



Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2021

6,260: Health Economics (Major Economics)

ECTS credits: 3

Overview examination/s

(binding regulations see below)

Central - Written examination (100%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: inter-term break

Attached courses

Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer

[6,260,1.00 Health Economics \(Major Economics\)](#) -- Englisch -- [Epper Thomas Frank](#)

Course information

Course prerequisites

- "Microeconomics II" (supply and demand, cost and production, market structures, substitution and income effect, elasticity, etc)
- "Empirical Economic Research" or "Statistics" (summary statistics, hypothesis testing, interpretation of regression output, causality/correlation, etc)

Learning objectives

- Students can evaluate the effects of policy measures (e.g. the implementation of new incentive schemes for general practitioners) and they can use economic reasoning to defend their point of view.
- Students are able to interpret empirical results and understand how economic theory can help to make a case.

Course content

The course provides an introduction to central aspects of health economics including a basic understanding of the demand (patient's view) and the supply (GPs, hospitals, pharmaceutical industry) sides in health care and services. Students will familiarise themselves with the necessary tools to analyse and discuss relevant issues. Students are encouraged to critically analyse current policy discussions and potential policy measures.

The following topics will be discussed (may slightly change):

1. Demand for health and health care
2. Supply of health care
3. Information economics (in particular health insurance)
4. Economics of health innovation
5. Health policy
6. Public health economics
7. Behavioral aspects of health economics

The course will equip students with a basic understanding of key concepts in health economics. Microeconomic and behavioral economic theory is applied to health-related issues.

At the end of the course, students should be able to critically discuss possible policy measures and economic incentives in the context of health economics. They should be able to apply health economic concepts to solve case studies.



Course structure

Weekly lectures. Depending on the Covid-19 situation, the course will take place on campus or virtually via Zoom. Details will be announced on Canvas/Studynet a week prior to the lecture start.

Course literature

Bhattacharya, Jay; Hyde, Timothy; Tu, Peter (2014) - "Health Economics", Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN 978-1-137-02996-6 (available via Skriptekommission/SKK).

Additional course information

In the case of the President's Board having to implement new directives due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in SpS2021, the course information listed above will be changed as follows:

- The course is conducted online via the platform Zoom;
- The recordings of the course are available for 4 days;
- The lecturer informs via StudyNet on the changed implementation modalities of the course.

The examination information listed below would be changed as follows:

- There are no changes necessary to the examination information.

Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/1)

Examination time and form

Central - Written examination (100%, 90 mins.)

Examination time: inter-term break

Remark

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Examination-aid rule

Extended Closed Book

The use of aids is limited; any additional aids permitted are exhaustively listed under "Supplementary aids". Basically, the following is applicable:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments TI-30 series and mono- or bilingual dictionaries (no subject-specific dictionaries) without hand-written notes are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models and any electronic dictionaries are inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as notebooks, tablets, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

Supplementary aids

No examination aids

Examination languages

Question language: English

Answer language: English

Examination content

All parts of the course.



Examination relevant literature

- Handouts/slides (available via Canvas/StudyNet before the next lecture). The complete set of handouts will be available online before 28 May, 2021.
- Lecture notes, including examples, cases and derivations provided during the lecture.
- Relevant book chapters in the above referenced textbook.
- Articles available via StudyNet (before 28 May, 2021)

Please note

Please note that only this fact sheet and the examination schedule published at the time of bidding are binding and takes precedence over other information, such as information on StudyNet (Canvas), on lecturers' websites and information in lectures etc.

Any references and links to third-party content within the fact sheet are only of a supplementary, informative nature and lie outside the area of responsibility of the University of St.Gallen.

Documents and materials are only relevant for central examinations if they are available by the end of the lecture period (CW21) at the latest. In the case of centrally organised mid-term examinations, the documents and materials up to CW 12 are relevant for testing.

Binding nature of the fact sheets:

- Course information as well as examination date (organised centrally/decentrally) and form of examination: from bidding start in CW 04 (Thursday, 28 January 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for decentralised examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised mid-term examinations: in CW 12 (Monday, 22 March 2021);
- Examination information (regulations on aids, examination contents, examination literature) for centrally organised examinations: two weeks before the end of the registration period in CW 14 (Thursday, 8 April 2021).