Economics 4646-001: Health Economics
Fall 2010 Course Syllabus

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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 10:00-10:45 in Economics 14C
Course Website: http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/hb/barham/courses/econ4646/

Course Description
Health economics is a growing field and is an important aspect of public policy in developed and developing countries. This course is designed to introduce upper level undergraduate students in economics to the field of Health Economics. The provision and production of health care have different characteristics and incentives from other consumer goods making health related markets a unique topic for study. We will cover a number of topics including basic economic concepts important for the study in health economics, why health is different from other good, aspects of the US health care market, health care in other countries, health care reform, as well as discussing the importance of health for development and some basic economic evaluation techniques.

Course Organization
This course will follow a lecture format. Students are encouraged to ask questions on the course material and to share any personal experiences which are relevant to the topic.

Prerequisites
Econ 3070 (Intermediate Micro-Economics) is a pre-requisite for this course. Econ 3818 is recommended since an exposure to regression analysis will also be useful for understanding the material. Students who are unsure about their preparation for the course should speak with me.

Textbook / Readings

This text is also available in an on-line format at: www.coursesmart.com

There are also assign reading which are available on the class website and listed at the end of the syllabus

Evaluation
Midterm 1: 25%
Midterm 2: 25%
Final Exam: 30%
Homework: 10%
Participation/attendance: 10%

You are expected to come to class with any readings completed. Your participation and attendance grades will be based on random attendance checks throughout the semester and your participation during the class. Class attendance will be taken the first three days of class.
**Homework**
There will be two homeworks each worth 5 percent of your grade. The homework will involve answering short and/or long questions. Homework is due in the beginning of class on the due date. You will lose a grade per day late.

Homework 1: Moral Hazard and Adverse Selection – Due Sept. 23rd
Homework 2: International Comparisons/Health Care Reform – Due approximately Nov. 9th (date may change but you will be given plenty of warning)

**Missed Assignments & Exams**
You may not miss an exam. No makeup exams will be given. If there is a proven emergency or other unusual circumstances (to be discussed with the instructor prior to an exam if possible), no make-up exam will be given but your grades will be reweighed.

**Tentative Class Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 – Aug. 23</td>
<td>Introduction / Micro Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 – Aug 30</td>
<td>Impact Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 – Sept 6</td>
<td>Health Production Functions and Demand for Health Care</td>
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<td>4 – Sept 13</td>
<td>Health Care Insurance, Moral Hazard, and Adverse Selection</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 – Sept. 20</td>
<td>Health Care Insurance, Moral Hazard, and Adverse Selection / Managed Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 – Sept. 27</td>
<td><strong>Sept 30 - Midterm 1</strong> (covers everything taught up to this week)</td>
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<td>Equity, Efficiency and Need</td>
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<td>7 – Oct 4</td>
<td>Government’s Role in Health Care</td>
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<td>8 – Oct. 11</td>
<td>Government’s Role in Health Care</td>
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<td>9 – Oct. 18</td>
<td>International Comparisons</td>
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<td>10 – Oct 25</td>
<td><strong>October 28 – Midterm 2</strong></td>
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<td>11 – Nov. 1</td>
<td>Health Sector Reform</td>
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<td>12 – Nov. 8</td>
<td>Providers: Hospitals and Pharmaceuticals</td>
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<td>13 – Nov. 15</td>
<td>Health and Economic Development</td>
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<td>14 – Nov. 22</td>
<td><strong>THANKS GIVING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>15 – Nov. 29</td>
<td>Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis</td>
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<td>16 – Dec. 6</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>Dec 13th</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM 4:30pm – 7pm tentative check with Office of the Registrar</strong></td>
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Students with Disabilities
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services by Sept 2nd so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html

Religious Observances
Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. If you have a conflict due to a religious obligation, please see me by Sept. 2nd so that alternate arrangements can be made. Policies regarding religious practice are available at www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Academic Misconduct
All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/

Sexual Harassment
The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh

Learning Environment
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and at http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code
Reading List by Topic

1. Introduction and Overview (FSG 1)


Supplementary Readings


2. Micro Review (FSG 2)

3. Impact Evaluation (FSG 4)


4. Measures of Health, Modeling Health Production, and Demand for Health Care (FSG 5, 7, 9)


Note: The journal Health Affair has devoted the March/April 2002 issue to determinants of health.

5. Health Care Insurance, Moral Hazard, Adverse Selection, and Managed Care (FSG 8, 10, 11, 12)


*Supplementary Reading*


6. **Equity, Efficiency, and Need (FSG 18)**


7. **Government's Role in Health Care (FSG 19, 21)**

Associated Press. April 18th, 2006 "Health Insurers are Near Monopolies"  

8. **International Comparisons (FSG 22)**


9. **Health Sector Reform (FSG 22)**

Readings to be assigned closer to date of class so they are up-to-date

10. **Providers: Hospitals and Pharmaceuticals (FSG 13, 14, 17)**

11. **Health and Development (FSG 24)**


*Supplementary Readings*


12. **Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (FSG 4)**