

Topics in Health Economics

Lecture: Th, 11:00am - 1:00pm, SS 1069

Course Information

Instructor: Shari Eli
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Course Goals

This course explores a variety of topics in health economics and will have several objectives. First, students will learn how to apply concepts and methods from the field. However, the course will not cover all areas of health economics. For instance, the provision of health insurance will not be a primary feature of the course. Second, student will work on presentation skills and their ability to provide critiques of empirical micro papers in the field. Third, students who are interested in developing their own research agendas will be able to learn about areas of the field that are in need of further research.

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 Mirriam-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://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>.

Text

There is no textbook for this course.

Grading

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

	Points	Date
Assignment 1	15	February 9, 2023
Assignment 2	15	March 9, 2023
Group Presentation 1	35	TBD
Group Presentation 2	35	TBD
Total	100	

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

***Note: There will be no class on Thursday, February 23, 2023.**

Topic 1. The Mortality Transition

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>

Alsan, M., & Goldin, C. (2019). Watersheds in Child Mortality: The Role of Effective Water and Sewerage Infrastructure, 1880–1920. *Journal of Political Economy*, 127(2), 586-638. https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goldin/files/alsangoldin_jpe.pdf

Beach, B., & Hanlon, W.W. (2018). Coal Smoke and Mortality in an Early industrial Economy. *Economic Journal*, 128(615), 2652–2675.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/econj.12522>

Topic 2. 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>

Beach, Brian, Ryan Brown, Joseph Ferrie, Martin Saavedra, and Duncan Thomas (2021). “Re-evaluating the Long-Term Impact of the In Utero Exposure to the 1918 Influenza Pandemic,” Working Paper. [Available on Quercus]

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 (2021). “Educational, Labor-Market and Intergenerational Consequences of Poor Childhood Health” IZA Working Paper.

<https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/14127/educational-labor-market-and-intergenerational-consequences-of-poor-childhood-health>

Hoynes, Hilary W. and Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, Douglas Almond (2016). “Long Run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net.” *The American Economic Review* 106(4): 903-34.

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.20130375>

Topic 3. The Socioeconomic Gradient in Health

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): 935-71.

<https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.20140529>

Topic 4. Epidemics, Infectious Disease and Economic Development

Acemoglu, D., Johnson, S., & Robinson, J. A. (2001). The colonial origins of comparative development: An empirical investigation. *American Economic Review*, 91(5), 1369-1401.

Adda, J. (2016). Economic activity and the spread of viral diseases: Evidence from high frequency data. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 131(2), 891-941.

Acemoglu, Daron and Simon Johnson (2007). "Disease and Development: The Effect of Life Expectancy on Economic Growth." *Journal of Political Economy* 115, pp. 925-985.

Arellano, M. and S. Bond (1991). "Some Tests of Specification for Panel Data: Monte Carlo Evidence and an Application to Employment Equations", *Review of Economic Studies*, 58, 277-297.

Solon, Gary, Haider and Wooldridge (2013). "What are we weighing for?" *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 50, No. 2, pp. 301-316.

Alsan, M. (2015). The effect of the tsetse fly on African development. *American Economic Review*, 105(1), 382-410.

Beach, B., Clay, K., & Saavedra, M. H. (2020). The 1918 influenza pandemic and its lessons for COVID-19. National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper Series, (w27673).

Bleakley, Hoyt (2007). "Disease and Development: Evidence from Hookworm Eradication in the American South," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* Vol. 122, No. 1, Pages 73-117.

Bloom, D. E., Kuhn, M., & Prettner, K. (2020). Modern Infectious Diseases: Macroeconomic Impacts and Policy Responses (No. w27757). National Bureau of Economic Research.

Saavedra, M. (2017). Early-life disease exposure and occupational status: The impact of yellow fever during the 19th century. *Explorations in Economic History*, 64, 62-81.

Velde, F. R. (2020). What happened to the US economy during the 1918 influenza pandemic? a view through high-frequency data.

Weil, David (2014). "Health and Economic Growth" in Aghion and Durlauf, eds., *The Handbook of Economic Growth* Volume 2B, North Holland.

Weil, David N. (2007). "Accounting for the Effect of Health on Growth," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 122, No. 3: 1265-1306.

Topic 5. Education and Health

Lleras-Muney, Adriana (2005). "The Relationship between Education and Mortality in the United States," *Review of Economic Studies*, Vol.72(1).

Angrist, Joshua D., Guido W. Imbens and Donald B. Rubin (1996). "Identification of Causal Effects Using Instrumental Variables," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, Vol 91, No 434

Belloni et al. (2012) "Sparse Models and Methods For Optimal Instruments With An Application To Emi-

ment Domain” *Econometrica*, Vol. 80, No. 6, November, 2369–2429

Jayachandran, Seema and Adriana Lleras-Muney (2009). “Life expectancy and human capital investments: Evidence from declines in maternal mortality,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 124, No. 1: 349–397.

Oster, Emily, Ira Shoulson and Ray Dorsey (2013). “Limited Life Expectancy, Human Capital and Health Investments,” *American Economic Review*, 103:5, 1977-2002.

Galama, T. J., Lleras-Muney, A., & van Kippersluis, H. (2018). The Effect of Education on Health and Mortality: A Review of Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Evidence (No. w24225). National Bureau of Economic Research.