COURSE TITLE: Advanced Health Economics
COURSE CODE: ECON 6007 (EC60F)
LEVEL: Postgraduate Level
SEMESTER: II
NO. OF CREDITS: Three (3)
PRE-REQUISITE(S): None

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course is organized to make it possible for candidates wishing to do so, to pursue a Health Economics stream at the graduate level on the St. Augustine campus of The University of the West Indies.

The Department of Economics therefore offers a graduate course in Health Economics at the Masters level: ECON 6007/EC60F – Advanced Health Economics. The course is offered as one of the electives and is delivered in one semester (semester II).

The approaches to teaching and learning used in the course are primarily face to face, descriptive lecture sessions. Guest lectures also occur for various topics and presentations are required as an element of the coursework assignment, by the students of the course.

The course comprises 39 contact hours and accounts for 3 credits.

GOAL/PURPOSE OF THE COURSE
This hybrid course exists as an attempt by the Department of Economics to do two (2) things:

1. To introduce students to theoretical and empirical research, public policy issues and analytical techniques applicable to the study of the economics of health and health care.
2. To facilitate an understanding of the dynamics of the health care systems in the Caribbean and the importance of these systems to the development of the region.

This course is designed for the student interested in the impacts of health phenomena on the economy. It would broaden the scope of the Economics Degree, as it looks further than what is documented in the published textbooks to date, considering aspects such as health and attitudes/behavior in the analysis of the economy.
INSTRUCTOR(S) INFORMATION

Lecturer: Dr. Althea La Foucade  
Professor Karl Theodore

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Karl.Theodore@sta.uwi.edu

Office Address: HEU, Centre for Health Economics,  
#25A Warner Street, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago.

Office Telephone #: 1 (868) 662-9459/ 1 (868) 645-7351

Office Hours: by appointment (telephone # above)

Method of Contact: by appointment or via email (address above)

LETTER TO THE STUDENT

The student should be made aware that Health Economics (HE) is actually a line of study concerned with the health of the population. From an economic point of view there are two angles of interest in population health – a development or welfare angle and a cost or efficiency angle. The angles are not strictly independent but need to be studied independently, at least at the beginning. The course is designed to equip you with the tools necessary for analyzing the health issues in the economic context.

CONTENT

The course consists of three (3) components:

Unit 1 – Introduction to Health Economics, Caribbean Health and Health Economics Context

Unit 2 – Health Care Industry: Supply, Demand, Values and Market Failure

Unit 3 – Health Systems in the Caribbean: Economic Issues and Responses.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the course will be to encourage you to become familiar with how health economists link health concerns to the growth and development of the economy. Linked to this is the intention to build in you, the knowledge that your individual actions have an impact upon the economy, either negatively or positively. The expectation is that once you fully understand
the basics of health and economics, and the link between the two, you will be motivated to make full use of the acquired skills.

**TOPIC/UNIT OBJECTIVES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic/Unit</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1 – Introduction to Health Economics, Caribbean Health and Health Economics Context</td>
<td>In this first set of lectures, you should be able to understand and explain what health economics is and have a clearer appreciation of the workings of health and an introduction into its impacts upon individuals, households and the economy, both locally and internationally.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2 – Health Care Industry: Supply, Demand, Values and Market Failure</td>
<td>This second unit focuses on the core elements of economics. These aspects are considered in the context of the health care industry. Areas such as the relevant issues in the Caribbean, the Birdscall and James argument and the costs of being healthy will be examined in these lecture sessions. You are encouraged to consider the health system from a point of view that has not been accounted for in the published textbooks – the undeniable impact of health on economic outcomes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 3 – Health Systems in the Caribbean: Economic Issues and Responses</td>
<td>The last set of lectures will introduce you to the most recent economic issues in the world to date. The responses/actions that have been taken both locally and internationally will also be examined. By the end of this unit, you should have a better knowledge in the areas of health financing, chronic diseases and universal health care. Future challenges to the health care system may also be highlighted.</td>
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**ASSIGNMENT**

There will be a coursework component which will focus on health aspects/issues and their impacts on the Caribbean economy. This takes the form of an essay, no more than 12 pages long, 1.5 line spacing, font size 12 and Times New Roman style. The project may either be an individual effort or group work.
The coursework assignment becomes due four (4) weeks after initial dissemination to the students. This would tentatively be around the **end of March, 2014**. The coursework assignment will account for **35% of the total mark**.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT**

The purpose of the course assessment is to ensure that you grasp the relevant health concepts, and understand their links to the broader economy.

