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 A airs)

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

Course time: MW 3-4:15pm

Location: EKLC E1B50

O ce 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 lead 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, employmentbased), and are there uninsured?

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

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 quizz questions first, and then each team share with the class about their answers. Missing quizz records will a ect 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

No class Wednesday

- week 6 Sep. 28 30
- week 7 Oct. 5-7
- 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 **Bcience** 345(6202): 1279-1281.

Dupas, Pascaline. 2014. "Global Health Systems: Pricing and User Heresyclopedia 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 htp://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices