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### **Sample Syllabus Summary:**

**The assignments and readings are from a previous Quarter. They will most likely change – use as an example ONLY.**

**Extended MPH Degree Program**

Health Economics

HSMGMT 514

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#### **Course Outline**

The objective of this course is to enable students who have little or no formal training in economics to use the basic principles and concepts of economic analysis in health services applications. Topics covered include analyses of demand for health services, markets for hospital services, physician services, and health insurance, as well as economic theories of firm behavior as it relates to hospital and physician behavior.

The first week of the course is designed to provide as much background in economic theory as possible before applying these principles to health and health services. An introductory microeconomics text: Principles of Microeconomics by Ruffin and Gregory is required for this course. Students who have not had an introductory economics class - or had one in the distant past should be sure to thoroughly read the assignments in this text. Required readings should be read before each class session and are the first readings listed for each section of the syllabus

Grading for the course will be based on 1) a paper applying the law of supply and demand (30%), 2) a paper applying the principles of cost-effectiveness in an area of student interest (30%), 3) an in-class exam at the end of the course (30%). 10% of the course grade is reserved for an instructor evaluation of overall student performance. The paper assignments are described in detail below. The exam questions will be short-answer essay questions that give the student an opportunity to demonstrate his/her mastery of the concepts covered in the lectures and readings.

I will provide a set of practice questions that will allow you to self-test your knowledge of the theories covered in class. The questions are designed to provide practice for the basic economic issues that will be addressed in class. Much of this practice material relates to what we will be doing in class during the first week of the course and as such there are fewer practice problems relating to specific health service applications.

The instructor will provide all course materials including readings, class notes and presentation to students on a CD-ROM or other electronic means as is convenient to students.

**I will be available for student questions before class and will maintain a great deal of flexibility in arranging student consults.**

#### **COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain forces that drive demand and supply within health care markets
2. Identify sources of inefficiency within US health care markets
3. Distinguish among various incentives for motivating behavior within an economic framework
4. Translate economic models to specific problems within US health care markets

5. Evaluate alternative decision analytic models for use within health care