**ELECTIVE**

PUBH5301

Key Issues in Health Economics

4 credit points

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Aim: To develop students’ understanding of economic principles as introduced APPH and to apply these principles to analysing key issues in health care policy in Australia.

Content:
- Health Care as a commodity
- Priority setting
- Health care markets and market failure
- Agency
- Insurance
- Funding mechanisms - paying doctors
- Supplier induced demand
- Medical practice variations
- The application of economic concepts and thinking to public health problems

Learning Objectives

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

1. perform an economic critique of a current health care policy document

The specific objectives of the unit are:
1. to identify and describe the kind of choices facing the Australian health care system and the key issues in health economics
2. review the empirical evidence that may (or may not) inform such choices
3. critique a current health care policy document using economic principles
4. articulate the necessary features of good health care policy.

Assessment Activities:

Feedback Assessment 30%

*One written summary*

Class Participation 20%

*Attendance & participation*

Economic Critique 50%

*Oral presentation of economic critique + written report*

Instructional Format:

The unit consists of two components.

The first part of the course (eight weeks) will cover the fundamental principles of economics. Learning activities include lectures, case studies, key readings and learning feedback sessions for which students prepare summaries of key concepts.

The second part of the course (five weeks) consists of student presentations of economic critiques of policy documents.
Resources/References:
Unit handbook (supplied by Department).


Five copies of the book are also available in special reserve in the Public Health Library.