

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

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: and 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: wed on

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