

Econ 211AB: Economics of Health and Healthcare
Moravian College, Spring 2017
Department of Economics and Business

Professor: Sabrina Terrizzi, Ph.D.

Office Location: Comenius Hall 212

Office Phone: 610-625-7937

E-mail: terrizzis@moravian.edu

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30 to 3:30 PM;
Tuesdays 1:30 to 3:30 PM; or by appointment

Course Web Site: <https://canvas.moravian.edu/>

Dr. Terrizzi's Appointment Calendar: <https://goo.gl/xVJgQX>

Dr. Terrizzi's Google Calendar: <https://goo.gl/wqRIMG>

Class Meeting Times and Location:

Econ 211A: Mondays and Wednesdays: 8:55 AM – 10:05 AM Comenius Room 213

Econ 211B: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 10:20 AM – 11:30 AM Comenius Room 201

What is this course all about? This course applies microeconomic theory to analyze the healthcare market from the perspectives of those who demand and supply healthcare. In particular, we will assess the demand for health, healthcare, and health insurance. We will also analyze the market for physicians' and hospital services and the pharmaceutical industry. The structure and performance of the U.S. healthcare system will also be compared to that of other countries. Discussion of empirical studies, current policy debates, and the relevance and limits of the economic approach will be emphasized.

We will use economic analysis to help us assess the state of the U.S. healthcare system and how healthcare reform may affect the supply of and demand for healthcare. Emphasis is on the economics and not politics or personal opinions. Regardless of your own personal views on healthcare and its reform, the goal of this course is for you to be able to analyze the market using the tools and perspectives of an economist.

What I am required to read?

1. Jonathan Gruber with HP Newquist. (2011) Health Care Reform: What it is, why it's necessary, how it works. Hill and Wang, New York. ISBN: 978-0-8090-5397-1
2. Bradley, Elizabeth H. and Taylor, Lauren A. (2015) The American Health Care Paradox: Why Spending More is Getting us Less. Public Affairs, New York. ISBN: 978-1-61039-548-9
3. Bhattacharya, J., Hyde, T., and Tu, P. (2014). *Health Economics*. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-1-137-02996-6

What are the recommended texts and outside sources for class?

Several websites have excellent and regular information on health and health-economics related issues. As you peruse various links, be sure to verify the credentials of each author. I recommend the following:

- [The Incidental Economist](#)
- [The Health Care Blog](#)
- [The Health Care Economist](#)

- [The Economist](#)
 - [The Economist \(Healthcare section\)](#)

Databases available through Reeves Library are excellent sources of scholarly articles. Other relevant readings and course materials will be posted on the Canvas site for this class. Please check Canvas regularly.

What else do I need for class? (1) Relevant reading materials. (2) An Internet-enabled device (phone, tablet, laptop) for in-class assessments, assignments, and discussions. (3) An open mind and desire to learn!

What preparation do I have to have? Students are expected to have completed Econ 152 and have junior or senior standing prior to taking this course.

How will I be assessed?

Drafts of Final Project Components	5%
Gruber Analysis	5%
Reflective Essays (2)	5%
Course Preparation Assignments (CPAs)	10%
Community Engagement Activities	10%
Participation and Attendance	10%
Final Presentation and Digital Assignment	25%
Book Analyses/ Book Club	30%

What are the learning outcomes for this course?

- Identify and describe the components of the healthcare system in the US.
- Distinguish between the demand for health, healthcare, and health insurance.
- Identify and describe the role of the key players in the supply of healthcare.
- Describe the role of government in our current healthcare system.
- Identify the major economic theories, related research questions, and challenges being asked in the areas of access, cost, and quality of healthcare.
- Compare and contrast the healthcare delivery systems of various countries.
- Become informed citizens capable of analyzing the healthcare debate from an economist's perspective.

What are the learning outcomes for this course as a U1 LinC requirement?

- Demonstrate an understanding of the scientific principles and/or technological innovations relevant to this course
- Demonstrate an understanding and awareness of the role that science and/or technology plays in your life
- Develop an awareness and appreciation for the impact of science and/or technology on contemporary society

What is the workload expectation for this course?

This course is a full-unit course that meets twice per week for 70 minutes at each class period. Middles States Accreditation requires that each full-unit course include at least **174 hours of course work** during the fifteen-week semester. Over the course of this semester we will meet 28 times for 70 minutes each; therefore, our classroom time will only account for 35 of these

required hours plus an additional two hours for final presentations. This implies that **work outside of the classroom** must meet a minimum threshold of 139 hours, or **nine hours per week**. The activities and assignments required for successful completion of this course are designed with that goal in mind.

