

# ECO 499-001: Seminar in Economics - Health Economics

University of Kentucky | Fall 2026 | 3.0 credit hours

Syllabus version: August 19, 2026

## Course at a Glance

| Course item          | Fall 2026 information                                                                            |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Format               | In-person seminar                                                                                |
| Regular meetings     | Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30-10:45 a.m. Eastern Time                                                   |
| Location             | Business and Economics Building, Room 391                                                        |
| Regular meeting span | Tuesday, August 25 through Tuesday, December 8, 2026                                             |
| Final examination    | Tuesday, December 15; 24-hour availability window; one timed 120-minute Canvas/Respondus attempt |

## Instructor Information

| Item                    | Information                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Instructor              | Professor Aaron Yelowitz                                                                                      |
| Office                  | 225H Business and Economics Building                                                                          |
| Email                   | aaron@uky.edu                                                                                                 |
| Office phone            | (859) 257-7634                                                                                                |
| Office hours            | Tuesday/Thursday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 225H; additional in-person or Zoom appointments by arrangement |
| Preferred communication | Canvas Inbox; use University email only if Canvas is unavailable                                              |
| Appointments            | Send two or three proposed times by Canvas Inbox or email                                                     |
| Typical response time   | Within 24 hours on business days; weekend and University-holiday messages may take longer                     |

## Course Description and Prerequisites

### Official Catalog Description

Readings, research and discussion in a seminar format to illuminate problems of historical and contemporary interest in areas of special faculty competence. May be repeated to a maximum of nine credits, but may not be repeated under the same subtitle. Will be limited to a maximum of 15 students. This course is a Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement (GCCR) course in certain programs, and hence is not likely to be eligible for automatic transfer credit to UK.

**Section subtitle:** Health Economics.

**Prerequisite:** ECO 391, ECO 402, and either ECO 401 or ECO 403 (or equivalent); or consent of instructor.

**GCCR status:** ECO 499 may satisfy the Graduation Composition and Communication Requirement only for programs or catalog years that specifically designate it. Students relying on this course for GCCR credit must confirm applicability with their academic advisor.

## Required Materials, Technology, Recordings, and Expenses

**Required textbook material:** No textbook purchase is required. Selected chapters from Jonathan Gruber, Public Finance and Public Policy, 5th edition (Worth Publishers, 2016), are assigned and posted in Canvas.

**Readings:** Assigned textbook chapters, peer-reviewed journal articles, a working paper, and a policy paper are posted in the Canvas Academic Readings (PDF) folder or linked through UK Libraries before assignment.

**Technology:** Regular access to Canvas and a computer compatible with Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor is required. A functioning webcam and reliable internet connection are needed for proctored assessments. Optional, ungraded Respondus practice checks will be available before the first quiz and before the final examination; students are strongly encouraged to use them.

**Canvas:** [University of Kentucky Canvas](#).

**Associated course fee:** \$37.02 per credit hour (\$111.06 for this three-credit course). There is no required textbook purchase and no separate Respondus fee.

**Required activities outside regular meeting times:** Course-content tutorials, quizzes, five graded paper-project submissions before the final paper, the final-paper submission, and the online final examination. No field trip or other required off-campus activity is planned.

## Lecture Recordings and Course Materials

Class meetings are scheduled for Echo360 recording and posting in Canvas. Recordings are a supplement, not a substitute for attendance, and are provided on a best-effort basis. Equipment, scheduling, or audio/video failures can occur, especially for whiteboard work. A missing or unusable recording does not by itself change an assignment deadline. Automated transcripts or AI-generated summaries may be posted as an optional convenience; they are not guaranteed, may be incomplete or inaccurate, and are not authoritative course records. Quizzes and examinations are based on lessons and assigned readings, not on transcripts or summaries. Course recordings and materials are for enrolled students only and may not be copied, shared, or redistributed outside the course, except for individual AI-assisted study expressly permitted below. Echo360 may record the full scheduled meeting period even when formal instruction ends early; students should not treat the classroom as a private setting until the scheduled recording period has ended.

