

## Masterstudiengang Public Health Health Economics

2026/27

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Frikkie Booysen  
Wits/PPS Chair in Health Economics,  
School of Economics and Finance  
University of the Witwatersrand,  
Johannesburg,  
South Africa  
[frederik.booyesen@wits.ac.za](mailto:frederik.booyesen@wits.ac.za)



### **Lectures:**

Tuesday      08h00 - 09h30

### **Meeting link:**

[Online Lectures](#)

### **Appointments:**

One-on-one online meetings (by appointment only)

**Content:**

Overall, this course aims to equip students with the capacity to have a firm grasp of the various economic aspects and dimensions relevant to informed debate and decision making in relation to health and healthcare. We kick off the course with a critical theory-informed overview of the health-development nexus, with a focus on the role of the health SDGs in achieving the other SDGs, and vice versa. Next, we reflect on how key features of the demand for health and healthcare as well as the supply of human resources in health are relevant to health policy, followed by a birds eye view on how principles of behavioural economics are relevant to the study of health-related behaviours and the design of policies and programmes that harness these principles to improve public and population health. This is followed by an interrogation of the implications for healthcare of various market failures in the health domain. We then proceed with a comparative study of health economic evaluation and health financing systems, concluding with an exposition of the ways in which the macroeconomy is related to public health. We adopt an inter-disciplinary and integrated approach in reflecting on how these foundational principles of health economics enable us to better understand topical real-world health challenges in the Global North and South.

**Outcomes:**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Critically reflect on the complex relationships between health and development within the context of health inequalities.
2. Adopt the key features of the demand for health and healthcare in informing health policy.
3. Conduct an economic analysis of the health labour market to inform policy on human resources for health
4. Critically reflect on the nature of externalities and internalities in the health domain and the associated policy implications
5. Critically reflect on the behavioural economics of health-related behaviour and its policy implications.
6. Appreciate the policy implications for healthcare of market failures in drug development.
7. Provide an assessment of the efficiency of healthcare delivery and the associated policy issues.
8. Appreciate the implications for healthcare of concentrated and competitive market structures.
9. Provide a critical exposition of the characteristics, interpretation and assessment of the main types of health economic evaluation.
10. Provide a comparative assessment of alternative health financing systems.
11. Critically reflect on the complex relationships between public health and the macro-economy.
12. Provide a contextualised and integrated health economics perspective on health issues and health policy that is inter-disciplinary in nature.

**Lecture schedule:**

| Lecture: | Date:       | Topic:                                            |
|----------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1        | 13 Oct 2026 | Introduction & Orientation                        |
| 2        | 20 Oct      | Inequality and the health-development nexus       |
| 3        | 27 Oct      | Demand for health and healthcare                  |
| 4        | 03 Nov      | Health labour markets                             |
| 5        | 10 Nov      | Externalities                                     |
| 6        | 17 Nov      | Behavioural health economics                      |
| 7        | 24 Nov      | <a href="#">Integrative policy perspective I</a>  |
| 8        | 01 Dec      | Drug development                                  |
| 9        | 08 Dec      | Efficiency                                        |
| 10       | 15 Dec      | Competition                                       |
| 11       | 22 Dec      | Health economic evaluation                        |
| 12       | 12 Jan 2027 | Health financing systems                          |
| 13       | 19 Jan      | Health and the macroeconomy                       |
| 14       | 26 Jan      | <a href="#">Integrative policy perspective II</a> |
| 15       | 02 Feb      | Open Q & A (non-compulsory)                       |

**Assessment schedule:**

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
|                     | Date: |
| Written examination | TBC   |

## Core readings:

The essence of other readings used in the course will be summarised in each lecture's presentation.

### Lecture 1: Introduction & Orientation

In this first lecture, I will provide an introduction to the course and its key elements, including an overview of the course content, the approach adopted in the course, and the final assessment.

