



Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam - Exchange programme Vrije Universiteit - 2020-2021

Health Economics

Course Code	E_EBE3_HEC
Credits	6
Period	P1
Course Level	300
Language Of Tuition	English
Faculty	School of Business and Economics
Course Coordinator	prof. dr. W. Janssens
Examiner	prof. dr. W. Janssens
Teaching Staff	prof. dr. W. Janssens, dr. T.J. Galama, R.E.K. Prudon
Teaching method(s)	Lecture, Seminar

Course Objective

In this course students learn to:

- Apply microeconomic theory to the study of health and healthcare investments
- Understand and address the drivers of individual health-related behavior
- Explain the origins of inequalities in health outcomes over the life cycle
- Formulate economic requirements for effective healthcare systems
- Identify healthcare market failures and explain how/why the government may intervene
- Evaluate the impact and effectiveness of healthcare policies using economic theory
- Perform longitudinal analyses of developments in healthcare
- Collect and synthesize empirical evidence to communicate on matters of healthcare

Course Content

The central theme of this course is the economic optimization of healthcare systems. This course provides students the necessary economic knowledge to analyse healthcare policies and individuals' health behavior, and to examine the economic effects of healthcare policy measures. The following topics will be addressed:

- healthcare system's main objectives;
- market imperfections and principal-agent relationships in healthcare;
- methods to evaluate the economic performance of healthcare policies;
- health financing and health insurance;
- cost-benefit incidence and cost-effectiveness analyses of healthcare programs;
- socioeconomic and life cycle inequalities in health outcomes;
- preventive health behavior and infectious diseases (such as COVID19, HIV/AIDS, malaria);

- the growing burden of non-communicable diseases;
- individual behavior and lifestyle choices that affect health outcomes;
- the link between mental health, depression and socioeconomic outcomes.

Teaching Methods

- Lectures.
- Group meetings to discuss papers on the reading list based on student presentations of these papers.
- Tutorial meetings with written (group) assignments.

Method of Assessment

- Written exam - individual assessment
- Weekly paper presentations - individual/group assessment of submitted slides, one presentation, and class participation
- Weekly written tutorial assignments - group assessment

Entry Requirements

None.

Literature

- Selection of chapters from Bhattacharya, J., T. Hyde and T. Tu (2014), "Health Economics", Palgrave MacMillan.
- Papers, as listed in the course manual and published on Canvas.

Recommended background knowledge

None.