

**Economics 845: Advanced Topics in Public Finance
(Cross-listed with PHS 650)**

Fall Semester, 2012
Wednesdays 2:30-4:10, 6203 Sewell Social Science Building
Professors Barbara Wolfe and John Mullahy

The focus of this fall’s seminar is on “getting ready to study the Affordable Care Act.”

All student enrolled in the course will have the following expectations:

Two-three presentations to the class on assigned readings. These will include 1) an overview of the article, its approach, data and findings and 2) a careful critique. In many cases, a student will either do 1 or 2. They should also expect to entertain questions and engage in discussion.

Complete an assignment by the end of the course that is either

- 1) a proposal for a research project tied to understanding health care reform. This should include a well-defined question, the planned approach and the data to be used. The proposal should be able to be implemented within the first two to three years of reform. It should also mention prior related literature as appropriate.
- 2) A carefully argued evaluation of an article in an economics or public health journal that is tied to understanding health care reform. This may be an article on a system outside of the U.S. that has characteristics in common with the U.S. reform such as The Netherlands, Germany or Switzerland. It should not be an article already covered in class.

These write-ups should be well reasoned and a maximum of five pages.

Grades will be based on class presentations (50%), participation in discussion in class (15%) and assignment (35%)

Date	Topic
9/5/12 (1)	<p>Background</p> <p>Wolfe, B. 2012 Draft chapter on Medical Components of the War on Poverty. Forthcoming in Bailey and Danziger, 2013. <u>The legacy of the War on Poverty</u>. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.</p> <p>Oberlander, J. “Long Time Coming: Why Health Reform Finally Passed.” <i>Health Affairs</i>, 29 no. 6 (June 2010): 1112-1116.</p> <p>Haveman, R., Wolfe, B. “U. S. Health Care Reform: A Primer and An Assessment.” CESifo Dice Report. Autumn 2010: 53-60.</p>

<p>9/12/12 (2)</p>	<p>Current Subsidy System and Coverage</p> <p>Gruber, J. “The Tax Exclusion For Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 15766 (February 2010), http://www.nber.org/papers/w15766</p> <p>Burman, L., Khitatrakun, S., Goodell, S. “Tax Subsidies For Private Health Insurance: Who Benefits and At What Cost?” Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Issue brief, July 2009. http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/072209policysynthesis3update.brief.pdf</p> <p>Congressional Budget Office, “CBO’s Health Insurance Simulation Model: A Technical Description” (Washington, DC: Congressional Budget Office, October 2007). http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/ftpdocs/87xx/doc8712/10-31-healthinsurmodel.pdf</p> <p>Krueger, A.B., Kuziemko, I. “The Demand for Health Insurance among Uninsured Americans: Results of a Survey Experiment and Implications for Policy.” <i>CEPS Working Paper</i>, no. 217 (April 2011), http://www.princeton.edu/~ceps/workingpapers/217krueger.pdf</p> <p>Blavin, F., Holahan, J., Kenney, G., Chen, V. “A Decade of Coverage Losses: Implications for the Affordable Care Act.” Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Urban Institute (February 2012): 1-13.</p> <p>Gruber, J., Levitt, L. "Tax Subsidies For Health Insurance: Costs And Benefits," <i>Health Affairs</i>, 19 no. 1 (2000), 72-85.</p> <p>Cantor, J.C., Monheit, A.C., DeLisa, D., Lloyd, K. “Early Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Health Insurance Coverage of Young Adults.” Unpublished, 2012.</p>
<p>9/19/12 (3)</p>	<p>Utilization</p> <p>Miller, S. “The Effect of Insurance on Emergency Room Visits: An Analysis of the 2006 Massachusetts Health Reform.” Draft, June 22, 2012.</p> <p>Kolstad, J.T., Kowalski, A.E. “The Impact of Health Care Reform On Hospital and Preventive Care: Evidence from Massachusetts.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 16012, (May 2010), http://www.nber.org/papers/w16012</p> <p>Chandra, A., Gruber, J., McKnight R. “The Impact of Patient Cost-Sharing on the Poor: Evidence from Massachusetts.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 18023 (April 2012), http://www.nber.org/papers/w18023</p> <p>Newhouse, J.P., Sinaiko, A.D. “What We Know and Don’t Know About the Effects of Cost Sharing on the Demand for Medical Care – and So What?” In <i>Incentives and Choice in Health Care</i>, ed. Sloan, F.A., Kasper, H., 2008. MIT Press (Cambridge, MA; London, England): 85-102.</p>

