Western University
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 4090b
Health Care Costs and Challenges

Instructor: Sherri Preszcator
Email: spreszc@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 5:00 – 6:00 by appointment

Lectures: Mondays 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. SH 3317

Prerequisite

Enrolment in third or fourth year of a Bachelor of Health Sciences Program

Prerequisite Checking

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Information

Course Description:

Spending on health care continues to grow at rates considerably faster than inflation. Many are now asking hard questions about value for money, and in particular, the quality of health care they are receiving for this increased spending. With increased accountable being placed on governments and health care organizations they are now challenged to evaluate their costs for service delivery and provide creative and innovative solutions to delivering effective, efficient and quality healthcare services.

This course has been designed as an entry-level financial management health care course to provide students with a general understanding of how the health care system is funded and the costs associated with delivering health care services. The objective is to introduce an overview of financial management theories and practices, and provide a realistic understanding of how the health care system is financed and to look at the challenges the system faces to future sustainability. It will explore the application of key concepts of general financial management to health care delivery in Canada and the financial challenges faced by health care organizations in the delivery of services. The course will also look to identify innovative solution to future innovations and opportunities to help alleviate the fiscal imperative Canada is facing.
Course Website

http://owl.uwo.ca

This course is supported by OWL. All course information will be made available there. Please monitor the announcements menu on the course website for any changes or cancellations in lectures, tutorials or readings.

Learning Perspective

Student learning is the shared responsibility of both students and the faculty. Every attempt will be made to make classes stimulating and motivating using active learning principles. Active student involvement is expected. Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to participate, work collaboratively with, and contribute to the learning of their classmates, and to notify the instructor if the pace of the lectures is too fast or too slow. Comments, suggestions and constructive feedback are always welcome and appreciated.

Student Responsibilities

Students are expected to attend all classes as material covered during lectures may not be in your readings and the majority of material for the final exam will come from classroom content, including group presentations. It is the students’ responsibility to complete the required readings and come to class prepared to discuss the content outlined. Responsibility for note-taking is that of students. If you are having any problems or difficulties with any aspect of the course, please contact the course instructor.

Learning Environment

Courtesy and respect for the learning environment is expected. Students are expected to arrive at lectures on time. It is expected that students will be considerate of their colleagues and the instructor. Students are reminded to keep any noise and disruption to an absolute minimum in class, and to use email judiciously and not frivolously.

Course Materials

There is no required textbook to purchase. Links to all the course materials are provided on OWL. You are responsible for accessing the materials.
## Evaluation

Students’ academic performance will be assessed in the following ways:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. Independent reflection reports</th>
<th>Percentage of grade</th>
<th>Due date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
<td>January 28(^{th}), 2013</td>
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<td>February 11(^{th}), 2013</td>
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<td>March 4(^{th}), 2013</td>
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| B. Health care article critique  | 25%                 | February 25\(^{th}\), 2013   |

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<th>C. Group Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Group Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>March 25, April 1, 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Group Report</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due the same day as presentation</td>
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| D. Final examination            | 25%                 | TBD – during final exam period |

### A. Independent reflection reports (20%)

Students will submit four, two page independent reflection reports, which will ask the student to apply the knowledge they have learned in the context of a “real life” scenario. Reflection reports will be based on the learning’s from each unit which will be posted on OWL at the start of each unit.

### B. Health Care Article Critique (25%) Due February 25\(^{th}\), 2013

Students will submit a professional report which will critique one of four articles posted on OWL related to health care costs. The following aspects should be addressed in your report:

- Interpretation of the article
- What are the issues and why?
- What are the financial challenges and implications?
- What are the positive aspects that can be built on?
- What can be learned to inform the future health care system?

The report must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class and electronically to turnitin.com via OWL. (see section on Academic Integrity).
C. Group Project and Presentation (30%)

Students will be asked to form groups of four and pick a topic related to health care costs and the financial management of our health care system. Suggested topics will be posted on OWL or students may choose their own topic with approval by the instructor. Your group will research the topic area, write a final report and give a presentation to class highlighting your topic and its relevance to improving the financial management of our health care system and the delivery of health care services in Canada.