## Student Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the key institutional features of the U.S. health care system and its public and private insurance programs.
2. Explain how asymmetric information, adverse selection, moral hazard, and choice frictions cause health insurance markets to depart from the competitive benchmark.
3. Evaluate randomized trials, difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity, and instrumental-variables designs, and state the identifying assumptions each requires.
4. Judge whether an author's causal claims are supported by the research design and whether the reported findings are consistent with economic theory.
5. Assess whether a proposed health care policy is likely to have its intended consequences and identify behavioral responses that could undermine it.
6. Determine whether a data source can answer a research question and state precisely what that source can and cannot establish.
7. Obtain, clean, and analyze complex public-use survey microdata, applying survey weights, missing-value conventions, and cross-year variable harmonization correctly.
8. Formulate theory-driven predictions about heterogeneous effects before examining the relevant results and test those predictions with appropriate subgroup analysis.
9. Direct generative AI tools to carry out empirical tasks, verify their output independently, and document that use so another researcher could audit it.
10. Integrate economic theory and empirical evidence in a research paper that meets professional standards of written communication.

Outcomes 1-5 are assessed primarily through course-content tutorials, quizzes, and the final examination.

Outcomes 6-9 are assessed primarily through BRFS paper labs, paper benchmarks, and the final paper, and may also be assessed on quizzes and the final examination. Outcome 10 is assessed through the completed research paper.

## Assessment and Grading

| Component                | Weight | Fall 2026 design                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Course-content tutorials | 10%    | Fourteen graded homework assignments; readings, lectures, economic concepts, and research-method interpretation; open-note, untimed, unlimited attempts; all count |
| Quizzes                  | 50%    | At least 10; twelve windows planned; students must assume every quiz counts unless a generally applicable exclusion is later announced in Canvas                   |
| Term paper               | 20%    | Two early BRFSS labs, three combined lab/benchmark submissions (3%, 4%, 4%), and final paper (9%)                                                                  |
| Final examination        | 20%    | Comprehensive; December 15; 24-hour availability; one timed 120-minute Canvas/Respondus attempt                                                                    |

## Grading Scale

| Letter grade | Weighted course average |
|--------------|-------------------------|
| A            | 90.00-100%              |
| B            | 80.00-89.99%            |
| C            | 70.00-79.99%            |
| D            | 60.00-69.99%            |
| E            | Below 60.00%            |

After all required work is graded, the instructor may lower one or more letter-grade thresholds, but will not raise them. There is no fixed quota for any letter grade. Canvas will use weighted assignment groups matching the published 10%/50%/20%/20% structure. Each course-content tutorial and each quiz that remains in the calculation will be normalized to the same possible points within its assignment group so that each counts equally. The published syllabus weights control if a temporary Canvas display conflicts with them.

**Extra credit:** Extra credit may be offered sporadically, including for in-person attendance or participation. It is truly extra and does not alter the required 100% or the grading thresholds. If offered, it is added only at the end of the semester. A student who misses an in-person opportunity because of a documented excused absence or approved accommodation will be offered an equivalent alternative.

### Course-Content Tutorials - 10%

- Course-content tutorials are graded homework assignments, not quizzes or examinations. They cover assigned readings, lecture material, economic concepts, and interpretation of research methods and empirical results. BRFSS and paper-project work do not belong to this category.
- Fourteen course-content tutorials are planned. All count; no tutorial score is dropped.
- Tutorials are released Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time and normally are due the Friday of the following week at 11:59 p.m., a window of slightly more than eight days.
- Tutorial 1 is released Thursday, August 27 and due Friday, September 4. Tutorial 13 is released November 19 and due Friday, December 4. Tutorial 14 is released December 3 and due Tuesday, December 8; its shorter window is disclosed in the schedule below.
- Tutorials are open-book and open-note, untimed, and allow unlimited attempts while open. They are Level 3 AI activities: students may use classmates, notes, readings, and AI as learning resources while critically evaluating the output.
- Tutorial items may be randomized from large pools. Repeated attempts may present different versions of the same underlying problem.