What happens if there is inclement weather?

In hazardous weather conditions, the College may be closed and classes cancelled, or the college may opt to run on a two-hour delayed schedule (see below). The decision to close or delay the opening of classes will be announced on the inclement weather hotline, 610-625-7995, and will be communicated on the following radio and TV stations: WLEV-FM 100.7, WAEB-FM 104.1, WAEB-AM 790, WCTO-FM 96.1, WRFY-FM 102.5, WBYN-FM 107.5, WODE-AM 99.9, WWYY-FM 107.1, WKFB-FM 107.5, WSBG-FM 93.5, WZZO-FM 95.1, and WFMZ-TV (Channel 69).

These closings or delays will also appear at the top of the login page on the College's internet portal AMOS (amos.moravian.edu) as well as the College's website (www.moravian.edu <<http://www.moravian.edu>>). College-wide cancellations *after the start of the class day* will be announced on the public-address system of the HUB, the campus e-mail system, the radio and TV stations mentioned above, and AMOS and the College's website.

Two-Hour Delay: If the decision has been made to open with a two-hour delay, the day does not begin with third-period classes; it begins with first-period classes on a shortened schedule. When following the delayed schedule, please note that there will be no "A" or "B" periods. A 2-hour delay does not affect courses, which begin at 4PM or later. Those courses would run on their normal schedule, if the college were open. Morning and afternoon science labs and studio art classes have their own schedule. Music lessons and practice are cancelled for the day when the delayed schedule is in effect.

What should I do if I need an accommodation in this course or need access to tutoring services?

The Academic Support Center includes Disability Support and Greyhound Tutoring, and is located on the first floor of Monocacy Hall. These services can be reached at [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401).

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact the Academic Support Center, located in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center

Greyhound Tutoring provides course-specific tutors to Moravian students, free of charge. If you would like to work with a Greyhound Tutor to boost your academic success, please request a tutor through <http://bit.ly/NeedTutorMC> (case-sensitive). Plan ahead! It takes 2-3 business days to connect you with a tutor. Please email Dana Wilson (wilsond@moravian.edu), Tutor Coordinator, for more information about tutoring.

How do I schedule an appointment with you?

If you would like to meet with me during office hours, please sign-up for an open office-hour slot using my Google calendar for office hour appointments, which can be found here: <https://goo.gl/xVJgQX>

If you would like to meet with me outside of my regularly scheduled office hours, please send a meeting request via Google calendar for an available time on my schedule between the hours of 8 AM and 4 PM on weekdays. I reserve meetings after 4 PM for faculty matters.

If you come by my office and my door is open, feel free to visit! If I am available I would be happy to work with you then; if not, we can find another time to meet using the methods described above.

What is the Learning Management System (LMS) we will use for this course?

Our new Learning Management System (LMS) is Canvas. This system has replaced Blackboard for all members of the Moravian community beginning in the Summer of 2016. This means that you will use Canvas for all course-related material. You can access canvas at canvas.moravian.edu. Your login information is as follows:

- User ID: Moravian Email Address (stxxxXX@moravian.edu)
- Password: your AMOS password

Once you login to Canvas you will notice that this course is already visible. We will spend time during the first week of class familiarizing ourselves with Canvas and we will learn more about this system as the semester progresses. To get you started you can view the following canvas help guides:

- Student Guide: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-4121>
- Video Guides: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-3891>

You can also download the Canvas app for your Apple or Android device (free of charge). The app is called Canvas by Instructure.

Upon successful completion of this course you may become eligible for the Economics Honor Society (ODE)!

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE) is the economics honor society. Its purpose is to recognize scholastic achievement in economics and to promote closer ties of students and faculty. Each semester ODE will organize meetings for any interested students. Current students can present their research and young economics alumni will talk about their careers. To become eligible for induction into ODE, students must attain junior status and have a 3.0 GPA in three or more economics courses as well as overall.

What are the classroom policies?

