

Syllabus

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Course: Health Economics

Professor:

2024 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

- 15% Class participation.
- 15% Referee report of a paper.
- 20% Presentation of an empirical paper.
- 25% Presentation of 3 original ideas
- 25% Research proposal

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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- Choose to Lose: Health Plan Choices from a Menu with Dominated Option Saurabh Bhargava George Loewenstein Justin Sydnor The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 132, Issue 3, 1 August 2017,
 Pages 1319–1372

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- Ho, Kate, "Insurer-Provider Networks in the Medical Care Market," American Economic Review, 2009, 99(1): 393-430.
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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
- Can Universalization of Health Work? Evidence from Health Systems Restructuring and Expansion in Brazil (Sonia Bhalotra, Rudi Rocha, and Rodrigo R. Soares). IZA Discussion Paper 12111.

5. Health Over the Business Cycle

- Ruhm, Christopher. "Are Recessions Good for your Health?" Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2000, 115:2, 617-50.
- Dehejia, R., & Lleras-Muney, A. (2004). Booms, Busts, and Babies' Health," Quarterly Journal of Economics, 119(3), 1091-1130.
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6. Supply of Health Care

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- Kessler, Daniel and Mark McClellan. "Do Doctors Practice Defensive Medicine?" Quarterly Journal of Economics, 1996, 111(2), 353-390.
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- Consequences for the Medicare Physician Earnings Gap." American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 12 (2): 169-97.
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- 7. Geographic Variation, and Productivity of Spending
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8. Health Behaviors

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- 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
- Laibson, David, "Golden Eggs and Hyperbolic Discounting," Quarterly Journal of Economics,

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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

• 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.

Culyer, A. J., and Joseph P. Newhouse, eds. Handbook of health economics. Elsevier, 2000.

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 Cultura 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)