## Quizzes - 50%

- At least 10 quizzes will be administered. Twelve quiz windows are planned, from Friday, September 4 through Saturday, November 21. No quiz is scheduled during Thanksgiving week or the final two weeks of instruction. If a planned window is canceled, Canvas notice will normally be provided at least one week in advance unless an emergency prevents that notice.
- Students must assume every quiz counts. If more than 10 quizzes are administered, the instructor reserves the right to announce in Canvas that one or more lowest quiz scores will be excluded. No exclusion is guaranteed, and students should not skip a quiz in expectation of a later drop.
- Each quiz window opens Friday at 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time and closes Saturday at 11:59 p.m. The availability window is not the attempt duration. A quiz closes at 11:59 p.m. Saturday whether or not the allotted attempt time has elapsed; students must begin early enough to use their full allowed time, including approved extended time, before the window closes. The time limit and item mix are stated in Canvas before the quiz opens.
- Quizzes are closed-book, closed-note, Level 0 assessments administered in Canvas using Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor. The only permitted aids are a calculator and blank scratch paper.
- All of the following are prohibited during a quiz unless expressly authorized as an accommodation: AI tools, online resources, notes, collaboration, phones, tablets, secondary displays, remote-access tools, screen-sharing tools, and assistance from another person.
- A documented excused absence produces a make-up opportunity. The quiz may instead be excluded only if the student agrees in writing. An unexcused missed quiz receives a zero and counts unless the instructor later announces a generally applicable score exclusion.
- Do not discuss quiz questions with anyone until the instructor releases or reviews them.

## Term Paper - 20%

The term-paper project combines: (1) evaluation of a designated peer-reviewed core study; (2) original empirical analysis of Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data with extensive AI assistance; and (3) the student's own research question, economic reasoning, interpretation, and conclusions. The project is scaffolded through two early paper labs, three combined paper-lab/benchmark submissions, and a final paper. These activities are separate from the fourteen course-content tutorials.

| Paper-project item                                                                                                                        | Course weight                             | Date                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Paper Project Preview posted in Canvas                                                                                                    | No separate weight                        | No later than Tuesday, September 15 |
| Core-study/topic menu posted in Canvas                                                                                                    | No separate weight                        | No later than Friday, September 18  |
| Paper Lab 1: BRFSS data pipeline using instructor-designated demonstration variables                                                      | Timeliness/preparation within Benchmark 1 | Friday, September 18, 11:59 p.m.    |
| Paper Lab 2: weights, missing values, and valid estimates; paper choice, alternate choice, and custom-topic request                       | Timeliness/preparation within Benchmark 1 | Friday, October 2, 11:59 p.m.       |
| Selections confirmed; complete assignment and rubric presented and posted                                                                 | No separate weight                        | Tuesday, October 6                  |
| Benchmark 1 / Paper Lab 3: research feasibility, data-fit memorandum, verified variable availability, and locked pre-analysis predictions | 3%                                        | Friday, October 16, 11:59 p.m.      |
| Benchmark 2 / Paper Lab 4: empirical evidence and reconciliation with the locked predictions                                              | 4%                                        | Friday, October 30, 11:59 p.m.      |
| Benchmark 3 / Paper Lab 5: reproducibility package and integrated draft                                                                   | 4%                                        | Friday, November 13, 11:59 p.m.     |
| Final research paper                                                                                                                      | 9%                                        | Thursday, December 3, 4:00 p.m.     |

- Paper Labs 1 and 2 are general BRFSS bootcamp exercises using instructor-designated demonstration variables; students do not need a final topic to complete them.
- Paper Labs 1 and 2 contribute timeliness and preparation credit to Benchmark 1. Work completed after an interim lab deadline may still be incorporated into Benchmark 1, but lost timeliness credit is not restored absent an excused absence or approved accommodation.

- Paper Labs 3, 4, and 5 are incorporated into Benchmarks 1, 2, and 3, respectively; the benchmark deadline is the governing graded deadline.
- The pre-analysis prediction memo must be submitted before topic-specific subgroup analysis. The detailed assignment defines the honor commitment and audit trail, including retained prompt logs and Canvas timestamps.
- Thanksgiving Break is buffer, not the planned work period. Nothing is due during the break; two class meetings and two office-hour blocks occur after the break before the final-paper deadline.

#### **Requirements for Acceptable Term-Paper Submissions**

- The published assignment structure and rubric govern every submission. A topic, dataset, or paper structure outside the approved options requires written instructor approval by Friday, October 2, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Without that approval, omitted required components receive no credit, and unrelated work does not substitute for them.
- The designated core study for each approved topic is identified in the assignment. It must be cited in the paper's text and included in the reference list. Data documentation, websites, vendor materials, AI output, and secondary summaries may support the analysis but do not substitute for the core scholarly source.