<p>9/26/12 (4)</p>	<p>Crowd Out</p> <p>Gruber, J., Simon, K. “Crowd-Out Ten Years Later: Have Recent Public Insurance Expansions Crowded Out Private Health Insurance?” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 12858 (January 2007), http://www.nber.org/papers/w12858</p> <p>Cogan, J.F., Hubbard, R.G., Kessler, D. “The Effect of Massachusetts’ Health Reform on Employer-Sponsored Insurance Premiums.” <i>Forum for Health Economics and Policy</i>, 13 no. 2 (2010): doi:10.2202/1558-9544.1204.</p> <p>Cutler, D.M., Gruber, J. “Does Public Insurance Crowd Out Private Insurance.” <i>The Quarterly Journal of Economics</i>, 111 no. 2 (May 1996): 391-430.</p> <p>Graves, J.A., Gruber, J. "How Did Health Care Reform in Massachusetts Impact Insurance Premiums?" <i>American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings</i>, 102 no. 3 (2012): 508–513.</p>
<p>10/3/12 (5)</p>	<p>Health</p> <p>Courtemanche, C.J., Zapata, D. “Does Universal Coverage Improve Health? The Massachusetts Experience.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 17893 (March 2012), http://www.nber.org/papers/w17893</p> <p>Carney, P.A., O’Malley, J., Buckley, D.I., Mori, M., Lieberman, D.A., Fagnan, L.J., Wallace, J., Liu, B., Morris, C. “Influence of Health Insurance Coverage on Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal Cancer Screening in Rural Primary Care Settings.” <i>Cancer</i>, (May 2012): doi: 10.1002/cncr.27635.</p> <p>Sommers, B.D., Baicker, K., Epstein, A.M. “Mortality and Access to Care Among Adults After State Medicaid Expansions.” <i>The New England Journal of Medicine</i>, published online July 25, 2012.</p> <p>Card, D., Dobkin, C., Maestas, N. “Does Medicare Save Lives?” <i>The Quarterly Journal of Economics</i>, 124 no. 2 (May 2009): 597-636.</p>
<p>10/10/12 (6)</p>	<p>Lessons from Oregon & Early ACA</p> <p>Finkelstein, A., Taubman, S., Wright, B., Bernstein, M., Gruber, J., Newhouse, J.P., Allen, H., Baicker, K., The Oregon Health Study Group. “The Oregon Health Insurance Experiment: Evidence from the First Year.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 17190 (July 2011), http://www.nber.org/papers/w17190</p> <p>Harnak Hall, D.M., Jung, J., Rhoads, T. "Does the Availability of Parental Health Insurance Affect the College Enrollment Decision of Young Americans?" Towson University, Department of Economics, Working Papers 2010-05, revised May 2011.</p>

	<p>Antwi, Y.A., Moriya, A.S., Simon, K. “Effects of Federal Policy to Insure Young Adults: Evidence from the 2010 Affordable Care Act Dependent Coverage Mandate.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 18200 (June 2012), http://www.nber.org/papers/w18200</p>
<p>10/17/12 (7)</p>	<p>Exchanges (Dr. Linda Blumberg will be attending)</p> <p>Frank, R.G., Zeckhauser, R.J. “Health Insurance Exchanges – Making the Markets Work.” <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 361 no. 12 (September 2009): 1135-1137.</p> <p>Blumberg, L.J., Pollitz, K. “Health Insurance Exchanges: Organizing Health Insurance Marketplaces to Promote Health Reform Goals.” Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Issue Brief, April 2009.</p> <p>Marzilli Ericson, K.M., Starc, A. “Age-Based Heterogeneity and Pricing Regulation on the Massachusetts Health Insurance Exchange.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 18089 (May 2012), http://www.nber.org/papers/w18089</p> <p>Einav, L., Finkelstein, A., Levin, J. “Beyond Testing: Empirical Models of Insurance Markets,” <i>Annual Review of Economics</i>, 2 (2010): 311-336</p> <p>Marzilli Ericson, K.M., Starc, A. “Heuristics and Heterogeneity in Health Insurance Exchanges: Evidence from the Massachusetts Connector.” <i>American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings</i>, 102 no. 3 (2012): 493-497.</p> <p>Van Ginneken, E., Swartz, K. “Implementing Insurance Exchanges – Lessons from Europe.” <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 367 no. 8 (August 2012): 691-693.</p>
<p>10/24/12 (8)</p>	<p>Labor Market Implications</p> <p>Kolstad, J.T., Kowalski, A.E. “Mandate-Based Health Reform and the Labor Market: Evidence from the Massachusetts Reform.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 17933 (March 2012), http://www.nber.org/papers/w17933</p> <p>Pohl, V. “Medicaid and the Labor Supply of Single Mothers: Implications for Health Care Reform” Mimeo. November 2011, Job Market Paper.</p> <p>Boyle, M., Lahey, J.N. “Will Better Access to Health Care Change How Much Older Men Work?” Center For Retirement Research at Boston College, Issue Brief no. 10-14 (August 2010): 1-7.</p>
<p>10/31/12 (9)</p>	<p>Accountable Care Organizations (Dr. Jonathan Jaffrey will be participating)</p> <p>Fisher, E.S., McClellan, M.B., Safran, D.G. “Building the Path to Accountable Care.” <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 365 no. 26 (December 2011): 2445-2447.</p>