### Lecture 2: Inequality and the health-development nexus

Aftab, W., Siddiqui, F. J., Tasic, H., Perveen, S., Siddiqi, S., & Bhutta, Z. A. (2020). Implementation of health and health-related sustainable development goals: progress, challenges and opportunities—a systematic literature review. *BMJ Global Health*, 5(8). <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjgh-2019-002273>

Garzón-Orjuela, N., Samacá-Samacá, D. F., Luque Angulo, S. C., Mendes Abdala, C. V., Reveiz, L., & Eslava-Schmalbach, J. (2020). An overview of reviews on strategies to reduce health inequalities. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 19(1), 192. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-020-01299-w>

### Lecture 3: Demand for health and healthcare

Levesque, J. F., Harris, M. F., & Russell, G. (2013). Patient-centred access to health care: conceptualising access at the interface of health systems and populations. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 12(1), 18. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1475-9276-12-18>

Schneider-Kamp, A. (2020). Health capital: Toward a conceptual framework for understanding the construction of individual health. *Social Theory & Health*, 19(3), 205. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41285-020-00145-x>

### Lecture 4: Health labour markets

McPake, B., Maeda, A., Araújo, E. C., Lemiere, C., El Maghraby, A., & Cometto, G. (2013). Why do health labour market forces matter? *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 91, 841-846. <https://doi.org/10.2471/BLT.13.118794>

World Health Organization. (2016). [\*Global strategy on human resources for health: workforce 2030\*](#). Geneva, World Health Organization.

#### Lecture 5: Externalities

Barrio, P., Reynolds, J., García-Altés, A., Gual, A., & Anderson, P. (2017). Social costs of illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco in the European Union: A systematic review. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 36(5), 578-588. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dar.12504>

Bikomeye, J. C., Rublee, C. S., & Beyer, K. M. (2021). Positive externalities of climate change mitigation and adaptation for human health: a review and conceptual framework for public health research. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(5), 2481. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18052481>

#### Lecture 6: Behavioural health economics

Congiu, L., & Moscati, I. (2022). A review of nudges: Definitions, justifications, effectiveness. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 36(1), 188-213. <https://doi.org/10.1111/joes.12453>

Murayama, H., Takagi, Y., Tsuda, H., & Kato, Y. (2023). Applying nudge to public health policy: practical examples and tips for designing nudge interventions. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(5), 3962. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20053962>

#### Lecture 7: Integrative policy perspective I – human nutrition transition

Afshin, A., Penalvo, J. L., Del Gobbo, L., Silva, J., Michaelson, M., O'Flaherty, M., ... & Mozaffarian, D. (2017). The prospective impact of food pricing on improving dietary consumption: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *PloS ONE*, 12(3), e0172277. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0172277>

Dokova, K. G., Pancheva, R. Z., Usheva, N. V., Haralanova, G. A., Nikolova, S. P., Kostadinova, T. I., ... & Aleksandrova, K. (2022). Nutrition transition in Europe: east-west dimensions in the last 30 years — a narrative review. *Frontiers in Nutrition*, 9, 919112. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnut.2022.919112>

#### Lecture 8: Drug development

Lee, K. S., Kassab, Y. W., Taha, N. A., & Zainal, Z. A. (2020). Factors impacting pharmaceutical prices and affordability: narrative review. *Pharmacy*, 9(1), 1. <https://doi.org/10.3390/pharmacy9010001>

Mueller-Langer, F. (2013). Neglected infectious diseases: are push and pull incentive mechanisms suitable for promoting drug development research? *Health Economics, Policy and Law*, 8(2), 185-208. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1744133112000321>

#### Lecture 9: Efficiency

Andrews, A., & Emvalomatis, G. (2024). Efficiency measurement in healthcare: the foundations, variables, and models—a narrative literature review. *Economics*, 18(1), 20220062. <https://doi.org/10.1515/econ-2022-0062>

Lötscher-Stamm, M., & Lenzin, G. (2024). Definition and understanding of “efficiency” in healthcare provision research: a scoping review. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 12, 1439788. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2024.1439788>

