

Topics in Health Economics

Lecture: T, 11:00am - 1:00pm, BA 2135

Course Information

Instructor: Shari Eli
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 Office Hours: Max Gluskin House #326, Tues. 4:00 - 6:00pm
 Office Hours Sign-up: <https://my.timedriver.com/FH33S>

Course Goals

This course explores a variety of topics in health economics and provides an overview of institutional characteristics of the market for, and public policy towards, health care. Students will apply theoretical and empirical tools to current domestic and international issues in health economics. No previous background in health economics is required.

Students with Disabilities

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like special accommodations/arrangements either in class or in the event that the building must be evacuated. For disability-related accommodations, please also see the following website: <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca>.

Plagiarism

Dont do it! Plagiarism, as defined by the Mirriam-Webster Dictionary, includes using someone elses words, phrases, texts, or rewording someone elses thoughts, without giving he/she due credit. The standard penalty for violations of academic integrity in this course will be an F grade for the course. It is your responsibility to check the student guide to academic honesty at <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>.

Text

There is no textbook for this course.

Grading

Grades will be calculated based on points gained from homework assignments, the midterm exam and in-class presentations.

	Points	Date
Homework	25	Due by e-mail at 6pm on Mondays
Midterm	30	Tuesday, February 28, 2012
Presentation	20	TBD
Research Paper	25	April 3, 2012
Total	100	

Homework

There will be 5 homework assignments (5 pts each). Each homework assignment are due on Mondays by 6pm. Turn in homework assignments by e-mailing them to shari.eli@utoronto.ca. Late homework assignments will not be accepted.

HW #	Points	Due Date
1	5	January 16, 2012
2	5	January 23, 2012
3	5	January 30, 2012
4	5	February 6, 2012
5	5	February 13, 2012

Midterm

The midterm exam will be held during class.

Presentation

Each student will present their research papers (in preliminary form) to the class in order to get feedback on their progress. Details on the structure of the presentation will be given during class. Presentations should last approximately 20 minutes.

Research Paper

Students must complete a 10-page research paper on a health economics topic of their choice. The paper must be an original contribution to the field. Details on the requirements of the paper will be given during class.

Class Rules

All students must arrive on time. If you do not arrive on time, you may not be admitted to the class. The use of computers, iPhones, iPods, Blackberries, iPads, etc., are not allowed in class.

Reading List

Students should aim to complete the readings for each week before the start of the week.

1. January 10 - Introduction

2. January 17 - The History of Health

Cutler, David, Angus Deaton, and Adriana Lleras-Muney (2006). "The Determinants of Mortality," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20(3), 97-120. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w11963>

Robert Fogel (2004). *The Escape from Hunger and Premature Death, 1700 - 2100*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapter 2, pp. 21- 42. [[To be distributed in class]

Cutler, David and Grant Miller (2005). "The Role of Public Health Improvements in Health Advances: The 20th Century United States," *Demography* 42(1): 1-22. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1515174>

*Deaton, Angus (2006). *The Great Escape: A Review of Robert Fogel's The Escape from Hunger and Premature*

Death 1700-2100" *Journal of Economic Literature* 44(1), 106-114.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30032298>

Preston, Sam (1996). "American Longevity: Past, Present, and Future," Syracuse University Policy Brief No. 7/1996. Distinguished Lecturer in Aging Series, Center for Economic Policy Research Policy Brief, 1996.
<http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/uploadedFiles/cpr/publications/pb7.pdf>

Eli, Shari (2010). "Wealth is Health: Pensions and Disease Onset in the Gilded Age." Working Paper
<http://econgrads.berkeley.edu/seli/> (click the "research" tab)

3. January 24 - The Fetal Origins Hypothesis

Barker, David J P (1995). "Fetal origins of coronary heart disease," *British Medical Journal* 311(6998): 171-174.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2550226/pdf/bmj00601-0037.pdf>

*Almond, Douglas V. (2006). "Is the 1918 Influenza Pandemic Over? Long-term Effects of In Utero Influenza in the Post-1940 U.S. Population," *Journal of Political Economy* 114(4): 672-712.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3840337>

Brown, Ryan (2011). "The 1918 U.S. Influenza Pandemic as a Natural Experiment, Revisited." Working Paper.
http://mitsloan.mit.edu/neudc/papers/paper_276.pdf (must copy/paste link in your browser)

Almond, Douglas and Janet Currie (2011). "Killing Me Softly: The Fetal Origins Hypothesis," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 25(3): 153 - 172. <http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.25.3.153>

Anna Aizer and Laura Stroud (2009). Education, medical knowledge and the evolution of disparities in health. manuscript, Brown University. <http://socialsciences.cornell.edu/0811/AizerPaper.pdf>

Anna Aizer, Laura Stroud, and Stephen Buka (2009). Maternal stress and child wellbeing: Evidence from siblings. manuscript, Brown University.
http://www.nber.org/public_html/confer/2009/CHs09/aizer.pdf (copy/paste the link into your browser)

4. January 31 - Socioeconomics Status and Early-life Health in the West

Case, Anne, Darren Lubotsky, and Christina Paxson (2002). "Economic Status and Health in Childhood: The Origins of the Gradient. *American Economic Review* 92(5): 1308-1334. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3083252>

Currie, Janet and Mark Stabile (2003). Socioeconomic Status and Child Health: Why is the Relationship Stronger for Older Children? *American Economic Review* 93(5): 1813-1823. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3132154>

5. February 7 - Socioeconomic Status and Adult Health in the West

Scott, Janny (2005). "Life at the Top in America Isn't Just Better, It's Longer." *New York Times*, May 16, 2005, A1.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/16/national/class/HEALTH-FINAL.html?pagewanted=all>