	<p>Cutler, D.M., Ghosh, K. "The Potential for Cost Savings through Bundled Episode Payments." <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 366 no. 12 (March 2012): 1075-1077.</p> <p>McClellan, M., McKethan, A.N., Lewis, J.L., Roski, J., Fisher, E.S. "A National Strategy to Put Accountable Care Into Practice." <i>Health Affairs</i>, 29 no. 5 (2010): 982-990.</p> <p>Fisher, E.S., Staiger, D.O., Bynum, J.P.W., Gottlieb, D.J. "Creating Accountable Care Organizations: The Extended Hospital Medical Staff." <i>Health Affairs</i>, 26 no. 1 (January 2007): w44-w57.</p>
<p>11/7/12 (10)</p>	<p>Issues tied to Providers of Care</p> <p>Garthwaite, C.L. "The Doctor Might See You Now: The Supply Side Effects of Public Health Insurance Expansions." <i>American Economic Journal: Economic Policy</i>, 4 no. 3 (August 2012): 190-215.</p> <p>Pronovost, P.J., Marsteller, J.A., Goeschel, C.A. "Preventing Bloodstream Infections: A Measureable National Success Story in Quality Improvement." <i>Health Affairs</i>, 30 no. 4 (April 2011): 628-634.</p> <p>Strange, K. "How Does Provider Supply and Regulation Influence Health Care Markets? Evidence from Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants." Unpublished, July 2012.</p> <p>Strange, K. "Occupational Regulation and the Growth of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants: Effects on Utilization, Access, and Prices." Unpublished, June 2012.</p> <p>Freedman, S., Haizhen, L., Kosali, S. "Public Health Insurance Expansions and Hospital Technology Adoption." Presented at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundations meetings, July 18, 2012.</p> <p>Pauly, M. "Wussinomics: The State of Competitive Efficiency in Private Health Insurance." Presented at the 4th Biennial Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) in Minneapolis, MN, June 10, 2012.</p>
<p>11/14/12 (11)</p>	<p>Mental Health Delivery & Medical Homes (Special Populations)</p> <p>Alakeson, V., Frank, R.G. "Health Care Reform and Mental Health Care Delivery." <i>Psychiatric Services</i>, 61 no. 11 (November 2010): 1063.</p> <p>Alakeson, V., Frank, R.G., Katz, R.E. "Specialty Care Medical Homes For People With Severe, Persistent Mental Disorders." <i>Health Affairs</i>, 29 no. 5 (May 2010): 867-873.</p> <p>Nocon, R.S., Sharma, R., Birnberg, J.M., Ngo-Metzger, Q., Lee, S.M., Chin, M.H. "Association Between Patient-Centered Medical Home Rating and Operating Cost at Federally Funded Health Centers." <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i>, 308 no. 1 (June 2012): 60-66.</p>

