

Topics in Health Economics

Course Website: portal.utoronto.ca
Lecture: R, 12:00pm - 3:00pm, ES 4000

Course Information

Instructor: Shari Eli
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Office Hours: Max Gluskin House #326, Thurs. 3:00 - 5:00pm (except on March 15)

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.

Prerequisites

Prerequisites are strictly enforced by the economics department. If you do not have the prerequisites a department administrator will remove you from the course at any time without warning. Course instructors/I cannot waive prerequisites.

For individual questions regarding prerequisites, please contact Professor Gillian Hamilton, Chair of Undergraduate Studies, at gillian.hamilton@utoronto.ca.

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

Don't do it! Plagiarism, as defined by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, includes using someone else's words, phrases, texts, or rewording someone else's 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://academicintegrity.utoronto.ca/>.

Text

There is no textbook for this course.

Grading

Grades will be calculated based on points gained from homework assignments, the midterm exam and term papers.

Policy for Missed Exams

If an exam is missed due to a medical reason, the student must submit a Verification of Student Illness or Injury form found here: <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/index.php> Only an original form, not scans, e-mails or copies, will be accepted. The form must be completed by a qualified medical doctor (or nurse practitioner) and the doctor's OHIP registration number must be provided.

If the medical note or other cause for missing an exam is accepted as a suitable reason, the student will be eligible to take a make-up test, which will consist of the following: 1) 5-page essay worth 15 points, completion of a take-home make-up test worth 10 points. If the student does not complete part 1 and 2 of the make-up test within a week following the in-class midterm exam, there will be no "make-up make-up," and the student will receive a zero for the exam.

	Points	Date
Critique 1	25	Thursday, February 1, 2018
Critique 2	25	Thursday, March 29, 2018
Midterm 1	25	Thursday, February 15, 2018
Midterm 2	25	Thursday, March 15, 2018
Total	100	

Midterms

The midterm exams will be held during class.

Critiques

Completing critiques will be required for this course. To complete the critiques, you must compose a three-page essay in which you summarize the article (1 page) and provide original, constructive criticism of the article. Guidelines for composing critiques will be provided during class.

Reading List

Students should aim to complete the readings for each week before the start of the week. Starred readings are required. The remainder are supplemental.

1. January 4 - Introduction to Economic Demography

*Ronald Lee (2003). "The Demographic Transition: Three Centuries of Fundamental Change," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17(4): 167-190. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3216936>

2. January 11 - 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. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

*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>

3. January 18 - 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. [Available on portal.ca]

*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>

4. January 25 - Socioeconomics Status and Health in the West, Part I

*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>

*Aizer, Anna, Shari Eli, Joseph Ferrie and Adriana Lleras-Muney (2016). "The Long-Run Impact of Cash Transfers to Poor Families" *American Economic Review* 106(4), pp. 935-71.

5. February 1 - Socioeconomic Status and Health in the West, Part II

*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)

6. February 8 - 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>

7. February 15 - Midterm 1**8. March 1 - 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. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

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 8 - Health Systems around the World

*Blumenthal, David (2001). "Controlling Health Care Expenditures," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 344(10), 766-769. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

*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. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

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. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

*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. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

*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>

10. March 15 - Midterm 2**11. March 22 - Demand and Supply of Health Care**

*Singer, Peter (2009). "Why We Must Ration Health Care" *New York Times* July 15, 2009.
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/19/magazine/19healthcare-t.html?_r=1&em (copy/paste link in browser)

*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.
[Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

12. March 29 - Obesity and Alcohol

*Bhattacharya, Jay, Christina Gathmann, and Grant Miller (2011). "The Gorbachev anti-Alcohol Campaign and Russia's Mortality Crisis" *Working Paper*.
[Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

*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. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

*Kolbert, Elizabeth (2009). "XXXL" *The New Yorker* July 20, 2009.
[Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

*Manning, Willard, et al (1989). "The Taxes of Sin" *JAMA* 261(11), 1604-1609. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

*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. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]

*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. [Available on portal.utoronto.ca]