

The University of Western Ontario
School of Health Studies
Health Sciences 3840B
Introduction to Health Economic Evaluation Methods

Winter 2020

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 and Wednesday 10:30am-11:30am, FNB 1270

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 10th. 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

Group Assignment & Presentation (25%)

In groups of approximately 4 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 assignment must be uploaded to the course OWL site on Wednesday April 8th. Late submissions will be deducted 20% each day. A mark of zero will be assigned to papers not received by April 13th.

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>)

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

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
Week 1	Introduction & Course Overview Types of Economic Evaluation	Eddy DM. The individual vs. society. Is there a conflict? <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i> . 1991; 265:1446 Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 pp 19-27 (up to the end of section 2.3.6)
Week 2	Quiz 1 Measuring Healthcare Costs	Drummond Text: Chapter 7
Week 3	Quiz 2 Measuring Healthcare Outcomes	Chapter 5: pp123-127 Drummond Text: Chapter 2
Week 4	Quiz 3 Cost Effectiveness Analysis	Reading posted in Owl Chapter 8, pp274-282
Week 5	Cost Utility Analysis Quiz 4	Chapter 5, pp127-170
Week 6	Midterm Exam	
Week 7	Reading Week (No Class)	
Week 8	Economic evaluation alongside clinical trials	Chapter 8, pp267-293
Week 9	Quiz 5 Economic evaluation using a decision model	Drummond Text: Chapter 9
Week 10	Quiz 6 Analysis and Interpretation of Results	Chapter 3, pp 54-61 A Clinician's Guide to Correct Cost-Effectiveness Analysis: Think Incremental Not Average. Hoch, Jeffrey S, PhD; Dewa, Carolyn S, MPH, PhD Canadian Journal of Psychiatry; Apr 2008;

		53, 4; p. 267
Week 11	Critical Appraisal of Economic Evaluations	Drummond: Chapter 3
Week 12	Group Presentations	
Week 13	Group Presentations	

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 electronic devices during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

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

Academic Consideration

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury. Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfil their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

- (i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;
- (ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
- (iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.

Students seeking academic consideration:

- Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
- Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
- **Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;
- **Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

- a. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
- b. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;
- c. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
- d. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
- e. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations (i.e., “bellringers”);
- f. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;

Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed.

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://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, please visit Western Psychological Services (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych>) for a list of options for obtaining help. To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: <https://uwo.ca/health/wec/education/learning.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.