

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

January 12, 2014

Health Economics

## 1 Course Description

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

**Contact:** Economics 10

303-492-2585

shuang.zhang@colorado.edu

**Course time:** MWF 10:00 - 10:50 AM

**Location:** ECON 117

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 11am-12:30pm 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, aspects of the US health care market, health care in other countries, health care reform, health and economic development, etc.

**Textbooks:**

- There is no required textbook. I will post required readings on D2L before class.
- Recommended readings (some chapters from the following books will be covered):  
Folland, Goodmand, and Stano. *The Economics of Health and Health Care*. Pearson Prentice Hall Press.  
Jay Bhattacharya, Timothy Hyde and Peter Tu. *Health Economics*. Palgrave Macmillan Press.

## 2 Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the basis of five course requirements:

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

2. **Group project (20%)**

The objective of this project is to research a particular topic in health economics. You will form groups of 3-4 people. There are some topics which are developing country focused and others that are developed country focused. Your research output will be a group lecture – your group will teach a class. Each group member must give part of the group lecture. You may want to prepare some thought provoking questions to help engage the class.

- Group presentation:

Each group will teach a class based on the research using a power point. 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 and wrap up.

- Sample topics from previous class:

1. Drug Policy in the Developed World
3. The Economics of HIV/AIDS
4. Social Insurance in the US: Medicaid and the Managed Care Revolution

3. **Final exam (40%)**

4. **Class attendance (10%)**

An attendance sheet will be used to track attendance. Absence of at most two classes for legitimate reasons is allowed for the whole semester. Any absence beyond that will lead to loss of your final grades.

### 3 Course Schedule

Week	Date	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
week1	Jan 13-17	Introduction	Research methods	
week 2	Jan 20-24	Human Capital model of health		
week 3	Jan 27-31	Capacity formation model		
week 4	Feb 3-7	Health and human development		
week 5	Feb 10-14	Sex ratio imbalance		<b>Midterm 1</b>
week 6	Feb 17-21	Demand for Health Care		
week 7	Feb 24-28	Health Care Insurance		
week 8	March 3-7	Government's Role and US Health Care		
week 9	March 10-14	Health Care Reform		<b>Midterm 2</b>
week 10	March 17-21	Health and Economic Development		
week 11	March 24-28	<b>Spring Break</b>		
week 12	March 31 - April 4	International comparison of health care		
week 13	April 7-11	Group presentations		
week 14	April 14-18	Group presentations		
week 15	April 21-25	Group presentations		
week 16	April 28 - May 2	Group presentations		
Final week	May 3 - May 8	<b>Final exam schedule TBA</b>		

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services by Jan 22nd 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code)