#### **Term Paper Submission of Record**

- Canvas is the only submission channel. Email attachments, cloud links, and paper copies do not replace a Canvas submission.
- Submit one .docx or .pdf file named Lastname\_Firstname\_ECO499\_F26. Multiple submissions are allowed before the deadline; the last successfully uploaded file before the deadline is the submission of record.
- Students must download or reopen the uploaded file before the deadline and verify that it is the intended, readable document. A blank, corrupted, or wrong-file upload does not by itself establish completion.
- After the deadline, replacement files are accepted only under the documented excused-absence policy, a documented Canvas/University system outage, or another written accommodation authorized by the instructor.
- An individual technical problem must be reported before the deadline through Canvas Inbox, or through University email if Canvas is unavailable. The report must attach the intended file and include a screenshot, the exact error message, and a timestamp. A report made only after the deadline does not establish that the paper was submitted on time.
- Travel, ordinary workload in other courses, and unreported personal computer or internet problems are not automatic grounds for an extension.

#### **Final Examination - 20%**

**Official schedule:** [UK Examination Schedules](#). The section's registrar-assigned period is Tuesday, December 15, 8:00-10:00 a.m.; the course final does not require an 8:00 a.m. start.

- The final is administered online in Canvas using Respondus. The availability window opens at 12:00 a.m. Eastern Time and closes at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on December 15. Each student receives one 120-minute attempt once begun.
- The availability window is not the attempt duration. The final closes at 11:59 p.m. whether or not the allotted time has elapsed; students must begin early enough to use their full allowed time, including approved extended time, before the window closes.
- The final is comprehensive and is a Level 0 assessment. The only permitted aids are a calculator and blank scratch paper. The Level 0 device, resource, collaboration, and assistance restrictions stated for quizzes also apply to the final.

#### **Assessment Formats, Technology Practice, and Scoring**

- Quizzes and the final may use multiple choice, multiple answer, matching, ordering, numeric/equation entry, interpretation of tables, figures and regression output, short answer, and essay items.
- Quizzes and the final may require students to apply familiar economic concepts, models, or empirical designs to a new paper, dataset, policy setting, or numerical example. Assessment questions need not repeat tutorial wording or examples.
- Essay and free-response items are scored by the instructor using a defined rubric. When consistent with University privacy requirements, University-approved AI-enabled tools may be used to check rubric consistency or identify responses needing closer review; no AI tool assigns a final score, and the instructor retains final judgment.
- Optional, ungraded Respondus practice checks will be available before the first quiz and before the final examination. They do not contribute to the course grade and are not required interactions.

- Any Canvas or Respondus problem must be reported before the assessment window closes through Canvas Inbox, or through University email if Canvas is unavailable. The report must include a screenshot, the exact error message, and a timestamp. A report made only after the window closes may not establish that the student was unable to complete the assessment.
- After the instructor receives a Letter of Accommodation, approved testing accommodations will be applied to timed assessments. Students should verify the displayed time before beginning and report any discrepancy before starting the assessment.

## Artificial Intelligence Use Policy

This course uses assignment-specific levels from the [UK CELT Student AI Use Scale](#). Assignment instructions control if they are more specific than the summary below.

| Activity                                                           | AI level                        | Expectation                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lessons, readings, class preparation, and course-content tutorials | Level 3 - Critical Collaborator | AI is encouraged for explanation, practice, partial drafting, and iterative problem solving; students must critically evaluate the output.                                                                                      |
| BRFSS paper labs, paper benchmarks, and final paper                | Level 4 - Project Manager       | AI use is expected throughout data cleaning, coding, analysis, synthesis, and drafting support. Disclosure, source checking, verification, and reproducibility are required.                                                    |
| Proctored quizzes and final examination                            | Level 0 - Sole Author           | AI use is prohibited. No online resources, notes, collaboration, devices, remote access, screen sharing, or outside assistance; calculator and blank scratch paper only unless an accommodation expressly authorizes otherwise. |

