Syllabus
Economics 211
Economics of Health and Health Care
Fall 2008
Tues/Thurs. 6b (2:20 – 3:30)

Instructor:
Peter von Allmen
Professor of Economics
Comenius 216
610-861-1413
mepva01@moravian.edu

Office Hours:
Monday/Wednesday: 1 – 2:30PM
Tuesday/Thursday: 10:30 – 11:30AM
Others by Appointment

Required texts:
Rexford E. Santerre and Stephen P. Neun

The goals and expected outcomes of this course are
- To become familiar with the various industries that make up the Health Care sector of the economy.
- To learn to use appropriate economic models to analyze and describe the activity and changes in those sectors.
- The Health Care industry is vital to the economy as a whole, and is changing at a very rapid pace. Therefore, part of our challenge is to become familiar enough with these changes to be able to recognize and suggest good policy.

Assessment. Your grade will consist of six components: three hourly exams, two essays and a final. Attendance and participation are expected. Participation requires that you attend class with readings complete such that you can participate in and add to the discussion. Unexcused absences in excess of three will result in grade reductions. Grades will be weighted as follows:

- Exams (1-3) 15% each 45%
- Essays 15% each 30%
- Final 25%

You must notify me BEFOREHAND if you need to reschedule an exam. If you do not take an exam on the date it is given without first making alternative arrangements, you will receive a score of zero for that exam.

Academic Honesty: I endorse and strictly enforce the college’s academic honesty policy. Violations of this policy will result in failure for the semester, no exceptions. The academic honesty policy can be found in the student handbook under “Academic policies and Regulations” and in the college catalog (p.46). Make sure you have read and understand these important policies. If you have any questions, PLEASE ask.
Schedule (may be adjusted as necessary – note that this is VERY likely in the last month)

**August**

26  Introduction/Class business  Ch. 1
28  The economic perspective on health  Ch. 2

**September**

2  The economic perspective on health  Ch. 2
4  Cost/Benefit Analysis  Ch. 3
   Video “Who Plays God”
9  Remainder of Video/ discussion
11  Health Care systems and institutions  Ch. 4
16  Health Care systems continued  Ch. 4
18  **Exam #1 (Chapters 1 – 4)**
23  The demand for medical care  Ch. 5
25  The demand for care and insurance  Ch. 5/6
30  The demand for insurance  Ch. 6

**October**

2  The supply of medical care  Ch. 7
7  **No Class Fall Break**
9  Supply of medical care (con’t)  Ch. 7
   **ESSAY #1 due**
14  The Structure, Conduct and Performance Model  Ch. 8
16  The Structure, Conduct and Performance Model
   Plus review for exam
Exam #2 (Chapters 5 – 8)

Government health and medical care  Ch. 9, 10

Hospital services market  Ch. 13

Guest speaker – HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATOR

November

The physician services market  Ch. 12

Guest lecture – Dr. James Reid, Orthopedist

Guest lecture – Jon Conrad - Moravian College

Exam #3

Long Term Care Market  Ch 15 through p.488

The pharmaceutical industry  Ch. 14

Guest Speaker, Dr. Matthew Schultz, GlaxoSmithKline

Essay #2 due

December

Video: Health care meltdown: looking for solutions; Health care reform  Ch. 16

Video: John Stossel: Whose Body is it anyway? Sick in America

review/catch up/end of class business

Finals DO NOT SCHEDULE TRAVEL