Economics 4646-001: Health Economics  
Spring 2013 Course Syllabus (Preliminary)

Professor Tania Barham  
Office: Economics 114  
Email: tania.barham@colorado.edu  
Class: 9:30am – 10:45am Econ 119  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:15-2:15pm in Economics 114  
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 that 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  
The required text for this course is: Folland, Goodmand, and Stano (FSG). The Economics of Health and Health Care 5th Edition. Pearson Prentice Hall Press. ISBN: 0-13-227942-8. Please note that this is NOT the latest edition, the latest edition is edition 7. The more current editions of the text are also fine to buy, they are almost exactly the same for the chapters we use. But the older editions are significantly cheaper.

There are also assigned readings which are available on the class website.

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

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 homework 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. If you had it in late please hand it into the economics office and have the day and time you hand it in stamped on your homework.

Homework 1: Moral Hazard and Adverse Selection – Due Feb. 14\(^{th}\)
Homework 2: International Comparisons/Health Care Reform – Due approximately April 9\(^{th}\) (date may change depending on progress)

**Missed Assignments & Exams**
If you miss an exam due to 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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<tr>
<td>1 – Jan 14</td>
<td>Introduction/ Micro Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 – Jan 21</td>
<td>Impact Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 – Jan 28</td>
<td>Health Production Functions and Demand for Health Care</td>
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<td>4 – Feb 4</td>
<td>Health Care Insurance, Moral Hazard, and Adverse Selection</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 – Feb 11</td>
<td>Health Care Insurance, Moral Hazard, and Adverse Selection / Managed Care</td>
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| 6 – Feb 18 | **Thursday, Feb. 21 - Midterm 1** (covers everything taught up to this week)  
Equity, Efficiency and Need |
| 7 – Feb 25 | Government’s Role in Health Care |
| 8 – Mar 4 | Government’s Role in Health Care |
| 9 – Mar 11 | Providers: Hospitals and Pharmaceuticals |
| 10 – Mar 18 | Brief History of Health Care in US and International Comparisons |
| 11 – Mar 25 | **SPRING BREAK** |
| 12 – April 1 | **Thursday, April 4 - Midterm 2** (covers everything taught up to this week) |
| 13 – April 8 | Health Care Reform |
| 14 – April 15 | Health and Economic Development |
| 15 – April 22 | Health and Economic Development |
| 16 – April 29 | Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis / Review |
| Mon. May 6th | FINAL EXAM 1:30pm – 4pm tentative check with Office of the Registrar |
Students with Disabilities
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services by Jan. 31st so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671 or by email at disinfo@colorado.edu

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at Disability Services website and discuss your needs with with me.

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 Jan. 31st 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

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, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, 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 - Introduction)


Supplemental Reading


3. Impact Evaluation

Chapters 3, 4, 6 of

Supplementary Readings


4. Measures of Health, Modeling Health Production, and Demand for Health Care
FSG 5 The Production of health
FSG 7 Demand for Health Capital
FSG 9 Consumer Choice and Demand


Supplementary Readings


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 : Demand and Supply of Health Insurance


*Supplementary Reading*


6. Equity, Efficiency, and Need

*Supplementary Reading*


7. Government’s Role in Health Care

*Supplementary Reading*

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

8. Providers: Hospitals and Pharmaceuticals

*Supplementary Reading*

9. International Comparisons

*Supplementary Reading*

10. Health Sector Reform

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

11. Health and Development
FSG 24 Epidemiology and Economics: HIV/AIDS in Africa


Supplementary Readings


12. Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
FSG 4 Economic Efficiency and Cost Benefit Analysis