

## **ECONOMICS 138B: Economics of Health, Part B (#560047)**

Spring 2006, 2:00-3:20, Warren Lecture Hall, room 2205

*Lecturer:* Dr. Melissa Famulari  
e-mail: [mfamulari@ucsd.edu](mailto:mfamulari@ucsd.edu)

Office: Economics 221  
Office Hours: Friday, 11-2:00.

*Teaching Assistant:* Jason Shafrin  
e-mail: [jshafrin@ucsd.edu](mailto:jshafrin@ucsd.edu)

Office: Economics 125  
Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-2:00

*Prerequisites:* Econ 138A.

*Assessment:* There will be a midterm exam on **Thursday, May 4** worth 40% of your grade. The final exam on **Wednesday, June 14, 3:00-6:00pm**, is cumulative and is worth 60% of your grade. Finally, you may choose to write a summary of one of the assigned articles (or an article cited by your text or other article approved by the instructor) and present it to the class. This summary and class presentation is worth 20% of your grade (10% coming from the midterm and 10% coming from the final) **ONLY** if the paper/presentation grade raises your total course points.

*Course Objectives:* This course will examine the health care sector and health policy issues from an economic perspective. Issues to be studied include supply of doctors and nurses, medical malpractice, pharmaceutical industry, hospitals, managed care, and cross country comparison of health systems and outcomes

### *Course Materials:*

*Text:* Herman Folland, Allen C. Goodman, and Miron Stano, *The Economics of Health and Healthcare*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson Education, Inc., 2004). The book is available at the bookstore and 2 copies are placed on reserve at the Geisel Library.

*Additional Readings:* Announced in class and will be available on WebCT.

*WebCT:* This is where you access the syllabus, class handouts, additional readings, a discussion board, your grades, etc.

### *Administrative Issues:*

- (1) The Economics department office handles all matters related to dropping or adding the course, waitlists, etc. Please contact the undergraduate advisors in Sequoyah Hall 245 regarding these issues.
- (2) Exams are closed book: you may not use any notes, electronic devices, books or consult other classmates. If you have any doubts about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please review UCSD policy at <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>.
- (3) We will return midterms one week after you take the exam. If there is a mistake adding up the points on your exam, bring it to my attention and I will correct it immediately. If you believe an exam has not been graded properly, you must submit the test for a re-grade 4 days after we return the exam. I will then re-grade your entire exam. The re-graded midterm score will be your grade for the exam. You may not ask for another re-grade or go back to your first grade.
- (4) If you have a documented disability, please bring your documentation and come to talk to me as soon as possible so that I can make suitable accommodations for you. If you believe that you may have a disability and will desire accommodation, please register with the Office for Students with Disabilities, Building 202 University Center as soon as possible. For information on the steps for academic accommodation, please see <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app3.htm>.

Week	FGS Chapter	Topic
(1)	15	<b>Supply of Medical Care Providers: Physician and Nurses</b>
(2)		<b>Medical Malpractice</b>  Becker, Gary S. "How to Put the Right Cap on Punitive Damages" <i>Business Week</i> , New York: September 15, 2003. Brennan, Troyen A., Colin M. Sox, Helen R. Burstin, "Relation between Negligent Adverse Events and the Outcomes of Medical-Malpractice Litigation" <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> , 1996; 335:p. 1963-7. Kessler, Daniel P. "The Effects of Liability Rules on Medical Malpractice" <i>NBER Research Summary</i> Studdert, David, Michelle Mello and Troy Brennan, "Medical Malpractice" <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> , Jan 15, 2004.
(3)		<b>Intellectual Property Rights</b>  Barder, Owen, Michael Kremer, and Heidi Williams, "Advance Market Commitments: A Policy to Stimulate Investment in Vaccines for Neglected Diseases" <i>Economists' Voice</i> , <i>Economists' Voice</i> , <a href="http://www.bepress.com/ev">www.bepress.com/ev</a> , February, 2006 Weisbrod, Burton A., "Solving the Drug Dilemma" <i>Washington Post</i> , Op.Ed., August 22, 2003, A21 Becker, Gary S. "New Drugs Cut Costs and Medicare Can Help" <i>Business Week</i> , New York: March 22, 2004. Becker, Gary S. "Get the FDA Out of the Way, and Drug Prices Will Drop" <i>Business Week</i> , New York: September 16, 2002.
(4)	16	<b>The Pharmaceutical Industry</b>
(5)	13	<b>Not-for-Profit Firms in Health Care</b>  <b>Midterm Exam: Thursday, May 4</b>
(6)	14, 19	<b>Hospitals</b>
(7)	12	<b>Managed Care</b>
(8)		<b>Issues in Cross Country Comparisons: Allocation by Waiting</b>
(9)	21	<b>International Comparisons</b>  Anderson, Gerard F. and Jean-Pierre Poullier, "Health Spending, Access and Outcomes: Trends in Industrialized Countries, <i>Health Affairs</i> , 1999.
(10)		<b>Child Health in Developed Countries</b>

**Final Exam: Wednesday, June 14, 3:00-6:00pm**