Course Syllabus

Visiting professor : Alastair Gray

Course	Health Policy Management		
Credit	1	Method of Teaching	Lecture

Objective

To introduce students to the methods and uses of health economic analysis. By the end of the course students should be familiar with the main methods used by health economists, and the main uses to which economics can be put in the area of health and health care.

Outline

The course will consist of 8 lectures over 4 days. It will begin with a broad introuction to economics and health economics. It will then demonstrate some of the main tools of economic analysis and how these can be applied in health and health care. The course will then examine the main steps involved in evaluating health interventions: measuring costs, measuring and valuing quality of life, modelling and extraolation, and using cost-effectiveness to set priorities and make decisions.

Class Schedule (90 minutes each)

Day 1 (January 12, 2026)

1. **Economics, health and health economics** (9:00-10:30)

   What is economics; what is health economics; health care spending: international trends; health care spending: composition and explanations. Health and wealth.

2. **Applying economic tools to health and health care** (10:45-12:15)

   Supply and demand; the market for health and health care; market failure and its consequences

Day 2 (January 13, 2026)

3. **Costs** (9:00-10:30)

   Costs, prices and opportunity costs. Which perspective: the patient, the health system, the employer, society. How to collect cost information. Analysing and reporting cost data. Time horizon, discounting, dealing with missing data.

4. **Cost of illness and burden of disease** (10:45-12:15)

   What are cost of illness studies; what do they tell us; the Global Burden of Disease study; some national examples and their uses; using cost of illness data to inform research spending priorities.

Day 3 (January 14, 2026)

5. **Measuring and valuing quality of life** (9:00-10:30)

Why measure quality of life? Some common instruments and questionnaires; valuing health states: the time trade-off and standard gamble. Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYYs), and Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs). Other approaches, such as willingness to pay.

6. **Disease modelling and decision models** (10:45-12:15)

Why disease models are useful: for prognosis, for prediction, for extrapolation. How they are built and validated. Some common examples in heart disease, cancer and diabetes. A closer look at a diabetes model: its development and use.

Day 4 (January 15, 2026)

7. **Using cost-effectiveness analysis to set priorities** (9:00-10:30)

What is priority-setting? Using cost-effectiveness to set priorities. What is a cost-effectiveness analysis. What is a cost-benefit analysis? Taking account of costs and effects. Interpreting cost-effectiveness studies. Examples of cost-effectiveness analyses in diabetes and cancer. Cost-effectiveness databases.

8. **Using cost-effectiveness to make reimbursement decisions ; the example of NICE in the UK** (10:45-12:15)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; why it was set up; how it works; some controversies in the way it works and its decisions; other international reimbursement bodies. Looking into the future.

Examination (January 15, 2026): (14:00-15:30)

We may add seminars by Japanese teachers for each to assist students with difficulty in language/background knowledge

Text

I do not propose to have set readings for each lecture. At the end of each lecture I will provide some further reading and references.

Related readings

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Achievement evaluation

Students will be tested by oral examination “Oxford style” at the end of the course.