## AI Accountability and Disclosure

- The student remains responsible for every number, citation, claim, figure, line of code, and interpretation submitted. AI can invent citations and variables, misread codebooks, and produce plausible output from incorrect code.
- The research question, economic reasoning, interpretation of evidence, and conclusions must reflect the student's own judgment, even when AI contributes extensively to execution and drafting.
- For Level 4 work, include an AI-use appendix identifying the tool(s), dates and purposes of use; representative prompts or a prompt log; substantive AI-generated content retained; revisions made; and verification steps.
- The narrative portions of the AI-use appendix must be written by the student. Prompts and AI outputs may be reproduced verbatim only when clearly labeled and separated from the student's own account.
- Students must retain source chats, prompts, code, data extracts, and supporting output until final grades are submitted and must be able to reproduce every submitted table, figure, and statistic. Students must be able to explain and defend all submitted prose, analysis, and conclusions.
- AI output is not a substitute for an underlying scholarly or data source. Factual claims and citations must point to the original article, documentation, or data source. Quote or cite AI output only when the AI output itself is the object being discussed.
- Do not upload confidential, private, personally identifying, restricted, or course-protected information to an AI tool. Assigned readings may be uploaded for the student's own individual study unless Canvas specifically marks a reading as license-restricted; assigned files may not be posted, shared, or redistributed. The BRFSS project uses public-use data and does not require private individual-level information.
- Undisclosed required use, fabricated verification, or any AI use during a Level 0 assessment will be handled under University academic-integrity procedures.
- A paid AI subscription is not required. Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat is available through UK accounts, and free versions of other tools may be used where permitted.

## Attendance, Required Interactions, Absences, and Late Work

University attendance policy: [Attendance and Participation in Class](#).

**Required interactions:** This course has 33 required interactions. For this course, a required interaction is a separately scheduled activity that contributes to the course grade. The 33 interactions are 14 course-content tutorials, 12 quizzes, five graded paper-project submissions before the final paper (Paper Labs 1 and 2 and the three combined paper-lab/benchmark submissions), the final paper, and the final examination. Each counts once regardless of point value, duration, or course weight. Regular class meetings, optional extra-credit opportunities, office hours, voluntary review activities, and ungraded Respondus practice checks are not required interactions. If a scheduled graded activity is canceled, an updated total will be announced in Canvas.

**Attendance:** Strongly encouraged. Attendance is not part of the required 100% course grade, but occasional extra-credit opportunities may be based on in-person attendance or participation as described above. Assigned research papers are substantially easier to understand with in-class explanation and discussion.

**Unexcused absences and late work:** An unexcused absence carries no separate attendance penalty, but unexcused missed graded work receives a zero. Unless a specific alternative is stated in the Term Paper section, unexcused late submissions are not accepted.

**Excused absences:** University policy governs acceptable excuses and documentation. Except where advance notice is required, a student missing graded work must notify the instructor within five business days after the excused absence and arrange a make-up. The instructor will provide an opportunity to make up graded work; the course grade may be calculated without that work only if the student agrees in writing.

**Religious observances:** Students observing major religious holidays must provide written notice during the first week of class so that alternative arrangements can be scheduled. An appropriate make-up or alternative arrangement will be provided.

**Verification:** Verification standards are applied consistently. Documentation accepted under University policy includes appropriate records from University Health Service, the Counseling Center, TRACS, or the VIP Center, as well as official notices for University activities, military duties, or other verifiable circumstances.

### Policy on Grade Return

- Course-content tutorial feedback: normally immediate after submission, subject to Canvas settings.
- Quizzes: scores normally posted within one week after the window closes; items may remain hidden until integrity review is complete.
- Paper Labs 1 and 2 and paper benchmarks: normally returned within one week.
- Final paper: normally returned within two weeks and before final course grades are submitted.
- Final examination and final course grades: submitted to the Registrar by the section-specific deadline, Friday, December 18, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Appearance in myUK may occur later.

### Midterm Grades

There is no midterm examination. The midterm grade reported during the October 12-26 University window is based on course-content tutorials, quizzes, and any graded paper-project work available at that time.

### Disability Accommodations and Course Flexibility

Students seeking accommodations must provide the instructor with a Letter of Accommodation from the [Disability Resource Center](#). Accommodations are not retroactive and should be established as early as feasible.

Testing accommodations and deadline- or attendance-flexibility accommodations are distinct. Approved testing accommodations will be configured for timed assessments after the instructor receives the letter. Disability-related deadline or attendance flexibility is governed by the DRC's [Course Flexibility Plan](#) rather than by the ordinary late-work rule.

### Prep Days, Reading Days, and Finals Week

- Prep Days are Monday-Wednesday, December 7-9. Classes meet. No quiz or examination is scheduled. Course-content tutorials are graded homework assignments; Tutorial 14 is regularly scheduled in this syllabus and is collected Tuesday, December 8 under the University's Prep Day provision for scheduled homework. Any review session is voluntary and introduces no new material.
- Reading Days are Thursday-Friday, December 10-11. There are no required interactions or deadlines.
- Finals Week is December 14-17. No homework is assigned or due; the only regular graded activity is the final examination on December 15.

