Overview

Health Economics is an advanced graduate-level survey course covering selected topics in health economics. In most cases a solid understanding of microeconomic theory and basic econometrics will be sufficient for understanding the main concepts and ideas in the lectures and readings; such basic theory will *not* be taught in the lectures. In some cases a more advanced treatment of topics is appropriate, in which cases the relevant concepts or methodologies will be taught alongside the applied material. Students who are unsure about their methodological preparedness for the course are encouraged to discuss this with Prof. Mullahy at an early date.

While the class is lecture style, students are strongly encouraged to participate in discussion, commentary, etc. The course is also moderately reading-intensive. Each week there will be a set of readings assigned, and these will be posted on the course's learn@uw web page. Many will be drawn from the bibliography listed below, but some additional readings may be added during the course of the semester. Note: Not all assigned readings will be covered during the lectures. Given the fast-changing, dynamic nature of the health and healthcare systems, students are strongly encouraged to read regularly the health-related reporting in publications like *The Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times*.

Grading

1. (45% of semester grade) A paper *not exceeding 1,500* words that critiques a paper NOT on the reading list that addresses a topic on the on the syllabus or a topic in the area of health economics not covered on the syllabus but approved by Prof. Mullahy. (References do not count against the word limit.) The student must indicate, among other things, what topic is being addressed and why the selected paper is (or is not) an important contribution to the topic area. Discussions of methods, theory, data, etc. are entirely appropriate and encouraged. The paper will be graded on the basis of its arguments and quality of exposition, NOT on the quality of the paper being critiqued, although students are encouraged to select papers that *before being read* would reasonably be expected to be of high quality. The paper being critiqued should be either:
   
   (a) a paper published in a peer-reviewed academic journal between 2005-2009; or
   (b) a paper in the NBER working paper series with an issue date 2005-2009 ([http://www.nber.org/jel/I1.html](http://www.nber.org/jel/I1.html)).

If in doubt about the suitability of a paper, or if you would like some guidance on selecting a paper, please contact Prof. Mullahy. **This paper is due no later than Tuesday, April 28, 2009, 3PM CDT.** Since it is possible to begin work on this paper at any time during the semester, there will be no accommodations for late papers for any reason. Papers handed in after the due date will have their grades reduced by 15% for each day the paper is late.

2. (45% of semester grade) A **one-hour in-class final exam** based on the lectures and readings. The time and place for the final exam will be announced.

3. (10% of semester grade) **Quality** of class participation and attendance.
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Faculty</th>
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<td>Overview - I: The U.S. Health Care and Health Policy Context</td>
<td>DeLeire</td>
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<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>Overview - II: Health Measurement and Analytical Issues</td>
<td>Mullahy</td>
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<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>Health Production, Health Capital, Demand for Health</td>
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<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>Health Insurance and Demand for Health Insurance</td>
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<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>Health Care Demand/Utilization</td>
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<td>Provider-Side Economics</td>
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<td>Mar. 3</td>
<td>Cost &amp; Quality Issues</td>
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<td>Health Care Technology &amp; Regulation</td>
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<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>Unhealthy Behaviors, Health, and the Labor Market</td>
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<td>Mar. 31</td>
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<td>Apr. 7</td>
<td>Economics of Disabilities</td>
<td>Wolfe</td>
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<td>Apr. 14</td>
<td>Health Disparities</td>
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<td>Public Sector Programs for Health</td>
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<td>Evaluation of Health and Health Care Policies</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Health Econometrics</td>
<td>Mullahy</td>
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Selected Bibliography

Some of the papers listed here, particularly those specifically relevant to the lectures, will be made available on the learn@uw course webpage; most are available electronically through various UW Library channels (JSTOR, etc.).

This bibliography is intended mainly as a reference source for students interested in pursuing additional reading in the topic areas discussed in the lectures. Most readings listed here will not be covered or assigned for the course; moreover, some papers assigned for reading during the semester may not appear in this list.


Short, A. Glen Mays and Jessica Mittler. 2004. Disease Management: Issue Brief Findings from HSC.


Swartz K, Garnick DW Adverse selection and price sensitivity when low-income people have subsidies to purchase health insurance in the private market. Inquiry 2000 Spring 37:45-60.


Ware, J.E., Bayliss, M.S., Rogers, W.H., Kosinski, M., Tarlov, A.R., "Differences in 4-Year Health Outcomes for elderly and Poor, Chronically Ill Patients treated in HMO and Fee-for-Service Systems," *JAMA*, October 2, 1996, 276(13), pp. 1037-1047.


