

## Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



### ECON2236 Economics of health

[30h] 4 credits

This course is taught in the 2nd semester

**Teacher(s):** Marie-Christine Closon  
**Language:** French  
**Level:** Second cycle

#### Aims

By the end of the course, students will be able to understand the principles of health economics, and apply these principles to specific cases.

#### Main themes

- Introducing students to the key elements of the organisation and financing of the healthcare sector in Belgium, and to how they have developed recently.
- Analysing the role of state regulation in this sector and justification (e.g. intrinsic features of the healthcare sector) for it.
- Identifying explanations for using health services with regard to both supply and demand, with a view to evaluating various ways of regulating the sector in terms of economic efficiency and access to care.
- Introducing students to an economic evaluation of some specific health policies (cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analysis).

#### Content and teaching methods

healthcare - goods like any other: implications for the organisation, financing and regulation of the sector;  
 typology and comparative analysis of various health systems;  
 organisation and financing of healthcare in Belgium;  
 uncertainty, the insurance market, and the role of the public authorities;  
 factors explaining health (e.g. the environment, lifestyle, working conditions and socio-economic status);  
 introduction to an analysis of medical decisions and a cost-effectiveness evaluation of health programmes;  
 use of healthcare: influence of supply and demand, and instruments of control;  
 hospitals: models of behaviour, systems of financing and control, and their influence on hospital performance;  
 some alternative systems of regulation, and foreign experiences (e.g. the United States, Great Britain and the Netherlands).

#### Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Two-year degree courses in Economic Sciences  
 Written or oral examination.  
 References will be provided at the beginning of the course.