

## **Economics 4646-001: Health Economics Fall 2009 Course Syllabus**

### **Professor Tania Barham**

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**Office Hours:** Monday/Wednesday 11:00-noon 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 marketH e a

## Homework

There will be three home works each worth 5 percent of your grade. These homeworks will involve answering short and/or long questions. These will entail you doing some of your own research and analysis. You will be given the homework 1 to 2 weeks in advance and they are due in the beginning of class on the due date. You will lose a grade per day late. If you hand the homework in after the beginning of class you will lose a grade.

Homework 1: Moral Hazard and Adverse Selection – Due Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>

Homework 2: International Comparisons – Due Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>

Homework 3: Health Care Reform – Due approximately Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> (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 that has been discussed with the instructor prior to an exam, no make-up exam will be given but your grades will be reweighed.

## Tentative Class Schedule

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
1 – Aug. 25	Introduction / Micro Review
2 – Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>	Impact Evaluation
3 – Sept 7 <sup>th</sup>	Health Production Functions and Demand for Health Care
4 – Sept 14	Health Care Insurance, Moral Hazard, and Adverse Selection
5 – Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	Health Care Insurance, Moral Hazard, and Adverse Selection / Managed Care
6 – Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Sept 28<sup>th</sup> - Midterm 1</b> (covers everything taught) Equity, Efficiency and Need
7 – Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>	Government's Role in Health Care
8 – Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Government's Role in Health Care
9 – Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup>	International Comparisons <b>October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Midterm 2</b>
10 – Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>	To Be Determined
11 – Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Health Sector Reform
12 – Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Providers: Physician, Hospitals and Pharmaceuticals
13 – Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Cost-Benefit and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
14 – Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>THANKS GIVING BREAK</b>
15 – Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	Health and Economic Development
16 – Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Review

## **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](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



Cutler, David. 1994. "A Guide to Health Care Reform," *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 8(3), 13-29. (Read section Health Care That's Always There (p.18-20) and section Universal Health Care (p. 20-21)).

Cutler, David M., Mark McClellan, and Joseph P Newhouse. 2000. "How Does Managed Care Do It?," *Rand Journal of Economics*, 31(3), 226-248.

Newhouse, Joseph, 2004. "Consumer-directed health plans and the RAND Health Insurance Experiment," *Health Affairs* 23

