

The University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies

Health Sciences 3840B

Introduction to Health Economic Evaluation Methods

Winter 2019

Instructor: Jacquelyn Marsh, PhD

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Office Room Number: Elborn College, Room 1400

Office Hours: By appointment only

Time and Location: Monday 9:30am – 11:30am, HSB 35 and Wednesday 10:30am-11:30am, HSB 35

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

This course will introduce basic concepts in methods for the economic evaluation of health interventions, and discuss how they are used to assess “value for money” in health care. Students will learn how to recognize and interpret health economic studies in the literature and develop skills to critically appraise economic evaluations. No prior background in economics is required.

The learning objectives of this course are to:

- Understand the role of economic evaluations in the process of health care resource allocation and health policy making;
- Identify components necessary to conduct an economic evaluation;
- Identify different types of economic evaluations and when to use them;
- Recognize the strengths and weaknesses of existing evidence in the medical literature (critical appraisal)

Course Materials

Required Textbook: M. F. Drummond et al. Methods for the Economic Evaluation of Health Care Programmes. 4th Edition. Oxford University Press.

Additional readings may be posted on the course OWL website throughout the term.

Evaluation

Quizzes (10%)

There will be six short quizzes throughout the term, consisting of multiple choice questions based on material from lecture and assigned readings of the previous week. Quizzes will be written at the beginning of class on Mondays. Your grade will be based on the highest 5 quizzes (lowest marked will be dropped). If you are absent for a quiz, you will receive a grade of 0 on that quiz.

Midterm Exam (25%)

The midterm will be held in class on Monday February 11th. The format will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. Questions will evaluate your understanding of the course material and ability to apply the concepts to different contexts. If you miss the midterm due to a legitimate absence, please speak to an academic counsellor and submit appropriate documentation to the Dean's office. You may be offered to write the midterm on an alternate date or have the midterm weight deferred to the final exam.

Group Assignment & Presentation (25%)

In groups of 4-5 students, you will be responsible for developing a research proposal for an economic evaluation in your choice of clinical area or healthcare field of interest, and prepare a 10 minute presentation to the class. Detailed instructions will be provided on OWL. An electronic submission of the proposal must be uploaded to the course OWL site on Wednesday April 5th. Late submissions will be deducted 20% each day. A mark of zero will be assigned to papers not received by April 10th.

Final Exam (40%)

The final exam will be cumulative. The format will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer. Questions will evaluate your understanding of the course material and ability to apply the concepts to different contexts.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Use of Electronic Devices

During Exams: Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any of the following electronic devices during ANY of the tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations: cellphones, smart phones, smart watches, smart glasses, audio players or recorders of any sort, video cameras, video games, DVD players, televisions, laptop/notebook/netbook computers, flashlights or laser pointers.

During Lectures and Tutorials: Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Academic 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 Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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>)

Accommodation for illness

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.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://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

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.

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/>

Health and Wellness:

As part of a successful undergraduate experience at Western, we encourage you to make your health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on-campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre as part of their registration fees. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page (<http://www.music.uwo.ca/>), or the McIntosh Gallery (<http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>). Further information regarding health and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>.

If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: https://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/education/module.html.

The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work that is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable.
F	below 50	Fail

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 74-78. In the event that the course average falls outside this range, a constant may be added (or subtracted) from each student's grade, by the instructor, to bring the class average in line with school policy.