James Smith (2005) Unraveling the SES-Health Connection, *Population and Development Review*, Special Issue (February). <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3401465>

Samuel Preston and Paul Taubman (1994) "Socioeconomic Differences in Adult Mortality and Health Status,"

in Linda G. Martin and Samuel H. Preston, eds, *Demography of Aging* (National Academy Press): 279-318.
<http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?isbn=0309050855> (also available on google books)

7. February 14 - Health and Economic Growth

Acemoglu, Daron, and Simon Johnson (2007). "Disease and Development: The Effect of Life Expectancy on Economic Growth," *Journal of Political Economy*, 115 (6): 925-985. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/529000>

*Pritchett, Lant and Lawrence Summers (1996). Wealthier is Healthier, *Journal of Human Resources* 31(4), 841-868. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/146149>

6. February 28 - Midterm

8. March 6 - Child Health in the Developing World

Cumming-Bruce, Nick (2008). "Global child mortality is halved," *New York Times*, February 2, 2008.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/01/22/health/22iht-CHILD.4.9413329.html>

Banerjee, Abhijit, and Esther Duflo (2011). "Low-Hanging Fruit," Chapter 3 in *Poor Economics*, New York: Public Affairs, chapter 3, 41-70. [To be distributed in class]

Bleakley, Hoyt (2007). "Disease and Development: Evidence from Hookworm Eradication in the American South," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(1), 73-117.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25098838>

Miguel, Edward and Michael Kremer (2004). "Worms: Identifying Impacts on Education and Health in the Presence of Treatment Externalities," *Econometrica* 72(1), 159-217.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3598853>

9. March 13 - HIV/AIDS in the Developing World

Altman, Lawrence (2004). "Former Model of Success, Thailand's AIDS Effort Falts, U.N. Reports," *New York Times*, July 9, 2004.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/07/09/world/former-model-of-success-thailand-s-aids-effort-falts-un-reports.html>

Young, Alwyn (2005). "The Gift of Dying: The Tragedy of AIDS and the Welfare of Future African Generations." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 120(2), 423-466. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25098743>

Oster, Emily (2005). "Sexually Transmitted Infections, Sexual Behavior, and HIV/AIDS Epidemic," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 120(2), 467-515. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25098744>

Thornton, Rebecca (2008). "The Demand for, and Impact of, Learning HIV Status," *American Economic Review*, 98(5), 1829-1863 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/29730154>

Dupas, Pascaline (2010). "Do Teenagers Respond to HIV Risk Information? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Kenya," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 125(1): 1-45. http://www.stanford.edu/~pdupas/HIV_teenagers.pdf (copy/paste link in browser)

10. March 21 - Health Systems around the World

Blumenthal, David (2001). "Controlling Health Care Expenditures," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 344(10), 766-769. [To be distributed in class]

Cutler, David M. (2002). "Equality, Efficiency, and Market Fundamentals: The Dynamics of International Medical Care Reform," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 40(3), 881-906.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3217112>

Blumenthal, David and William Hsiao (2005). "Privatization and Its Discontents: The Evolving Chinese Health System," *New England Journal of Medicine* 353(11), 1165-1170. [To be distributed in class]

Chaudhury, Nazmul, et al (2006). "Missing in Action: Teacher and Health Worker Absence in Developing Countries," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20(1), 91-116.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30033635>

Filmer, Deon and Lant Pritchett (1999). "The Impact of Public Spending on Health: Does Money Matter?" *Social Science and Medicine* 49(10), 1309-1323. [To be distributed in class]

Das, Jishnu and Jeffrey Hammer (2007). "Money for nothing: The dire straits of medical practice in Delhi, India," *Journal of Development Economics* 83(1), 1-36. [To be distributed in class]

Sanmartin, Claudia et al (2006). "Comparing Health And Health Care Use In Canada And The United States" *Health Affairs* 25(4), 1133-1142. <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/25514/1133.full.pdf>

11. March 28 - Demand and Supply of Health Care

Singer, Peter (2009). "Why We Must Ration Health Care" *New York Times* July 15, 2009. [To be distributed in class]

Manning, Willard, et al (1987). "Health Insurance and the Demand for Medical Care: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment" *American Economic Review* 77(3), 251-277.

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1804094>

Gawande, Atul (2009). "The Cost Conundrum" *The New Yorker* June 1, 2009.

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/06/01/090601fa_fact_gawande?currentPage=1 (copy/paste the link in your browser)

12. April 3 - Obesity and Alcohol

Bhattacharya, Jay, Christina Gathmann, and Grant Miller (2011). "The Gorbachev anti-Alcohol Campaign and Russia's Mortality Crisis" *Working Paper*. [To be distributed in class]

Cutler, David, Edward Glaeser, and Jesse Shapiro (2003). "Why Have Americans Become More Obese?" *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17(3), 93-118 (skim).

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/3216824>

Jacobson, Michael F., and Kelly D. Brownell (2000). "Small Taxes on Soft Drinks and Snack Foods to Promote Health" *American Journal of Public Health*, 90(6), 854-857. [To be distributed in class]

Kolbert, Elizabeth (2009). "XXXL" *The New Yorker* July 20, 2009. [To be distributed in class]

Manning, Willard, et al (1989). "The Taxes of Sin" *JAMA* 261(11), 1604-1609. [To be distributed in class]

Mello, M., Studdert, D., and Brennan, T (2006). "Obesity - The New Frontier of Public Health Law" *New England Journal of Medicine* 354(24), 2601-2610. [To be distributed in class]

Mokdad, Ali H., James S. Marks, Donna F. Stroup, and Julie L. Gerberding (2004). "Actual Causes of Death in the United States" *JAMA* 291(1), 1238-1245. [To be distributed in class]