Critical Assessment in Health Policy and Economics
2014 Winter Quarter
(as of February 20, 2014)

CRN Number: 80964
Credit: 2 units
Grade: S/U
Time: Thursday 3:10-5:00pm
Location: Carlson 24, Davis Campus

Course Director: Byung-Kwang (BK) Yoo, MD, MS, PhD,
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Office hours: By appointment

Prerequisite: None

Course overview
This course aims to develop critical reading skills of the health policy and health economics literature, mainly following the microeconomic paradigm and analytical techniques. To develop these skills, students are expected to submit a critique of a paper, using a 1-page peer-review template (attached at the end of this proposal), as homework for six sessions. Some basic concepts of micro economic theory will be explained in the class to help critique the literature.

The objectives of the course are:
1. To be able to systematically critique the literature in health policy, particularly that in health economics.
2. To learn the major findings of classical papers and recent papers in health policy and health economics.
3. To understand the basic concepts of micro economics in application to health policies.
   - These concepts include diminishing rate of return, marginal benefits, marginal cost, opportunity cost and theory of supply and demand.

Each class consists of the instructor’s lecture (1 hour) followed by a discussion (1 hour) lead by the instructor. Students are required to submit their critique of paper(s) prior to each class. In class, students are expected to discuss (a) how valid other students’ critiques are and (b) how policy implications of each paper impact health care system reform.

All students will be expected to read all the required readings. Additional recommended readings are also listed.

Required textbook and recommended books
Required Textbooks:
None
Recommended Textbooks:
Health Economics:

Cost-effectiveness/benefit analysis:

Microeconomics theory:

Course Requirements
(1) Homework: 1-page critique of a required-reading paper (form attached at the end of this syllabus; also available as WORD format in SmartSite) due 9 pm on the day before Session #3 - #8 (60%)
(2) Final paper due March 20 (Thur) 5pm (20%)
(3) Participation in class discussion (20%).
(NOTE) If you miss 3 or more sessions, you are required to write additional full critique of papers covered in the missed sessions, following the format of the final paper.

Detailed instruction on Homework and Final paper
(1) Homework:
- Please email your critique sheet to the instructor due 9 pm on the day before Session #3 - #8.
- Also, please bring (a hard copy of) your critique sheet to a class in order to respond to instructor’s questions on your critique during a class.
- Your critique is expected to list at least one strength and one limitation, and to apply the tools covered in the “past” session(s) of this course. I.e., there is no need to learn new economic theory/econometrics by yourself outside this course’s past sessions in writing your critique.

(2) Final paper due March 20 (Thur) 5pm:
- Please submit your final paper through emailing to the instructor.
- Format
  o Font/Margin: 11 font Arial, 1 inch margin
  o Cover page: Name and Title of the critiqued paper
  o Critique sheet (summary): 1-2 pages (single-spaced)
  o Main text details your critique sheet (summary) in 1,000-1,500 words (double-spaced) using the concepts covered in this course.
1/9/14 (R): Introduction

(#1) Macro economy effect of healthcare industry

Suggested Readings:


Concept in Economic Theory
Marginal benefit/cost
Opportunity cost
How to maximize social welfare by changing resource allocation

1/16/14 (R): Determinants of health expenditure growth 1 – what are major determinants?

(#2) Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:


Methods in Economics
Assumptions of regression analysis (1)
Macro data analysis vs micro data analysis

1/23/14 (R): Determinants of health expenditure growth 2 – aging effect

(#3) Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:
Methods in Economics
Simulation analysis
Administrative data vs survey data

1/30/14 (R): Determinants of health expenditure growth 3 – health effect (prevention paradox?)

(4)

Required Readings:


Suggested Readings:

Methods in Economics
Cost-effectiveness analysis vs cost-benefit analysis

2/6/14 (R): Determinants of health expenditure growth 4 – insurance effect

(5)

Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:

Concept in Economic Theory
Moral hazard

2/13/14 (R): Determinants of health expenditure growth 5 – income effect

(6)

Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:

Concept in Economic Theory
Income elasticity
Price elasticity

2/20/14 (R): **Determinants of health expenditure growth 6 – Is “physician-induced demand” serious enough?**

(#7)
Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:


**Methods in Economics**
Assumptions of regression analysis (2)

2/27/14 (R): **Determinants of health expenditure growth 7 – Does “long-term care” differ from “acute care”?**

(#8)
Required Readings:

**Concept in Economic Theory**
How to assign monetary values for non-market goods/services

3/6/14 (R): **Health insurance reform: international perspective**

(#9)
Required Readings:

Suggested Readings:


Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program September 2004 (also listed in Session #1)

Concept in Economic Theory
Economies of scale

3/13/14 (R): Course Review
Introduction of cost effectiveness/benefit analysis (Spring course SPH 294 Economic Evaluation in Health Care)

Required Readings:
Form of a critique  
SPH 298: Critical Assessment in Health Policy and Economics (2014 Winter)

Due Date: 
Name:

Your critique is expected to list at least one strength and one limitation, and to apply the tools covered in the “past” session(s) of this course.

SECTION 1. Overall decision as a peer-reviewer (please select one):

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<th>REJECT</th>
<th>MAJOR REVISION</th>
<th>MINOR REVISION</th>
<th>ACCEPT</th>
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SECTION 2. Major strength

1) 

2) 

SECTION 3. Major limitation(s) and their solution(s)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Major limitations</th>
<th>Solution(s) for limitations</th>
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