The course assessment comprises of two (2) elements:

1. The coursework project/essay may be a group assignment or individual. The projects will be graded by the course lecturer and marks disseminated to the students via the myelearning website, prior to the final exam date. A formal presentation of the work completed is also mandatory, upon submission of the projects.

2. The final exam will be **three (3) hours** long and consists of **three (3) compulsory questions**, which span the three (3) units of the course.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Tentative Dates of Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coursework Project</td>
<td>35 %</td>
<td>March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (3 hours)</td>
<td>65 %</td>
<td>April/May 2014</td>
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**EVALUATION**

Feedback from you is welcomed and recommended, throughout the semester, via meetings or email, regarding your experiences during the course. At the end of the semester, however, there is also a departmental evaluation of the course and lecturer that is evaluated by the Department of Economics.

This feedback would be considered when preparing lectures and related course material for subsequent classes.
TEACHING STRATEGIES
Teaching will primarily take place through descriptive face-to-face lecture sessions and class discussions. Guest lectures from experts in the relevant topics, are also a core component of this course.
Lectures will be conducted on Thursdays between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the HEU, Centre for Health Economics.

RESOURCES


READINGS

Unit 1


Unit 2


**Unit 3**

Theodore, K. 1996. The Economics of Health Sector Reform in the Caribbean. The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad: School of Continuing Studies.


The Macro Economic Implications of the National Health Insurance Plan for Jamaica. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)/Health Reform Unit, Jamaica. – November, 1997.


### COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week(s)</th>
<th>Topic/Unit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 - 3</td>
<td><strong>Unit 1: Introduction to Health Economics, Caribbean Health and Health Economics Context</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Macroeconomic Theory: A Caribbean Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. What is Health Economics?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 - 7</td>
<td><strong>Unit 2: Health Care Industry: Supply, Demand, Values and Market Failure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Health Economics for the Caribbean: Relevant Issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Health Economics for the Caribbean: The Birdsall and James Argument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Health Economics for the Caribbean: The Costs of Being Healthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 11</td>
<td><strong>Unit 3: Health Systems in the Caribbean: Economic Issues and Responses</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Health Financing <em>(Tentative guest lecture)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Confronting Chronic Diseases <em>(Tentative guest lecture)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Universal Health Care: International Experiences and Implications for the Caribbean <em>(Tentative guest lecture)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Future Challenges to Health Care Systems <em>(Tentative guest lecture)</em></td>
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**Coursework Assignment Due**

12  | Group Presentations |
13  | Revision/Recap Lecture Session |
|     | Final Exam |

### COURSE ACTIVITIES PLANNED

1. Attendance at the HEU, Centre for Health Economics Night Time Seminar Series lectures, held once per month.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

University Policy on Cheating/Plagiarism

Students are reminded of the University’s Regulation for Graduate Diplomas and Degrees No. 85 which states:

85. Cheating is any attempt to benefit oneself or another by deceit or fraud. Plagiarism is a form of cheating. Plagiarism is the unauthorized and unacknowledged use of another person’s intellectual efforts, ideas and creations under one’s own name howsoever recorded, including whether formally published or in manuscript or in typescript or other printed or electronically presented form. Plagiarism includes taking passages, ideas or structures from another work or author without attribution of such source(s), using the conventions for attributions or citing used in this University. Since any piece of work submitted by a student must be that student’s own work, all forms of cheating, including plagiarism, are forbidden.

86. (a) If any candidate is suspected of plagiarism in a thesis, research paper, project report or course-work assignment, the circumstances shall be reported in writing to the Campus Registrar. The Campus Registrar shall refer the matter to the Board for Graduate Studies and Research. If the Chair so decides, the Board shall invite the candidate for an interview and shall conduct an investigation. If the candidate fails to attend the interview, and does not offer a satisfactory excuse, the Board may hear the case in the candidate’s absence. If the candidate is found guilty of plagiarism, the Board for Graduate Studies and Research shall fail the candidate and may, subject to the candidate’s right of appeal to Senate, exclude him or her from all further examinations of the University.

How to Study for this Course

Students should keep up to date with the course material via the suggested readings, as well as the lecture notes. Reading the recommended material is the key to excelling in this course. Consultation with the course lecturer during office hours is also strongly recommended.
Grading System

Students should note that a minimum mark of 50% is required in both the coursework and final examination components in order to pass the course overall. The marking scheme is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Marks (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>70% - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>60% - 69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>50% - 59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0% - 49%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>