

Syllabus

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Course: *Health Economics*

Professor:

2026 FIRST SEMESTER

PROGRAM

The goal of this course is to master the mathematical and graphical representations used in health economics and build a broad and deep fluency with the classic and current health economics literatures.

TOPICS

1. Fundamental Theory, and Measurement of Health
2. Health Insurance
3. Selection
4. Medicare/Medicaid and SUS
5. Health Over the Business Cycle
6. Supply of Health Care
7. Geographic Variation, and Productivity of Spending
8. Health Behaviors

GRADING

20% Class participation.
20% Referee report of a paper.
30% Presentation of an empirical paper.
30% Research proposal

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Fundamental Theory, and Measurement of Health
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2. Health Insurance

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3. Selection

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4. Medicare/Medicaid and SUS

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 - Health Care Spending and Utilization in Public and Private Medicare By Vilsa Curto, Liran Einav, Amy Finkelstein, Jonathan Levin, and Jay Bhattacharya. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 2019, 11(2): 302–332
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5. Health Over the Business Cycle
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6. Supply of Health Care
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7. Geographic Variation, and Productivity of Spending

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8. Health Behaviors

- Becker, Gary and Kevin Murphy. "A Theory of Rational Addiction," Journal of Political Economy, 1988
- The Effect of Alcohol Consumption on Mortality: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from the Minimum Drinking Age Christopher Carpenter Carlos Dobkin American Economic Journal: Applied Economics Vol. 1, No. 1, January 2009 (pp. 164-82)
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- The Roots of Health Inequality and The Value of Intra-Family Expertise Yiqun Chen, Petra Persson & Maria Polyakova NBER Working Paper 25618 2020
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- Oster, Emily, Ira Shoulson, and E. Ray Dorsey. "Optimal expectations and limited medical testing: Evidence from Huntington disease." American Economic Review 103.2 (2013): 804-830.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 13:00-15:00

- Office hours are a pre-defined period of time that is entirely dedicated to students. During this period, feel free to drop by my office for any reason. You can ask me any questions related to the course, to academia, to your career, to Economics or to your life as a graduate student.

HANDBOOKS

Cawley, John, and Christopher J. Ruhm. "The economics of risky health behaviors." Handbook of health economics. Vol. 2. Elsevier, 2011. 95-199.

Pauly, Mark V., Thomas G. McGuire, and Pedro Pita Barros, eds. Handbook of health economics. Vol. 2. Elsevier, 2012.

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CLASSROOMS POLICIES

This class is committed to an inclusive learning environment. All students, teaching staff, and the professor are expected to treat each other with respect and dignity at all times. All community members should enjoy an environment free of any form of harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, or intimate partner violence.

Mental Health issues are an extremely common problem among graduate students (<https://scholar.harvard.edu/bolotnyy/publications/graduate-student-mental-health-lessons-american-economics-departments>).

To help any students, FGV offers the Pró-Saúde Program: <https://eesp.fgv.br/pro-saude-fgv>. Feel free to contact them at any time.

Moreover, there are many affordable options outside FGV that may be helpful to you too, such as

- Clínica Psicológica Ana Maria Poppovic – PUC-SP: <https://www.pucsp.br/clinica/index.html>.
- Psicodrama Público no Centro Cultural São Paulo: <http://centrocultural.sp.gov.br/2020/03/05/subjetividades-e-espaco-publico/>

<https://spcultura.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/evento/26868/>.

Furthermore, there are many mindfulness and meditation apps that you may find useful:

- Ten Percent Happier: <https://www.tenpercent.com/>
- Unwinding Anxiety: <https://unwindinganxiety.com/>
- Meditopia: <https://meditopia.com/pt/> (em Português)