<p>11/21/12 (12)</p>	<p>Comparative Effectiveness Research and the Affordable Care Act / Pragmatic Trials Intro The three sessions on cost-effectiveness/comparative effectiveness will be led by Professor David Vanness</p> <p>Weinstein, M.C., Skinner, J.A. “Comparative Effectiveness and Health Care Spending — Implications for Reform.” <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 362 no. 5 (February 2010): 460-465.</p> <p>Chalkidou, K., Tunis, S., Lopert, R., Rochaix, L., Sawicki, P., Nasser, M., Xerri, B. “Comparative Effectiveness Research and Evidence-Based Health Policy: Experience from Four Countries.” <i>Milbank Quarterly</i>, 87 no. 2 (June 2009): 339–367.</p> <p>Sox, H.C., Goodman, S.N. “The Methods of Comparative Effectiveness Research.” <i>Annual Review of Public Health</i>, 33 (2012): 425–445.</p> <p>Luce, B.R., Kramer, J.M., Goodman, S.N., Connor, J.T., Tunis, S., Whicher, D., Schwartz, J.S. “Rethinking Randomized Clinical Trials for Comparative Effectiveness Research: The Need for Transformational Change.” <i>Annals of Internal Medicine</i>, 151 no. 3 (August 2009): 206-209.</p> <p>Thorpe, K.E., Zwarenstein, M., Oxman, A.D., Treweek, S., Furberg, C.D., Altman, D.G., Tunis, S., Bergel, E., Harvey, I., Magid, D.J., Chalkidou, K. “A Pragmatic–Explanatory Continuum Indicator Summary (PRECIS): A Tool to Help Trial Designers.” <i>Journal of Clinical Epidemiology</i>, 62 (May 2009): 464–475.</p>
<p>11/28/12 (13)</p>	<p>Pragmatic Clinical Trials in Mental Health: Lessons for Study Design</p> <p>March, J., Kraemer, H.C., Trivedi, M., Csernansky, J., Davis, J., Ketter, T.A., Glick, I.D. “What Have We Learned about Trial Design From NIMH-Funded Pragmatic Trials?” <i>Neuropsychopharmacology</i>, 35 (2010): 2491–2501.</p> <p>Treatment for Adolescents With Depression Study Team. “Treatment for Adolescents With Depression Study (TADS): Rationale, Design, and Methods.” <i>Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry</i>, 42 no. 5 (2003): 531–542.</p> <p>Treatment for Adolescents With Depression Study Team. “The Treatment for Adolescents With Depression Study (TADS): Outcomes Over 1 Year of Naturalistic Follow-Up.” <i>The American Journal of Psychiatry</i>, 166 no. 10 (October 2009): 1141–1149.</p> <p>TADS Team. “The Treatment for Adolescents With Depression Study (TADS): Long-term Effectiveness and Safety Outcomes.” <i>Arch Gen Psychiatry</i>, 64 no. 10 (October 2007): 1132–1144.</p>
<p>12/5/12 (14)</p>	<p>Heterogeneity and the Personalization of Comparative Effectiveness Research</p> <p>Garber, A.M., Tunis, S.R. “Does Comparative-Effectiveness Research Threaten Personalized</p>

	<p>Medicine?” <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 360 no. 19 (May 2009): 1925–1927.</p> <p>Sculpher, M. “Subgroups and Heterogeneity in Cost-Effectiveness Analysis.” <i>Pharmacoeconomics</i>, 26 no. 9 (2008): 799–806.</p> <p>Basu, A. “Economics of Individualization in Comparative Effectiveness Research and a Basis for a Patient-Centered Health Care. <i>Journal of Health Economics</i>, 30 (2011): 549–559.</p> <p>Additional reading of possible interest:</p> <p>Kanavos, P., Nicod, E., van den Aardweg, S., Pomedli, S. “The Impact of Health Technology Assessments: An International Comparison.” <i>Euro Observer</i>. 12 no. 4 (Winter 2010): 1-7.</p>
<p>12/12/21 (15)</p>	<p>Costs, Projections and Final Thoughts</p> <p>Gruber, J. “The Impacts of the Affordable Care Act: How Reasonable Are the Projections?” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 17168 (June 2011), http://www.nber.org/papers/w17168.</p> <p>Chandra, A., Skinner, J.S. “Technology Growth and Expenditure Growth in Health Care.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 16953 (April 2011), http://www.nber.org/papers/w16953</p> <p>Jung, J., Tran, C. “Market Inefficiency, Insurance Mandate and Welfare: U.S. Health Care Reform 2010.” <i>ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research</i>, Working Paper, February 2011.</p> <p>Song, Z., Landon, B.E. “Controlling Health Care Spending — The Massachusetts Experiment.” <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 366 no. 17 (April 2012): 1560-1561.</p> <p>Duggan, M., Hayford, T. “Has the Shift to Managed Care Reduced Medicaid Expenditures? Evidence from State and Local-Level Mandates.” <i>NBER Working Paper Series</i>, no. 17236 (July 2011), http://www.nber.org/papers/w17236</p>

Grievance Procedure

The Department of Economics has developed a grievance procedure through which you may register comments or complaints about a course, an instructor, or a teaching assistant. The Department continues to provide a course evaluation each semester in every class. If you wish to make anonymous complaints to an instructor or teaching assistant, the appropriate vehicle is the course evaluation. If you have a disagreement with an instructor or teaching assistant, we strongly encourage you to try and resolve the dispute with him or her directly. The grievance procedure is designed for situations where neither of these channels is appropriate.

If you wish to file a grievance, you should go to room 7238 Social Science and request a Course Comment Sheet. When completing the comment sheet, you will need to provide a detailed statement that describes what aspects of the course you find unsatisfactory. You will need to sign the sheet and provide your student identification number, your address, and a phone number where you can be reached. The Department plans to investigate comments fully and will respond in writing to complaints.

Your name, address, phone number, and student ID number will not be revealed to the instructor or teaching assistant involved and will be treated as confidential. The Department needs this information, because it may become necessary for a commenting student to have a meeting with the department chair or a nominee to gather additional information. A name and address are necessary to provide a written response.