

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Department of Economics
Economics 4999-011
Health Economics
Fall 2008

Professor Tania Barham

Office: Economics 14C (in the McGuire Center, basement of Econ)

Email: tania.barham@colorado.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:30pm and
Wednesday 2:30pm – 4:00pm in Economics 14C

Course Website: <http://www.colorado.edu/ibs/hb/barham/courses/econ4999/>

Course Description

Health economics is a growing field and is an important aspect of public policy in developed and developing countries. The purpose of this course is to encourage students to read, think, and do research on issues in health economics. This course will cover issues that are pertinent to the US, other developed countries and developing countries. In order to help ready students for their working careers, students will be asked to use and improve their research and communication skills (writing and speaking) as well as their ability to work in groups. These skills will be developed while they learn about topics in health economics.

Course Organization

This course will comprise three parts. Part 1 will cover about a third of the time. During this time I will lecture on some of the basic concepts that underpin Health Economics. During part 2 of the course, which will last approximately 5 weeks, you will work on your research and presentation skills by doing a group paper and lecture. Finally, for part 3 you will write 3 short research papers on the health care system of a country and give a presentation.

Prerequisites

While there are no official course pre-requisites, students will be expected to be comfortable with the material from intro and intermediate micro or willing to put in some extra time to learn the material necessary. Some familiarity with calculus will be helpful for comprehending some of the reading material. 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 after class.

Textbook & Reading

There is no required text for this course. Your readings are on the course website. They are password protected. I will be providing you with the user name and password in class.

Evaluation

Evaluation for this course will be based on a mid-term exam, individual project and group project. There will be no make-up exam so make sure you are there. The projects are described at the end of the course outline.

Written projects are due in class unless otherwise indicated below. There will be severe penalty for late projects: you will lose a full grade level for each day beyond the due date (i.e. an “A” paper that is handed in a day late will receive a “B”). **Note I count the first day late to be after class on the day it is due.**

PROJECT	DUE DATE	PERCENTAGES
<u>Mid-Term Exam</u>		30 %

Final Class Schedule

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	
		Tuesday	Thursday
1	Aug 25, 28	Syllabus Review and Introduction	Health and Economic Development
2	Sept 2, 4	Research Methods	Health Production Functions Demand for Health Care
3	Sept 9, 11	Health Production Functions Demand for Health Care	Equity, Efficiency and Need
4	Sept 16, 18	Rational for Government Intervention	Health Insurance
5	Sept 23, 25	Health Insurance	Health Insurance
6	Sept 30, Oct 2	Health Insurance	Health Sector Reform
7	Oct 7, 9	Economic Evaluation of Health	Economic Evaluation of Health
8	Oct 14, 16	<i>MID-TERM EXAM</i>	<i>Groups 1 & 2 meet with Professor in classroom</i>
9	Oct 21, 23	<i>Groups 3 & 4 meet with Professor in classroom</i>	<i>Groups 5 meet with Professor in classroom</i>
10	Oct 28, 30	Group Lecture: Developed Country Drug Policy	Group Lecture: Health Saving Accounts
11	Nov 4, 6	Group Lecture: Developing Country Drug Policy	No class
12	Nov 11, 13	Group Lecture: Social Insurance in the US	Group Lecture: Economics of HIV/AIDs
13	Nov 18, 20	Individual presentations	Individual presentations
14	Nov 25, 27	<i>FALL BREAK</i>	
15	Dec 2, 4	Individual presentations	Individual presentations
16	Dec 9, 11	Individual presentations	Individual presentations

Group Project

The objective of this project is to research a particular topic in health economics. You will form groups of approximately 4 people. There are some topics which are developing country focused and others that are developed country focused. Your research output will take the form of a group paper (**to be made available to students 2 days before you lecture**) and a group lecture – your group will teach a class. Each group member should participate in the preparation of the paper and must give part of the group lecture. You may want to prepare some thought provoking questions to help engage the class.

Please note that wikipedia may not be used as a reference.

Office Meeting:

I will meet with each group at least a week before they are to give their oral presentation. During this meeting you should have already done some research so you can come with reading you have found an outline of what you want to say and who will take which part. We

you should cover. Note depending on your country you may not be able to cover all these topics. However, you may find something else interesting to put in instead.

1. History: when the system was created and what lead to its creation.
2. Funding: which areas are publicly or privately funded or both? And services are funded.
3. Delivery: Who delivers the health care? The private sector or the public sector?
4. Insurance: What type of insurance system is available (universal, employment-based), are there uninsured? Are there tax break systems such as Health Savings Accounts?

Stage 2: Performance of the Health Care System

Produce a paper that is a maximum of 4 double spaced pages plus tables (i.e. tables are not included in the page limit). The paper must be properly referenced including the data sources. **I will give you three data sources during the research methods class. You must base your paper on one or more of these data sources.** You are welcome to find other sources as well. In this summary you want to

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner 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>

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 January 24th 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; 303-725-2273). 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 discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, 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 topi