## Major Course and University Dates

**Authoritative calendar:** [University of Kentucky Academic Calendar](#). The tables below contain due dates, not a promised topic-by-topic pacing plan. Reading order and time allocations may change through Canvas announcements.

| Date                    | University or section event                                                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon, Aug 24             | Fall semester begins                                                          |
| Tue, Aug 25             | First ECO 499 class meeting                                                   |
| Fri, Aug 28             | Last day to add a full-term class                                             |
| Fri, Sep 11             | Last day to change grading option; last day to drop without a W               |
| Oct 12-26               | Midterm grade submission window                                               |
| Mon-Tue, Oct 26-27      | Fall Break; no class Tuesday, October 27                                      |
| Sat, Nov 14             | Last day to withdraw from a full-term class                                   |
| Wed-Sat, Nov 25-28      | Thanksgiving Break; no class Thursday, November 26                            |
| Mon-Wed, Dec 7-9        | Prep Days; classes meet; no quizzes or examinations                           |
| Tue, Dec 8              | Last ECO 499 class meeting                                                    |
| Thu-Fri, Dec 10-11      | Reading Days; no required interactions                                        |
| Tue, Dec 15             | ECO 499 final examination; 24-hour availability; one timed 120-minute attempt |
| Fri, Dec 18, 10:00 a.m. | Section-specific final course grade submission deadline                       |

## Course-Content Tutorial and Quiz Schedule

The tutorial entries below refer only to the fourteen graded homework assignments in the 10% course-content tutorial group. The BRFSS paper-project schedule follows separately.

| Date               | Course-content tutorial (10%)                      | Quiz (50%)     |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Fri-Sat, Sep 4-5   | Tutorial 1 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                  | Quiz 1 window  |
| Fri-Sat, Sep 11-12 | Tutorial 2 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                  | Quiz 2 window  |
| Fri-Sat, Sep 18-19 | Tutorial 3 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                  | Quiz 3 window  |
| Fri-Sat, Sep 25-26 | Tutorial 4 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                  | Quiz 4 window  |
| Fri-Sat, Oct 2-3   | Tutorial 5 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                  | Quiz 5 window  |
| Fri-Sat, Oct 9-10  | Tutorial 6 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                  | Quiz 6 window  |
| Fri-Sat, Oct 16-17 | Tutorial 7 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                  | Quiz 7 window  |
| Fri-Sat, Oct 23-24 | Tutorial 8 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                  | Quiz 8 window  |
| Fri-Sat, Oct 30-31 | Tutorial 9 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                  | Quiz 9 window  |
| Fri-Sat, Nov 6-7   | Tutorial 10 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                 | Quiz 10 window |
| Fri-Sat, Nov 13-14 | Tutorial 11 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                 | Quiz 11 window |
| Fri-Sat, Nov 20-21 | Tutorial 12 due Friday, 11:59 p.m.                 | Quiz 12 window |
| Fri, Dec 4         | Tutorial 13 due, 11:59 p.m.                        | No quiz        |
| Tue, Dec 8         | Tutorial 14 due, 11:59 p.m. (shorter final window) | No quiz        |

## Paper-Project Schedule

| Date            | Paper-project milestone                                               | Grading connection                    |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| NLT Tue, Sep 15 | Paper Project Preview posted                                          | No separate weight                    |
| NLT Fri, Sep 18 | Core-study/topic menu posted                                          | No separate weight                    |
| Fri, Sep 18     | Paper Lab 1: BRFSS data pipeline                                      | Timeliness/preparation in Benchmark 1 |
| Fri, Oct 2      | Paper Lab 2 plus paper-choice/custom-topic form                       | Timeliness/preparation in Benchmark 1 |
| Tue, Oct 6      | Selections confirmed; complete assignment and rubric posted/presented | No separate weight                    |
| Fri, Oct 16     | Benchmark 1 / Lab 3: feasibility, data fit, and locked predictions    | Benchmark 1 (3%) due                  |
| Fri, Oct 30     | Benchmark 2 / Lab 4: evidence and prediction reconciliation           | Benchmark 2 (4%) due                  |
| Fri, Nov 13     | Benchmark 3 / Lab 5: reproducibility and integrated draft             | Benchmark 3 (4%) due                  |
| Thu, Dec 3      | Final research paper due at 4:00 p.m.                                 | Final paper (9%) due                  |

