

Syllabi of Health Economics

(Evening Session 16th April, Regents Park College, Oxford)

1. Nature and Objectives of the session

(a) Background

- (1) More teaching of the subject in the near future
- (2) Encourage participation from members in the Study Group

(b) Objectives

- (1) Share experience on alternative organization
- (2) Channel areas in literature
- (3) Serve as a benchmark or framework for further discussion
- (4) Consolidation of thought on the subject and initial presentation of alternative forms of course organization.

2. Wider questions

(a) Is health economics a separate subject in economics?

- (1) What similarities ^{and differences} exist among other subjects of economics?
- (2) What questions does health economics deal with?
- (3) What forms of models and methods of analysis does it deal with?

(b) What relationships exist between health economics and other affinity specialist disciplines?

- (1) Statistics and computer science
- (2) Social administration
- (3) Business administration
- (4) Sociology
- (5) Accounting
- (6) Organization and methods
- (7) Social medicine and epidemiology
- (8) Specialized medical sectors

3. Simultaneous questions, the answers to which determine a syllabus

- (a) What do you want the people you teach to be able to do after you teach them?
Or what type of problems do you believe the people you teach will or should be able to handle after they get through with your course? (Output)
- (b) What is the background and what skills will the 'students' have who you will teach? (Constraint)
- (c) How much time will you have to teach? (Constraint)
- (d) What resources will you have available (Constraint)
- (e) Within the constraints of (a) - (d) above, what do you want to try to teach?
(Content of input)
- (f) How should the material be presented? (Input)
- (g) How should you assess relative proficiency, if this be necessary?

4. Current Health Economics courses on which some information was received
(special seminars not noted for this purpose)

(a) University

- (1) Economics
K. Lee - The University of Leeds (see Appendix I)
- (2) Social Administration (social policy)
M.H. Cooper - University of Exeter
K. Lee - The University of Leeds
M. Kaser - Oxford (St. Antony's College)
- (3) As service to statistics (Information processing)
G. Ferster, University of Exeter (see Appendix II)
- (4) As service to Medical faculties
J.D. Roberts - University of Bristol

(b) Non-University

- (1) NHS 'Management' courses
K. Lee - The University of Leeds
- (2) Occasional short courses
J.D. Roberts - National Educational Council

5. Main line Health Economic Attacks

(a) Theoretical Issues

(b) Applied problems

(evidence and data essential to assist in making decisions and selection of level of aggregation)

- (1) Policy issues, solutions of which will have dramatic effect on resource allocation on a health care system
- (2) More 'localized' decisions which affect resource allocation
 - (i) e.g. to build a district general hospital
 - (ii) alternative ways of running a district nursing service
 - (iii) alternative ways to provide care for the elderly.

Classification of Syllabi of Health Economics

g ent	Class of Health Economist	Departments or Faculties	Purpose or Output	Subject Matter of Course	Topics dealt with in the course	
I. Teaching Appointment (principally)	1. Economics Department 2. Social Adminst. Depts.	1. Graduate students 2. Undergrad. students a) teaching position b) research position (Operational NHS type decisions) (i) NHS (ii) Management Consultnts. (iii) Internatnl. agencies	1. Micro & macro theory (special ref. prod. theory) 2. Welfare Economics 3. Public Expen. & Invest. 4. Statistical methods & Quantitative Analysis 5. Econometrics 6. Evidence accumulation 7. Principles of Accounting 8. Econ. of Public Policy 9. Econ. of Organization 10. Comparative Health systems	a) Context of comparative health systems b) Distribution (i) Geog. differences of <i>R.A.</i> (ii) Element of income dist. c) Sub-optimality of Sectorial Analysis (i) National (ii) District d) Financing (i) Revenue (ii) Capital e) Model building f) Manpower planning g) Consumer satisfaction and family costs h) Screening & prevent. medicine j) Measures of output		
II. Research Appointment (principally)	3. Service Role to a) Medical Faculties b) Statistics and OR Departmtns	1. Medical students - to assist in NHS type decisions (i) as practicing doctors (ii) as admin. doctors 2. Statistical/OR students - in operational NHS type decision (i) National level (ii) District level - as private management consultants	1. Elements of micro analysis 2. Elements of welfare economics 3. Elementary statistical methods and quantitative techniques 4. Elements of (public) accounting 5. Comparative health systems Same as for Medical Students (excluding (3)) 6. Production economics (emphasized)	a) Physical maximum and econ. optima b) Inputs & levels of intensity c) Classification theory d) Output measures e) Case studies of resource allocation f) Economies of scale g) Economic type information to collect (Evidence) h) Costs & accounting procedures j) Level of aggregation k) Manpower planning		

Table 1, Part (b)

