

University of Colorado Boulder  
Department of Economics  
Econ 4646-001, Fall 2015

August 20, 2015

## Health Economics

### 1 Course Description

Instructor: Shuang Zhang (Assistant Professor of Economics and International Affairs)

Contact: Economics 10  
303-492-2585  
shuang.zhang@colorado.edu

Course time: MW 3-4:15pm

Location: EKLC E1B50

Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30-3pm or by appointment

Location: Economics 10

Course Description:

Health economics is a growing field and is an important aspect of public policy in devel-

## 2 Course Requirements

### 1. Mid-term exam (25%)

### 2. Group project (25%)

The objective of this project is to become the expert on the health system of a country of your choice, to describe the health challenges facing the country, and prescribe a potential policy solution. You may NOT choose the US. Two students form a group. Each group will teach a class based on the group project. Each person in your group needs to participate in giving the lecture. You should plan on talking for 45 minutes and leave 25 minutes to lead a discussion with the class.

The presentation will include 4 parts:

Part 1: Performance of the Health Care System. For example, you may include figures on:

Trends in health expenditures (per capita, public versus private)

Trends in mortality/life expectancy: by age (infant, under 5, and adult) and gender

Trends in morbidity: find statistics on the diseases that are relevant for your country and make the case why the diseases you choose are relevant.

Trends in health care resources: doctors and nurses per capita, hospital beds per capita, medical equipment per capita.

Part 2: Overview of the Health Care System. For example, you may talk about:

History: when the system was created and what led to its creation.

Funding: which areas are publicly or privately funded or both?

Delivery: Who delivers the health care? The private sector or the public sector?

Insurance: What type of insurance system is available (universal, employment-based), and are there uninsured?

Part 3: Potential Solutions. In this part, you will either suggest changes in health care policy and the economic rationale for these changes, or describe how the country is currently tackling this problem and provide a critique using economic rationale.

Part 4: Discussion questions. You will lead a discussion with the class.

### 3. Final exam (40%)

### 4. Class attendance (10%)

There are 8 quizzes in class during the semester on random dates. We will do a form of "Pair & Share". Two students pair up to talk to each other your answers to the quiz questions first, and then each team share with the class about their answers. Missing quiz records will affect your attendance grade.

### 3 Course Schedule

Week	Date	
week1	Aug. 24-26	
week 2	Aug.31-Sep.2	
week 3	Sep. 9	
week 4	Sep. 14-16	
week 5	Sep. 21-23	No class Wednesday
week 6	Sep. 28 - 30	
week 7	Oct. 5-7	No class Wednesday
week 8	Oct. 12-14	
week 9	Oct. 19-21	
week 10	Oct. 26-28	
week 11	Nov. 2-4	
week 12	Nov. 9-11	
week 13	Nov. 16-18	
week 14	Nov. 23-25	
week 15	Nov.30-Dec.2	
week 16	Dec. 7-9	
Final week		

## 4 Required readings

### 4.1 Week 2

## 4.8 Week 10 & 11

Dupas, Pascaline. 2014. "Getting Essential Health Products to Their End Users: Subsidize, but How Much?" *Science*, 345(6202): 1279-1281.

Dupas, Pascaline. 2014. "Global Health Systems: Pricing and User Fees." *Encyclopedia of Health Economics*, Anthony J. Culyer, Ed., 2:136-141.

## Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services by September 2nd so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>