1. **Attendance is expected** at each class period. Absences will not only reduce your grade, but also prevent you from becoming an engaged member of our classroom community. The specific attendance policy is detailed below.
2. As a common courtesy for your fellow students and myself, I expect students to **be early** to class. Lateness not only reduces your participation grade, but also disrupts the learning environment. The specific late policy is detailed below.
3. I permit **appropriate and responsible use of technology** during class. Phones, tablets, and laptops can be used as calculators or as 'Internet-enabled' devices for **purposes of class assignment and discussion only**. Should technology become a distraction, I will request that you excuse yourself from the classroom. Your attendance and participation grade will be reduced accordingly.
4. Violations of the Moravian College Academic Code of Conduct (<http://www.moravian.edu/handbook/academic-life/code-of-conduct>) will not be tolerated. **Plagiarism**, regardless of intent, is a violation of the academic code of conduct. **All violations will be reported to Dr. Traupman-Carr** and the offender will receive a zero on the related work in addition to other possible sanctions.
5. Communication for this course will occur through your **Moravian e-mail account** and **Canvas**. You are required to check these sources regularly for updates and assignments related to this course.
6. **Late assignments are not accepted** and a grade of zero is recorded. Please be cognizant of the due dates for each assignment. No exceptions will be made.
7. Part of your responsibility as a Moravian student is to attend classes and to take notes. This is an essential part of the learning process. I will therefore not post extensive lecture notes online.
8. We will use the final exam period for presentations. Attendance is expected; please plan accordingly.
9. In the event of inclement weather, we will follow the decisions made by the college (see details above). Online meetings are an option if it becomes too dangerous to travel to class. I will provide updates via email or Canvas.
10. **I do not offer extra credit.**

More Details on Classroom Policies

Academic Code of Conduct

All work that you submit or present as part of course assignments or requirements must be your original work unless otherwise expressly permitted by me. This includes any work presented, be it in written, oral, or digital form, or in any other technical or artistic medium. When you use the specific thoughts, ideas, writings, or expressions of another person, you must accompany each instance of use with some form of attribution to the source. Direct quotes from any source (including online sources) must be placed in quotation marks (or otherwise marked appropriately) and accompanied by proper citation, following the preferred bibliographic conventions of your department or instructor. In this class, you will be using APA. Student ignorance of bibliographic convention and citation procedures is not a valid excuse for having committed plagiarism. **To reiterate: When you use the specific thoughts, ideas, writing, or expressions of another person, you must accompany each instance of use with some form of attribution to the source, regardless of the genre or medium in which you are working.**

You can familiarize yourself with all aspects of Moravian College's Academic Code of Conduct here: <http://www.moravian.edu/static/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is expected. Any in-class work missed as a result of tardiness or unexcused absence cannot be made up. You cannot miss more than a week of classes—three class meetings—without penalty. For each class meeting missed thereafter, **your final course grade will be reduced by one percentage point.**

All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. A dean's note or other official Moravian College document justifies absences for Moravian functions, but must be presented to me before the scheduled event. Doctor's appointments, job interviews, and other important appointments **do not count as excused absences**. If you have a legitimate conflict or an extreme emergency, discuss the situation with me prior to your absence.

Simply attending class will earn students an approximate participation grade of 75%. Students can marginally improve their participation grade through "**passive participation**", which implies attending class, taking notes, and being attentive. Students can substantially improve their participation grade through "**active participation**", which includes volunteering thoughtful questions and answers on a regular basis. **Students who choose not to attend class on a regular basis** (i.e. have more than three absences during the course of the semester) **or are perpetually late** to class **will receive a participation grade lower than a 75%.**

Further, you can increase your participation grade by posting current event articles, podcasts, or videos to our Discussion Forum in Canvas. Responding to others' posts can also improve your participation grade.

Class Conduct

Students in this class are encouraged to participate during class meetings. All Moravian College students are responsible for upholding the Community Standards, which can be read online in

the Student Handbook:

<http://www.moravian.edu/static/studentLife/handbook/standards/standards.html>

Required Coursework and Grades

It is within the instructor's purview to apply qualitative judgment in determining grades for any assignment and for the final course grade. Rubrics will be provided for written assignments. All assignments except the CPAs will be graded for both content and quality (CPAs are graded for completion). High content grades reflect your ability to demonstrate your advanced understanding of the assigned material. High quality grades reflect your ability to communicate clearly, use appropriate discipline-specific language, and proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation. If you are struggling in either area, please contact me to discuss methods of improvement. Tutoring and writing center services are also available to you, free of charge.