Classification of Syllabi of Health Economics

Level of Study	Length of H.E. Course	Additional Resources Available	Assignment and/or Examination of Performance	
Graduate or other science	1. B.A. or B.S. + 2 Term 2. M.Sc Econ + 1 year 3. B.Phil Econ + 2 years 4. Ph.D. Econ + 3 years 5. M.Sc other Dept. + 2 terms	1. General Library 2. Secondary data 3. Survey - Data collection 4. Computer Analysis	1. Undergraduate paper in HE 2. Separate M.Sc & Ph.D. HE paper 3. Dissertation B.Phil, Ph.D.	
Students (5th year) in maths & social back- ground Little	1. Medical School 1 or 2 terms 2. M.Sc in Statistics or OR Dept. (Information Processing) 1 or 2 terms	1. Survey and Case studies 2. Secondary data 3. Computer analysis	1. Essay 2. Seminar 3. Paper 4. Component of thesis	

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I and II above	1. NHS 'MANAGEMENT' Courses	1. Regional, Area, District Personnel of NHS	Similar to above Service Role, but subject to time limitation.	
III Other Institutions (polytechnics etc)	2. Other NHS Short Courses	(i) Medical Officer of Health	1. Focus on their roles in the reorganization	1. Focus on their roles in the reorganization
IV Public agency appointments	3. Various Public Agency Short Courses	(ii) Chief Nursing Officer	2. A case study approach would be useful - economics as a tool in decision-making and dependent upon the levels of aggregation, e.g. a hospital, path. lab., District midwifery service, alternative procedures for providing care for the elderly.	2. A case study approach would be useful - economics as a tool in decision-making and dependent upon the levels of aggregation, e.g. a hospital, path. lab., District midwifery service, alternative procedures for providing care for the elderly.
V Private funded appointments	3. Various Private Agency Short Courses	(iii) Administrator		
		(iv) Treasurer		
		(v) Other Operational Officer		
		- Ambulance officer		
		- Dietician		
		- Occupational therapist		
		- O & M study		
		- Pathologist		
		2. Organization & Methods		
		3. Institute of Public Accountants		
		4. Health Education Council		
1. Economist as members of various committees.		1. Provide economic inputs to members of ongoing interdisciplinary decision-making teams at the National, Regional, Area and District level.		1. Various short and longer term planning issues, some policy orientation, some 'efficiency'.
2. Discussions with many members in the NHS.				

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Sound of student's	Length of H.E. Course	Purpose	Assignment and/or Examination of Performance	
service years professional personnel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approximately one week 2. Less than one month 3. Over one or more years 	<p>Main purpose: To provide economic inputs as member of ongoing interdisciplinary decision-making team at Regional Areas, and District level.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Case Studies (more macro or local examples) 2. Perhaps a HE paper for O & M prof. body ? 3. Ditto for IMTA ? 	
as NHS ees public es. in private es.	N/A	N/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hopefully assistance in decision-making framework. 	

HEALTH ECONOMICS

The purpose of the course is to consider in depth economic approaches, analytical methods and viewpoints to aspects of health and medical care.

Examination of the commodity 'health' and its provision; proposals for financial change and consequent re-allocation questions.

Identification and measurement of health agency inputs/outputs. Case-mix and the quality problem. Economies of scale and the 'optimum' size of health agency.

Investment methodology; the application of cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness techniques to decision-making in the health sector.

Economics of Health Manpower. Forecasting techniques and the demand and supply of professional groups and supportive skills; recruitment and training. The utilisation of existing manpower and its distribution; geographical, institutional and speciality.

Nature and aims of planning, programming, budgeting systems and their potential development in the health sector. Output measures and performance indicators. Comprehensive planning within the health system; co-operative planning with related social provision agencies.

University of ExeterM.Sc. in Information ProcessingCourse I.P. 2. Evaluation and Economic Aspects

Topics under discussion (not necessarily one lecture each)

A. Theoretical Aspects of Evaluation in the Public Sector

1. Information function, frame of reference, and level of aggregation
2. Principles of classification
3. Economics of production
4. Measures of output
5. Consumers reaction and welfare issues
6. Elements of cost-benefit analysis
7. Cost effectiveness

B. Single Sectorial Analysis: Alternative Policies of Maternity Care

8. Hypothesis and problem formulation
9. Bio-medical evidence and analysis
10. Resources
11. Accounting principles, NHS accounts, and estimates of costs
12. Issues in an application of linear programming
13. Organizational implication and feedback
14. The capital issue

C. Other Single Sectorial Problems

15. Hospital cost functions
16. Screening
17. Supply control and manpower planning (for a specific sector)

D. Multi-Sectorial Analysis: A Use of Econometrics

18. Maternity-paediatrics

E. Health Problems in Developing Economies

19. Waterborne disease problems
20. Malnutrition
21. Innoculation and screening programmes
22. Health education programmes
23. Spreading services over rural areas
24. Manpower planning