I. Course Description

This is a second year graduate course in Health Economics. It is designed to provide students with a thorough overview of selected topics in the field. The course will focus on empirical work with an emphasis on both theory and methodology. The primary goal of this class is to acquaint graduate students with both classic and frontier work in the field with the ultimate aim of preparing them for serious research in health economics and, more broadly, empirical micro-economics.

II. Student Learning Objectives

After completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Consume both foundational and frontier literature in the field
- Think critically about their own and other people’s research
- Formulate a well-defined research question
- Present their own and other people’s research

III. Readings

The readings will primarily be from journal articles. I will make an attempt to upload the articles up onto Laulima whenever possible.

Some books will also be useful such as:


IV. Grading

A major objective of this class is to get students thinking about research. Ideally, students will finish this class with a solid idea of a research project that will become part of their dissertation. To facilitate matters, each student is expected to teach a paper(s) related not just to the course material but also to a research topic that they will write on for the class. Students can discuss what paper they will present with me. In addition, I expect that students will identify a research topic by the beginning of November and begin research on it by then.

Your grade will be determined by:

- A class lecture (30%)\(^1\)
- Presentation of your research proposal during one class period (30%)
- Paper summarizing the results of your research (40%)

V. Course Structure

Section 1: Health and Economic Behavior in a Life-Cycle Context

REQUIRED READINGS:


pp. 177 – 194 of Deaton (1992)


\(^1\) Essentially, the students will give a lecture where they will present one or a series of thematically related papers in one coherent lecture. They will be expected to field questions from the class as if they were teaching the class.


OTHER READINGS:

Chapters 1 – 3 of Adda/Cooper


Section 2: Health Insurance

REQUIRED READINGS


OTHER READINGS:


If time permits, we will discuss peer effects.

Peer Effects and Health Outcomes

Chapter 7 of Manksi