By January 28th, 2013, each group will identify to the instructor the members of their group and their topic area. There will be no overlap and topics they will be given on a first come first serve basis. Each group will also identify to the instructor one significant journal article or government/commission report on their topic. The instructor will post the selections to OWL and they will be assigned for the entire class to read for March 25th, 2013 and April 1st, 2013. If your selection is longer than 8 pages, choose up to 8 pages for the class to read. In addition, each group will make a 10 minute presentation to the class on their findings on March 25th and April 1st. Any powerpoint slides or handouts your group uses in the presentation must be emailed to the instructor by 1:00 p.m. the day before the presentation for posting on OWL, so that all students will have the benefit of your work.

There are two parts to this assignment:

• Part 1, an 8 page final report (worth 20%).

This will be a professional report outlining your topic area and will be based on the guidelines posted on OWL. The final paper must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class and electronically to turnitin.com via OWL. (see section on Academic Integrity).

The group paper must meet the following technical requirements:

• Title page with title of assignment, student name, student number, instructor’s name, course number, date of submission, number of pages (including title page)
• Printed on 8.5” by 11” paper
• 12 point font
• Lines double-spaced
• 1” margins
• Spell-checked
• Include a list of references using APA style (two internet resources on APA style follow)

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/
• Part 2, is a group presentation (worth 10%).

Each group will be asked to present their topic to the class and its relevance to the improving the financial management of our health care system.

All presentation material must be emailed to the instructor by 1:00pm on the day prior to the day of the presentation for posting on OWL. The content of students’ presentations and their selected reading will be subject to testing in the final examination.

Presentations and reports are due on the same day. Students will sign up for their day on OWL after groups and topics have been approved.

D. Final examination (25%)

There will be a final examination during the exam period covering all the material discussed in the course. The exam will short answer and essay style questions.

General rules and guidelines for assignments and grades:

Grading of assignments:
Written assignments will be graded using the following criteria:

1. Content
   A. Overall analysis – synthesis of material rather than mere re-presentation
   B. Integration of source material – sources are integrated into a coherent whole rather than presented as isolated facts
   C. Sources are properly acknowledged
   D. Good use of a variety of secondary materials – books, journals, websites, etc.
   E. In-depth coverage and analysis of topic

2. Style
   A. Good sentence structure and fluent writing
   B. Correct spelling and grammar
   C. Proper length
   D. Clear, easy to follow the analysis
   E. Correct use of APA reference style

3. Organization
   A. Paragraph structure is coherent and logical
   B. Logical structure to the argument(s)

The group presentation will be graded using similar criteria.
**Academic integrity:**
Misrepresenting the work of others as your own, constitutes academic dishonesty and is a major academic offence in the University (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the UWO Academic Calendar). Ensure that you know what plagiarism is and what your obligations are. Review the UWO guide *Cheating, Plagiarism and Unauthorized Collaboration: What Students Need to Know* found at: [http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/pdf/academicintegrity](http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/pdf/academicintegrity)

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ([http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

**Lateness and lateness penalties:**
You are expected to complete and turn your assignments in on time.

- The assigned date for a group presentation is firm. All members of the group must be in class for the presentation. A group member’s absence on the day of the group’s presentation will result in a grade of **0%** for the assignment. The only exception is if the instructor is notified by a student by email before the class and there are valid extenuating circumstances as documented in the Policy on Medical Accommodation (see below).
- A late assignment will be penalized **5% each day** past the due date (including weekends) except for valid extenuating circumstances.

**Privacy:**
BHSc. Program policy does not permit email or telephone communication of grades. Confidential access of grades is available through OWL. Students may also arrange a meeting with the instructor to discuss grades.

**Student Inquiries:**
Students may direct inquiries to the instructor after class or via email at spreszc@uwo.ca. It is expected that email communication will be used respectfully and judiciously.

**Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:**
Electronic devices such as cell phones, must be turned off during class. Laptops may be used for note taking during lectures. Using laptops to access MSN, email or the internet during class time is not acceptable. No electronic devices are permitted during tests/examinations.
ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/board/code.pdf.

English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades


Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm.

Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is more than 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed.

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student’s Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.
Additionally,

1. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

2. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/
2. Student Health -- http://www.shs.uwo.ca/student/studenthealthservices.html
3. Registrar’s Office -- http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/
4. Ombuds Office -- http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/