#### Lecture 10: Competition

Henriquez, J., van de Ven, W., Melia, A., & Paolucci, F. (2025). The roads to managed competition for mixed public–private health systems: a conceptual framework. *Health Economics, Policy and Law*, 20(2), 110-125. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1744133123000373>

Wood, B., Williams, O., Baker, P., Nagarajan, V., & Sacks, G. (2021). The influence of corporate market power on health: exploring the structure-conduct-performance model from a public health perspective. *Globalization and Health*, 17(1), 41. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12992-021-00688-2>

#### Lecture 11: Health economic evaluation

Sittimart, M., Rattanaipapong, W., Mirelman, A. J., Hung, T. M., Dabak, S., Downey, L. E., ... & Turner, H. C. (2024). An overview of the perspectives used in health economic evaluations. *Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation*, 22(1), 41. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12962-024-00552-1>

Turner, H. C., Archer, R. A., Downey, L. E., Isaranuwatthai, W., Chalkidou, K., Jit, M., & Teerawattananon, Y. (2021). An introduction to the main types of economic evaluations used for informing priority setting and resource allocation in healthcare: key features, uses, and limitations. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 9, 722927. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2021.722927>

#### Lecture 12: Health financing systems

Koohi Rostamkalaee, Z., Jafari, M., & Gorji, H. A. (2022). A systematic review of strategies used for controlling consumer moral hazard in health systems. *BMC Health Services Research*, 22(1), 1260. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12913-022-08613-y>

Van Kleef, R. C., Reuser, M., McGuire, T. G., Armstrong, J., Beck, K., Brammli-Greenberg, S., ... & Wasem, J. (2024). Scope and incentives for risk selection in health insurance markets with regulated competition: a conceptual framework and international comparison. *Medical Care Research and Review*, 81(3), 175-194. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10775587231222584>

Lecture 13: Health and the macroeconomy

Fumagalli, E., Pintor, M. P., & Suhrcke, M. (2024). The impact of health on economic growth: A narrative literature review. *Health Policy*, 143, 105039. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.health-pol.2024.105039>

Naik, Y., Baker, P., Ismail, S. A., Tillmann, T., Bash, K., Quantz, D., ... & Bambra, C. (2019). Going upstream—an umbrella review of the macroeconomic determinants of health and health inequalities. *BMC Public Health*, 19(1), 1678. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-019-7895-6>

Lecture 14: [Integrative policy perspective II](#) – universal health coverage (UHC)

In this lecture, we will reflect on the course content as a whole in an integrative manner, within the context of the global policy goal of universal health coverage, drawing on relevant content from each of the twelve learning units.

Lecture 15: Open discussion (Q & A)

In this lecture, you will have the opportunity to ask any final questions you may have regarding the course content and, in particular, the nature and format of the written examination.

### **Assessment – written examination:**

In this written examination, you will be required to write an essay in which you present an integrative health economic perspective on a specific public health issue by drawing on relevant content from the course – you will be provided with a list of five topics, from which you have to choose one. The question will include some brief context and background to the relevant public health issue.

The essay answers in the examination will be assessed using the following rubric:

| <b>Criterion:</b>                                    | <b>Score</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| “no health economics insight”                        | 4.3 – 5.0    |
| “weak health economics insight”                      | 3.7 – 4.0    |
| “acceptable health economics insight”                | 2.7 – 3.3    |
| “extensive integrative health economics insight”     | 1.7 – 2.3    |
| “comprehensive integrative health economics insight” | 1.0 – 1.3    |

In summary, you are required to present...

**CLEAR** and

**RELEVANT**

**APPLICATIONS** to public health

**THROUGH** an

**INTEGRATIVE**

**ECONOMIC** lens.

This composite criterion, of being “**CREAtive**”, holds the key to illustrating the required competency of drawing lessons for both policy and practice from viewing public health through an integrative economic lens based on the course content.

Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg

