



Microeconomic Perspectives on Quality of Care

Winter Term 2023/24

The aim of the course is to introduce you to microeconomic analysis which deals with quality issues with a focus on quality in health care.

We cover material from two branches of economics:

- (1) “Industrial Economics”: a branch of economics which analyses firm behavior in settings of imperfect markets.
- (2) “Contract Theory”: This branch analyses principal-agent relationships and optimal contracts.

The course is theoretical. The idea is to focus on conceptual issues which will be helpful for your further research.

Outline

1. Introduction
2. Modelling Quality
3. Quality Choice by a Monopolist
4. Quality and Competition
5. Credence Goods
6. Quality in Health Insurance Markets
7. Paying Providers and Quality

Tasks and Assessment

Students will be randomly assigned to groups and present scientific articles. Presentations start on October 27th.

The second task is to write a short paper with a length of 1,500 to 2,000 words (text without bibliography) related to the course material.

Students will develop the topic themselves and hand it an exposé (one page without bibliography) until **December 11th**. Feedback will be given until December 19th.

The short paper is due **January 19th, 2024**.

Exposés and Papers to be handed in in Word or Open Office format at mathias.kifmann@uni-hamburg.de.

Grading: presentation (1/3) and short paper (2/3).

Literature

We cover specific papers. We also use textbooks on industrial economics:

Bester, H., 2017. *Theorie der Industrieökonomik*, Berlin, Heidelberg: Springer.

Tirole, J., 1988. *The Theory of Industrial Organization*, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Literature will be made available on OpenOLAT where also all other material will be posted.