Letter Grades

A 93.00-100	A- 90.00-92.99	B+ 87.00-89.99	B 83.00-86.99
B- 80.00-82.99	C+ 77.00-79.99	C 73.00-76.99	C- 70.00-72.99
D+ 67.00-69.99	D 63.00-66.99	D- 60.00-62.99	F 0-59.99

Resources for Students

Office Hours

You are encouraged to stop by during office hours or make an appointment with me to discuss your work and progress in this course. You can schedule an appointment to meet with me outside of my regularly held office hours, during my office hours, or simply visit me when you are able. I maintain an open-door policy. If I am unavailable when you arrive, we can schedule an alternative time to meet using the methods detailed above.

I am also part of the Safe Zone Ally community network of trained Moravian College faculty/staff/students, and I serve as a campus advocate for survivors of sexual assault. I am available to listen and support you in a safe and confidential manner. As a Safe Zone Ally and as an Advocate, I can help you connect with resources on campus to address problems you may face that interfere with your academic and social success on campus as it relates to issues surrounding sexual orientation/gender identity or sexual assault. My goal is to help you be successful and to maintain a safe and equitable campus.

Reeves Library

All students are required to conduct and document their research relevant to class assignments. In addition to the physical resources available—books, magazines, journals, newspapers, and digital resources—Reeves Library has the invaluable resource of reference librarians. Our librarians are always interested in helping you with any questions you may have on research and resources.

Writing Support and Academic Support

The Writing Center is a resource for all Moravian students. At the Writing Center, a trained peer tutor will work individually with you on your writing, at any point in the process from brainstorming to editing. The Writing Center is located on the second floor of Zinzendorf Hall, a building that is not accessible to persons with mobility impairments. If you need the services of the Writing Center, please call 610-861-1592.

If you need other academic support, such as assistance with time management, learning strategies, or a tutor for a content area other than writing, please contact Dana Wilson, Tutor Coordinator, in the Academic and Disability Support Office at 610-861-1401. Academic resources can be reviewed here: <http://www.moravian.edu/handbook/campus-life/resources>. You can sign-up for tutoring (for any course) here: bit.ly/NeedTutorMC. See additional details in the pages above.

Counseling

Counselors at the Counseling Center help students deal with the stresses of college life. They are a great resource for all students. You can give them a call at 610-861-1510 or stop by at 1301 Main Street.

Overview of Assignment Types

(more details will be provided as due dates approach)

Drafts of final project components (5%)

You will submit two drafts related to your final project. These drafts will be graded for completion and recommendations for improvements will be provided by myself and by your peers. It is important to participate fully in the drafting process, as this provides the opportunity for more complete, accurate, and polished final papers.

Gruber Analysis (5%)

After reading the Gruber book on the Affordable Care Act, you will be required to write an essay responding to prompts about this text. This represents an opportunity to examine the complexities related to healthcare reform, and to participate in the on-going public discussion on this topic. This response is not related to your opinion about this specific public policy. However, it will be graded according to your ability to explain the economic theory behind this policy and how the policy has affected individual's access to health insurance, cost of healthcare, and health outcomes. The specific prompt for this essay will be provided in Canvas.

Reflective Essays (5%)

Twice during the semester, you will be prompted to reflect upon your learning in this course. You will write each essay based upon how well you are achieving the learning outcomes for this course. This will provide an opportunity to reflect upon your learning and identify methods you can implement to improve your learning should you not be meeting the general goals for this course. The specific prompt for each essay will be provided in Canvas.

Course Preparation Assignments (10%)

Course preparation assignments (CPAs) are designed to facilitate discussion in the classroom. You will be required to prepare weekly CPAs according to the schedule detailed below. Topics and response requirements will be detailed each week in Canvas.

Your CPA must be submitted to Canvas **before class begins!** The CPAs are due via Canvas **by 8 AM** on the due date listed below. You are also expected to bring a (hard- or electronic-) copy of your CPA to class on the date it is due, so you can reference it during classroom discussion.

CPAs will include a review of a current article, podcast, or video related to the weekly topic of discussion. CPAs will also be based upon a thorough reading of the textbook. Discussion or empirical analysis of specific economic points will be required. These assignments will be graded for completeness.

Community Engagement Activities (10%)

In this class, we will have the opportunity to engage in our community, which extends beyond the walls of our classroom and Moravian College. We will partner with Gillian Sharkey in the Center for Career and Civic Engagement to make site visits to local community centers and welcome guest speakers to class to discuss our theme of improving healthcare (and access to healthcare services) amongst ourselves and within our greater community. Site visits will be scheduled during class meeting times and transportation will be provided; guest speakers will also be scheduled during our regular meeting times.

