

Topics in Health Economics

Lecture: W, 4:00pm - 6:00pm, BL 113

Course Information

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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. However, introductory knowledge of econometrics is essential.

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 the assignments, midterm exam and in-class presentation.

	Points	Date
Assignment 1	15	September 19, 2018
Assignment 2	15	Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Midterm	35	Wednesday, October 31, 2018
Presentation	35	TBD
Total	100	

Midterm

The midterm exam will be held during class.

Group Presentations

To complete the Group Presentation requirement of this course, you will be asked to pair yourself with one of your classmates and together prepare a short talk on an empirical academic paper. Your talk should address the following:

- 1) What is the research question of the article?
- 2) What is the contribution of the article to the broader literature?
- 3) What are the methods and data used in the paper to answer the question?
- 4) What are the main findings and conclusions of the article?
- 5) What are the shortcomings of the research design?
- 6) What might be alternative reasons that could explain the results?

More details on the Group Presentations to follow.

Reading List

1. 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. [on Quercus]

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>

Eli, Shari (2015). "Income Effects on Health: Evidence from Union Army Pensions," *The Journal of Economic History*.

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>

2. The Fetal Origins Hypothesis

Aizer, Anna, Shari Eli, Joseph Ferrie and Adriana Lleras-Muney. (2014). "The Long Run Impact of Cash Transfers to Poor Families" NBER Working Paper #20103 <http://www.nber.org/papers/w20103.pdf>

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)

Karbownik, Krzysztof and Anthony Wray (2014). "Childhood Health and Long-Run Economic Opportunity in Victorian England." Working Paper. <http://gradstudents.wcas.northwestern.edu/asw892/indexjm.html>

Hoynes, Hilary W. and Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, Douglas Almond (2012). "Long Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net." Working Paper # 18535. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w18535>

3. 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>

4. 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)

5. 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. 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. [on Quercus]

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>

7. 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)

8. Health Systems around the World

Blumenthal, David (2001). "Controlling Health Care Expenditures," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 344(10), 766-769.

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.

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.

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.

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>

9. Demand and Supply of Health Care

Singer, Peter (2009). “Why We Must Ration Health Care” *New York Times* July 15, 2009.

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)

10. Obesity and Alcohol

Bhattacharya, Jay, Christina Gathmann, and Grant Miller (2011). “The Gorbachev anti-Alcohol Campaign and Russia’s Mortality Crisis” *Working Paper*

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.

Kolbert, Elizabeth (2009). “XXXL” *The New Yorker* July 20, 2009.

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.

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.