instruction: (in-person)

This course is taught in-person. It is expected that students will attend all lectures and labs. Teaching material and announcements will be updated weekly on OWL. It is your responsibility to check them regularly.

Course textbooks/materials:

The course is based on lecture notes and readings with reference to the following material that will be placed on reserve in the library.

- Hurley, Jeremiah E. (2010). Health Economics, (1st Edition). McGraw-Hill Ryerson.
- Bhattacharya, J. Health Economics 1st edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. ISBN-10: 9781137029966
- Parkin, Michael and Robin Bade (2019). Microeconomics: Canada in the Global Environment, (10th Edition). Pearson
- Article readings on OWL.

Method of evaluation:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| ○ Participation/Attendance | 5% |
| ○ In-class Assessments (Best 2 of 3. Application quiz or exercise) | 10% |
| ○ Midterm in class (Thursday Oct 29) | 20% |
| ○ Essay Proposal (Nov 13) | 2% |
| ○ Essay (1500-2500 words, Due Dec 4) | 18% |
| ○ Final (TBA Dec 11-22 by registrar) | 45% |
| ○ Total = 100% | |

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- All dates are **tentative** and may be adjusted slightly throughout the term.
- Students have **72 hours** after the due date to submit assignments without penalty. After this grace period, a mark of 0 will be applied.
- *The instructor reserves the right to seek **additional clarification** about any submitted work (e.g. explain a solution) to determine academic integrity or the final grade for any assessment.*

Academic Considerations:

- **Small In-class Assessments** (Best 2 out of 3)
 - Small in-class assessments are designed to help you keep up with the material. Because of built-in flexibility (drop lowest), there are no makeups. Dates will be determined on the first day of class. The nature may vary, but the format and/or practice for the in-class assessment will be given two weeks ahead of time.
- **Participation and attendance**
 - The participation grade component will be calculated as follows:
 - If a student participates in 80% or more of the clicker questions, they will receive full marks.
 - If a student answers less than 80% of all clicker questions, the clicker mark will decrease linearly using the formula: **Clicker mark = 6.25(y)**, where y is the proportion of all iClicker/Socrative/attendance questions the student answered.

- *For example, if you answer 70% of the clicker questions, you will have $0.70 \times 6.25 = 4.375$ marks towards your participation / attendance grade component.*
- Students may miss 20% of classes and still receive the full mark. Because of this built-in flexibility, there are no accommodations for missed participation marks.
- Students should have a mobile device when participating as GPS settings may be used with the software. Students must attend class to receive the grade.
- Students who falsify attendance will automatically receive a grade of 0 for the in-class participation course grade component.
- *Students are responsible for ensuring they have a reliable mobile device at each lecture.*
- **Midterm**
 - Undocumented absences are not permitted for the midterm. To be eligible for accommodation, students must notify the instructor and submit documentation to the Academic Dean's office **within 48 hours** of the missed assessment. For guidance on submitting requests, refer to the King's Policy statements at the end of this outline.
 - For students approved to write a makeup, the makeup midterm will be **Friday, Nov 13th** in the Friday Makeup session (timing to be announced). There is a **\$45.00 fee** to take a Friday makeup exam with the exam office.
- **Essay**
 - The electronic copy of your essay and proposal must be submitted To OWL Assignments both in Microsoft Word format and in PDF format.
 - The essay has two parts: a proposal and the final essay.
 - The electronic copy of the proposal and essay are to be uploaded to OWL Assignments before the deadline(s) to be marked.
 - Final Reports are due at **11:59 pm on Friday, Dec 4th** and will be accepted without penalty for 72 hours afterwards. Reports submitted after Dec 7th will receive a 0. Students should submit whatever has been completed by the final deadline.
- **Final**
 - Students who miss the final exam must have documentation and approval from the Academic Dean's office to take the Special Exam. Special Exams booked outside of the designated special exam days, incur a **fee of \$75.00**. The designated Special Exam Days for this term are **January 8 and 9, 2027**.

Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:

- Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy at the following Web site
- https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- **Course policy on use of generative AI, including translation/grammar aids**

- Use of Chat GPT or other AI services is prohibited in all assessments, including essays, tests, and examinations unless explicitly authorized by the instructor. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.
- **Notice on Turnitin**
 - All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).
- **Use of Electronic Devices**
 - Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, watches, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Only non-programmable calculators are permitted at exams. *If a student is caught with a prohibited electronic device at an exam, it is assumed that they are cheating.* The student will be reported and subject to academic sanctions.

Classroom Expectations

- All students are expected to engage online and in class in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all interactions with peers, as well as communication between TAs or your Professor. Failure to do so will result in academic discipline and/or discipline under the Student Code of Conduct.
- **Recording or distribution** of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the Professor or TA is grounds for academic discipline.
- **Course content created by a faculty member** is considered the faculty member's intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.

Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:

- See OWL course site.
- There is a **weekly Monday OWL announcement** to help students keep up with deadlines and schedule adjustments. Students are expected to read the announcements and monitor the OWL course site regularly to keep up with deadlines and adjustments.
- Tentative schedule for Fall 2026 below (**Refer to OWL for schedule.**)

TENTATIVE – See OWL.			
Week Starting	Reading\Lectures	Topic(s)	Assessments
Week 1 Sep 9	Introduction & Topic 1	Introduction to Health Care Systems (Hurley Ch1)	Lecture topics based on Hurley, Jeremiah E. (2010). Health Economics, (1st Edition). McGraw-Hill Ryerson. And Bhattacharya, J. Health Economics 1st edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. ISBN-10: 9781137029966
Week 2 Sep 14	Topics 1&2	Efficiency & Equity (Hurley Ch2)	
Week 3 Sep 21	Topics 2&3	Markets in Health Care (Hurley Ch3)	
Week 4 Sep 28	Topics 3&4	Economics Evaluation (Hurley Ch4)	ASSESSMENT 1: Thursday Oct 1 in class. (T1-3)
Week 5 Oct 5	Topic 4	Economic Evaluation of Health Technology (Bhattacharya Ch14)	
READING WEEK			
Week 6 Oct 19	Topic 5	Individual Demand for Health Care & Production of Health Ch2&3 Bhattacharya)	ASSESSMENT 2: Thursday Oct 22 in class. (T4,5)
Week 7 Oct 26	Review	MIDTERM	Midterm in Class on Thursday Oct 29.
Week 8 Nov 2	Topic 6	Population Health – Smoking & Obesity (Ch24 Bhattacharya)	
Week 9 Nov 9	Topic 7a, 7b	Demand for Health Care Demand for Health Insurance (Ch8 & Ch9 Hurley)	1. Proposal: due Thursday Nov 13 @ 11:59 pm
Week 10 Nov 16	Topic 7c, 8a	Market Failure in Health Insurance (Ch10 Hurley)	
Week 11 Nov 23	Topic 8b, 9	Physicians, Pharmaceuticals (Ch13 & Ch15 Hurley)	ASSESSMENT 3: Thursday Nov 26 in class. (T7-9?)
Week 12 Nov 30	Topic 9, 10a	Systems of Health Care Finance (Ch11 Hurley)	2. FINAL Essay: due FRIDAY Dec 4 @ 11:59 pm
Week 13 Dec 7	Review	REVIEW	
FINAL EXAMS Dec 11 - 22	FINAL EXAM		FINAL – TBA

King's Policy Statements Attached below.

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2026-2027

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found [here](#) Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities. Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under Special Examinations).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://kings.uwo.ca/community/library/services/accessibility/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's (Western) is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

Mental Health and Wellness at King's - King's University College

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email or by calling 519-661-3568.

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see https://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/about/governance/policies/board/Board%20Policy%203_1%20Code%20of%20Student%20Responsibilities%20and%20Conduct.pdf

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.