



Continuous Learning Collaborative: Inspiring Lifelong Discovery

in collaboration with Michigan State University
Retirees Association & Faculty Emeriti Association



How to Correct the Mental & Physical Illness Crisis

Based on the author's new book, *Has Medicine Lost Its Mind?* (Prometheus, 2025), we will review how medicine's isolated focus on physical diseases sidelined patients' psychological and social dimensions. This led to healthcare crises in mental disorders, chronic physical diseases, prevention, and excessive costs. These problems are easily remediable: medicine must train the primary care doctors who provide 75% of all mental health care and train more psychiatrists. Because medicine refuses, only an informed public, the goal of this course, can correct the problem by demanding that their politicians require a major change in medical education, the root cause of today's problems.

Session 1: Medicine's Failure to Integrate the Mind

Session 2: The Suffering That Attends Medicine's Failure to Include the Mind

Session 3: A New Theory Must Replace the Old One - A True Paradigm Shift

Session 4: Impediments to Change and How to Overcome Them

Robert C. Smith, MD MACP is a University Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry Emeritus at Michigan State University. His group defined the first evidence-based patient-centered interview and primary care mental health model, both published and widely used in medical education. Fed up with medicine's resistance to improving training in mental health care, Dr. Smith decided to take the problem public in his 2025 publication of "Has Medicine Lost Its Mind?" (required reading for this course).

Cost:

\$40 (M), \$55 (NM)
*Zoom option available

Schedule:

Wednesdays,
September 2, 9, 16, & 23
2:30 - 4 p.m.

Required Reading:
Has Medicine Lost Its Mind?

Racism in U.S. Constitutional, Legal, Political & Social History

This course is a historical examination of racism as public and social policy in the U.S., from the founding of the Republic and ratification of the Slavery Constitution, through the Civil War, "separate but equal," the modern civil rights movement, up to the Trump Administrations.

Brent Simmons is a retired attorney and law professor who taught Constitutional Law at Thomas Cooley Law School for 20 years (1994-2014). Prior to that he served as assistant counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund (1977-1984); Assistant Michigan State Attorney General (1984-1989); and as Michigan Supreme Court Commissioner (1989-1994).

Schedule:

Mondays,
September 14, 21, 28,
October 5, 19 & 26
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Cost:

\$60 (M), \$75 (NM)
*Zoom option available

Suggested Reading:

None

All sessions are held in Room 144
at the Hannah Community Center
(819 Abbot Rd., East Lansing)

Class space is limited.
Call today to reserve your spot.
(517) 337-1113

*Zoom Option: If indicated, courses can be taken via Zoom. Link will be sent 24-hours before the first class begins. You must indicate at sign up if you wish to join via Zoom.

Minimum: 5, Maximum: 40

Energy Efficiency Policy in the U.S.

Energy efficiency (EE) is one of the most effective, least cost measures for reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The US was one of the first countries to develop and adopt policies promoting EE. And a number of countries since the late 1970s have adopted measures patterned after the US. However, as with all US energy (or climate) policies, EE measures and policies have followed a zig-zag path. Throughout all four sessions class participants are encouraged to offer questions and thoughts on expanding EE policies and improving general energy policy in the US.

Session 1: Overview - History of US Energy Policy

Session 2 & 3: The Four Types of EE Policy in the US; including history of development, current implementation with discussions of potential future implementation, and effectiveness.

Session 4: Comparison of impacts, in terms of the reduction in energy consumption and GHG emissions, of US EE policies with other countries such as the UK, and the EU.

***Lorna A. Greening** has over 40 years of experience in the energy industry, including research, academia, consulting, the public utility industry, and the petroleum industry as an exploration geologist. Currently, she is a Fellow at the Center for Energy, Transportation and Environmental Policy housed at the Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN. Her research interests include energy supply and demand, energy efficiency measures and other greenhouse gas mitigation options, energy and climate economics and policy, and environmental regulation nationally and internationally. She has advised major global energy and economic organizations, including the US EPA, US DOE, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and APEC, and is a widely published author in leading energy economics and policy journals. She also contributed to multiple IPCC assessments and has held editorial and advisory roles with Energy Policy and Energy Economics. Her co-edited book, "Energy Policymaking in a Cross-National Comparison", was recently published by Springer Nature.*

Schedule:
Wednesdays,
September 30 &
October 7, 14, & 21
2:30 - 4 p.m.

Cost:
\$40 (M), \$55 (NM)
*Zoom option available

Suggested Reading:
Digital materials will be
emailed shortly before
the first class

We've Got You Covered: An Intro to Health Care Economics

This course uses *We've Got You Covered* by Liran Einav and Amy Finkelstein to create an introduction to the economics of health care. The authors, leading experts from Stanford and MIT, make a persuasive and innovative case that American health care needs to be restructured to make basic coverage automatic and free for all, with options to buy supplemental coverage. Their argument combines an appeal to American values with research findings about what works and doesn't work in the U.S. and around the world.

While not a textbook, this book teaches a lot about how economists think about and do research on health care in a lively and accessible way. The instructor will supplement the material based on his knowledge and experience. Enrollees are expected to read the book and engage in discussion, but no prior background in economics is assumed.

***John H. Goddeeris** is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at MSU. In his 44 years in the Economics Department, he frequently taught courses in health economics at all levels from undergraduate to Ph.D. His research has been published in leading economics and health journals, including the Journal of Political Economy, the Journal of Health Economics, JAMA, the American Journal of Public Health, and Health Affairs. He is a former chair of the MSU Economics Department and has been a Visiting Scholar at the Congressional Budget Office and at the Urban Institute. He has also served as a consultant to the Michigan Department of Treasury and the Michigan Attorney General.*

Schedule:
Mondays,
November 2, 9, 16, & 23
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Cost:
\$40 (M), \$55 (NM)
*Zoom option available

Required Reading:
We've Got You Covered