In addition to our site visits, we will engage in independent service learning. Each student is required to provide a **minimum of five hours of community service** at the Trinity Episcopal Church, which provides meals to individuals in-need. The Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 44 East Market Street in Bethlehem. This location is walking distance from Moravian! Please find additional contact information regarding the Soup Kitchen [here](#). We will visit this site as a class before each student begins their service hours. All service hours must be completed by Friday, April 21.

Attendance and Participation (10%)

See details above in the section related to classroom policies.

Final Presentation and Digital Assignment (25%)

To culminate the semester's learning, you will conduct research on a topic of your choice related to health economics. For this assignment, you can draw upon any aspect of health economics that is of interest to you. The form of this assignment will be a three-to-five-minute public service announcement, which incorporates your research into a succinct message for an audience of your choosing. You will share your PSA with your classmates during the final exam period, which is noted on the schedule below.

Specific details regarding this final project will be made available by the midpoint of the semester. We will prepare for this final project by visiting the library to hone our research skills and participate in digital tools workshops to develop our digital production skills!

Book Analyses (30%)

During the course of the semester you will read three books, including your textbook. You will be required to analyze different components of these texts to demonstrate your understanding of the content and your ability to apply these concepts to everyday contexts and lessons learned in the classroom. Specific details regarding each assignment will be provided in Canvas.

The principle text for the book analysis will be Bradley and Taylor (2015), but prompts will include references to readings from Gruber (2011) and Bhattacharya et al. (2014). Each week, you will be responsible for reading specific chapters in these books.

Bradley and Taylor (2015) will serve as our primary text for the book club. Discussion of these texts will occur in small groups within the discussion forum with Canvas. Your comments on the associated prompts for the BC assignments are due by **noon on Fridays**, as detailed in the schedule below.

I will post regular discussion questions for these texts each week a BC assignment is due. You should respond to each question and comment on at least one of your classmates' posts by the due date. The book club posts will be graded according to the quality of their contents, but not their length! Please review the relevant grading rubric within Canvas.

Schedule of Assignments and Topics (subject to change with notice):

Week:	Topic and Relevant Text Reading:	Assignments Due:
1: January 16	Introduction to Health Economics Bhatta: Ch. 1	CPA 0: Jan. 18 Syllabus Sign. Page: Jan. 19
2: January 23	Demand for Health Care Bhatta: Ch. 2 B&T: Ch. 1	CPA 1: Jan. 23 BC 1: Jan. 27
3: January 30	Demand for health Bhatta: Ch. 3	CPA 2: Jan. 30
4: February 6	Socioeconomic disparities in health Bhatta: Ch. 4 B&T: Ch. 2	CPA 3: Feb. 6 BC 2: Feb. 10
5: February 13	Labor market for physicians Bhatta: Ch. 5	CPA 4: Feb. 13
6: February 20	Hospital industry Bhatta: Ch. 6 B&T: Ch. 3	CPA 5: Feb. 20 BC 3: Feb. 24
7: February 27	Library Session and Technology Introduction	Gruber Analysis: Feb. 27
8: March 6	(no class spring break)	
9: March 13	Demand for insurance Bhatta: Ch. 7 B&T: Ch. 4	CPA 6: Mar. 13 BC 4: Mar. 17
10: March 20	Adverse Selection Bhatta: Ch. 10	CPA 7: Mar. 20
11: March 27	Moral Hazard Bhatta: Ch. 11 B&T: Ch. 5	CPA 8: Mar. 27 BC 5: Mar. 31
12: April 3 Visit to NBM April 5, 6	Workshopping and Visit to New Bethany Ministries	Project Draft 1: Apr. 3
13: April 10 Dr. Vallera: April 10, 11	Technology and the Price of Healthcare Bhatta: Ch. 13 B&T: Ch. 6	CPA 9: Apr. 10 CE Reflection: Apr. 12 BC 6: Apr. 14
14: April 17 Dr. van Esch: April 19, 20	Health technology assessment Bhatta: Ch. 14	CPA 10: Apr. 17
15: April 24 Dr. Vallera visiting	Workshopping and Presentation Preparations B&T: Ch. 7	Reflective Essay 2: Apr. 24 Project Draft 2: Apr. 26 BC 7: Apr. 28
Finals Week: Econ 211A: May 3 Econ 211B: May 4	Presentations: 10:30 AM-12:30 PM 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Final Project Due: Wed. May 3 at 10:30 AM Thurs. May 4 at 10:30 AM

Weekly readings and assignment details will be listed on Canvas at least one week prior to discussion in class.