

University of Colorado Boulder
Department of Economics
Econ 4646-001, Fall 2014

August 24, 2014

Health Economics

1 Course Description

Instructor: Shuang Zhang (Assistant Professor of Economics and International Affairs)

Contact: Economics 10
303-492-2585
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Course time: MWF 1-1:50pm

Location: ECON 119

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-3:30pm or by appointment

Location: Economics 10

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 course focuses on two broad areas: 1) population health; 2) health care. We will cover a number of topics including basic economic concepts important for the study in health economics, human capital model of health, health and human development, health insurance, the US health care market, health care in other countries, health care reform, health and economic development, etc.

Textbook:

Jay Bhattacharya, Timothy Hyde and Peter Tu. *Health Economics*. Palgrave Macmillan Press.

2 Course Requirements

1. Two mid-term exams (15% each)

2. Group project (25%)

The objective of this project is to become the expert on the health system of a country of your choice, to describe the health challenges facing the country, and prescribe a potential policy solution. You may NOT choose the US. You will form groups of 2-3 people. Each group will teach a class based on the group project. Each person in your group needs to participate in giving the lecture. You should plan on talking for 40 minutes and leave 10 minutes for class discussion.

The presentation will include 3 parts:

- Part 1: Performance of the Health Care System. For example, you may include figures on:
 - Trends in health expenditures (per capita, public versus private)
 - Trends in mortality/life expectancy: by age (infant, under 5, and adult) and gender
 - Trends in morbidity: find statistics on the diseases that are relevant for your country and make the case why the diseases you choose are relevant.
 - Trends in health care resources: doctors and nurses per capita, hospital beds per capita, medical equipment per capita.
- Part 2: Overview of the Health Care System. For example, you may talk about:
 - History: when the system was created and what lead to its creation.
 - Funding: which areas are publicly or privately funded or both?
 - Delivery: Who delivers the health care? The private sector or the public sector?
 - Insurance: What type of insurance system is available (universal, employment-based), and are there uninsured?
- Part 3: Problems and Solutions. In this part, you want to outline one or two important health care problem the country is facing. Then either: 1) Suggest a change in health care policy (health care reform) and the economic rational for this reform, or 1) Describe how the country is tackling this problem and provide a critique using economic rational.

3. Final exam (35%)

4. Class attendance (10%)

There are 10 quizzes in class during the semester on random dates. Missing quizzes records will lead to loss of grades.

3 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	
week1	Aug. 25-29	Introduction & Research methods	
week 2	Sep. 1-5	Health: History and A Global View	
week 3	Sep. 8-12	Demand for Health	
week 4	Sep. 15-19	Demand for Health Care	
week 5	Sep. 22-26	The Supply Side	Midterm 1 Wed.; No class Friday
week 6	Spe. 29 - Oct. 3	Health insurance	
week 7	Oct. 6-10	The US Health Care System	
week 8	Oct. 13-17	International Comparison with OECD Countries	
week 9	Oct. 20-24	Health Care Reform	Midterm 2 Wed.; No class Friday
week 10	Oct. 27-31	Health in Developing Countries (in-class workshop Friday)	
week 11	Nov. 3-7	Health in Developing Countries (in-class workshop Friday)	
week 12	Nov. 10-14	Group presentations	
week 13	Nov. 17-21	Group presentations	
week 14	Nov. 24-28	Fall Break NO CLASS	
week 15	Dec. 1-5	Group presentations	
week 16	Dec. 8-12	Group presentations	
Final week	Dec. 15-19	Final exam schedule TBA	

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services by August 29th 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