## Final Examination Date

| Date        | Course event                                                                                              |
|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tue, Dec 15 | Final examination; 24-hour availability, 12:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m. Eastern Time; one timed 120-minute attempt |

## Weather, University Closures, and Technology Disruptions

Follow UK Alert and University announcements for modified operations. A closure or delay may affect the in-person meeting, a Canvas deadline, or both; any course-specific change will be announced in Canvas. Documented University-wide Canvas or Respondus outages will be accommodated. For an individual technical problem, preserve evidence and contact the instructor before the affected assessment window or deadline closes, as required above.

## University Policies and Student Support

**Required academic policies:** [Academic Policy Statements](#).

**Student well-being:** [Mental Health and Well-Being Resources](#).

**Academic support:** [Tutoring and Academic Resources](#), including LEAP, research support, and the Writing Center.

**Academic Ombud:** [Academic Ombud Services](#).

## Classroom Emergency Preparedness and Response

In an emergency, call 911. For suspicious activity or a non-emergency situation, call UK Police at (859) 257-8573 or #UKPD from a mobile phone. Follow UK Alert messages and directions from emergency personnel. Evacuate through the nearest safe exit and do not use elevators; for severe weather, move to a marked shelter or an interior low-level area away from windows; when instructed to shelter in place, remain in a secure interior location; for an active aggressor, Run if possible, Hide if escape is not possible, and Fight only as a last resort.

**More information:** [UK Police Emergency Response Guide](#).

## Academic Integrity and Academic Offenses

University rules on academic integrity and academic offenses apply to this course. Consult the [University of Kentucky Academic Integrity Policy](#) and the [Academic Offenses page](#). The course-specific application below supplements, but does not replace, University rules.

**Course-specific application:** prohibited AI use, unauthorized collaboration, false AI-use disclosures, fabricated sources, knowingly false citation information, fabricated data or output, fabricated verification, and sharing protected assessment content may be referred under University academic-integrity procedures. Ordinary citation errors are evaluated under the paper rubric; an error is not automatically treated as intentional fabrication. Suspected violations will be handled through University procedures; course-level consequences may include a zero on the affected work in addition to any University sanction.

## Course Readings

The readings are grouped for organization, not as a week-by-week pacing commitment. What is assigned for a given class meeting will be announced in class and Canvas. Unless the instructor states otherwise, assigned readings may be assessed on quizzes and the final examination.

### Part 1: Overview of the U.S. Health Care System

- Gruber, Jonathan. 2016. *Public Finance and Public Policy*, 5th ed. Worth Publishers. Chapter 15, "Health Insurance I: Health Economics and Private Health Insurance."
- Gruber, Jonathan. 2016. *Public Finance and Public Policy*, 5th ed. Worth Publishers. Chapter 16, "Health Insurance II: Medicare, Medicaid, and Health Care Reform."
- Ashenfelter, Orley, and Michael Greenstone. 2004. "Estimating the Value of a Statistical Life: The Importance of Omitted Variables and Publication Bias." *American Economic Review* 94(2): 454-460.
- Viscusi, W. Kip. 2008. "The Flawed Hedonic Damages Measure of Compensation for Wrongful Death and Personal Injury." *Journal of Forensic Economics* 20(2): 113-135. Selected excerpts assigned in Canvas.
- Garber, Alan M., and Jonathan Skinner. 2008. "Is American Health Care Uniquely Inefficient?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 22(4): 27-50.

### Part 2: Economics of Insurance Markets

- Gruber, Jonathan. 2016. *Public Finance and Public Policy*, 5th ed. Worth Publishers. Chapter 12, "Social Insurance: The New Function of Government."
- Cutler, David M., and Sarah J. Reber. 1998. "Paying for Health Insurance: The Trade-Off between Competition and Adverse Selection." *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 113(2): 433-466.
- Buchmueller, Thomas, and John DiNardo. 2002. "Did Community Rating Induce an Adverse Selection Death Spiral? Evidence from New York, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut." *American Economic Review* 92(1): 280-294.

### Part 3: Behavioral Economics and Insurance Choice

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