

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
Department of Economics
Economics 4646-001
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/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 markets a unique topic for study. We will cover a number of topics including basic economic concepts important for the study in health economics, why health is different from other good, aspects of the US health care market, as well as discussing the importance of health for development and some basic economic evaluation techniques.

Course Organization

This course will follow a lecture format. Students are encouraged to ask questions on the course material and to share any personal experiences which are relevant to the topic.

Prerequisites

Econ 3070 (Intermediate Micro-Economics) is a pre-requisite for this course. Econ 3818 is recommended since 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

Folland, Goodmand, and Stano (FSG). *The Economics of Health and Health Care 5th Edition*. Pearson Prentice Hall Press. ISBN: 0-13-237978-3

Evaluation

There will be two midterms and a final. The two midterms will be worth 30 percent of your grade each and the final 40 percent of your grade (Mid-term 1 - 30%; Mid-term 2 - 30%; Final - 40%)

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

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	
		Tuesday	Thursday
1	Aug 25, 28	Introduction and Overview	Introduction and Overview

Tentative Reading List

Supplementary readings are voluntary.

1. Introduction and Overview (FSG ch 1 and 2)

Supplementary Readings

Feldstein, Martin, 1995. "The Economics of Health and Health Care: What Have We Learned? What Have I Learned?" *The American Economic Review*, Vol. 85, No. 2, Papers and Proceedings of the Hundredth and Seventh Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association Washington, DC, January 6-8, 1995., pp. 28-31.

Gertler, Paul and J. Van der Geest. 1990. *The Willingness to Pay for Medical Care: Evidence from Two Developing Countries*. Baltimore, MD: John Hopkins University Press. Chapter 2 pages 5-30.

12. Economic Evaluation of Health (FSG 4)

Marthe Gold, David Stevenson, and Dennis Fryback, 2002. "HALYs and QALYs and DALYs, Oh My: Similarities and Differences in Summary Measures of Population Health," *Annual Review of Public Health* 23, 115-34.

Martin Ravallion "The Mystery of the Vanishing Benefits: An Introduction to Impact Evaluation," *The World Bank Economic Review* 15(1), 115-140.

Laura Rawlings, 2005. "A New Approach to Social Assistance: Latin American's Experience with Conditional Cash Transfer Programmes," *International Social Security Review* 58(2), 133-161.

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 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; 303-725-2273). 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