Health Economics  
ECO6174A00  
Myra Yazbeck  
2018 Winter Term

Course Hours

Monday 08:30 - 11:30  
Location: FSS9003  
Type:

Professor

Yazbeck, Myra (myazbeck@uottawa.ca)  
Office Hours  
Monday 11:30 - 12:30  
Location: (Room 9057)

Course Description

Review of both classic and frontier work in the field of health and health care economics. Empirical work with an emphasis on theory and methodology. This course is also relevant to students interested in broader empirical microeconomic research. This course is equivalent to ECON 5460 at Carleton University.

Further Information

The focus of this course is empirical. A large part of this course will focus on experimental (field and natural) and non-experimental causal approach in the field of health economics. Students will explore different empirical approaches and learn how to identify and infer "causality". In addition, part of the course will focus on measurement issues (non-causal issues) related to health outcomes and socioeconomic health inequality.

General and Specific Objectives

In addition to learning the key theoretical models in health economics, students should be able to use all the empirical approaches presented in class and interpret their results. More specifically, they should be able to identify when each approach is applicable in a given empirical setting. Also, students should be able to recognize the limitations of and the assumptions underlying each approach used.
Evaluations

Written exam (e.g. exam, long answer)

Evaluation Date: Monday 26 February, 2018
Evaluation Percentage: 40

The midterm exam consists of 2 sections of 60 minutes with a 10 min break between the two. It is forbidden to exit the exam room during an exam section (i.e. within the 60 minutes). A student wishing to use the washroom during the exam section has to hand back the section he may take the other section as he returns to the examination room.

Oral presentation

Evaluation Date:
Evaluation Percentage: 20

Presentation 15% Date to Determined in class

Each student will be assigned a paper for presentation in class. Prior to presentation power points should be submitted to eco6174@gmail.com.

Paper Discussion* 5 % Date to be Determined in class

Each presented paper will be assigned a discussant. Discussing a paper consists of summarizing the main points to the audience so that each and every person who did not read the paper can keep the key message of the paper. The discussant has to evaluate the strength and weaknesses of the paper.

Each discussant will be invited to provide an evaluation on the presentation of the paper he is discussing and each presenter is invited to provide an evaluation of the discussion of the paper he presented. It is important to mention that the final marks for the presentation and discussion are to be made by the professor. No student will have an impact on another student’s mark.

Take Home Final Exam

Evaluation Date: Final Exam Period
Evaluation Percentage: 40

Take Home Final Exam 40% (Due on April 26th, 2018)

The take-home final exam has two sections as follows:

Section A: Replication Study 20%

For the replication study, the student has to identify a paper in the field of health economics for which the data is available online and replicate the empirical investigation of the paper. The student should submit the proposal before February 19, 2018, for approval. The assignment consists of cleaning the data set and in applying the data restrictions as specified in the paper so as to replicate the results of the paper. Depending on the complexity of the paper you choose, the replication study requirements may sometimes vary. The Professor will tell you what is expected from the replication study, you will need to discuss your choice and finalize the discussion regarding the tasks expected
during office hours before February 19, 2018.

The students should submit by email to eco6174@gmail.com (before end-of-day on April 26th, 2018) to the professor the following:

Tables formatted in a way that is comparable to the ones replicated in the study along with the tables replicated from the study as well as the paper used for replication in one “pdf” file

The raw dataset (as downloaded) used to achieve the results. If you renamed the datasets this should appear in your do files. The professor should be able to use these files to replicate what you submitted.

The do file/ or do files used to produce the results submitted. The do files should contain comments to allow the professor to understand your code.

A log file to document the outputs submitted in (1).

Section B: Project Proposal* 20%

* Details regarding the project proposal and the discussion will be discussed in class. This proposal should be submitted before end-of-day on April 26th, 2018 by email in pdf format to eco6174@gmail.com.
Monographs

There is no required textbook for this course. Many of the readings are articles that will be given to you on a weekly basis for which the University of Ottawa has an online subscription.


Scientific Articles

1. Running Randomized evaluation with an emphasis on health-related behaviours


Bhattachary, Hyde and Tu, Health Economics, Palgrave, Chapter 2, 5 and 10.


2. Estimating Causal effects using observational data


3. Production of Health: Why are some people healthy and others not?

Ahn, T., 2015. Reduction of Working Time: Does It Lead to a Healthy Lifestyle? Health economics. []


Bhattacharya, Hyde and Tu, Health Economics, Palgrave, Chapter 3 and 4


Godard, M., 2016. Gaining weight through retirement? Results from the SHARE survey. Journal of health economics, 45, pp.27-46.[]


4. Measuring ‘Health’


5. Social Networks and health-related Behaviors


Fletcher, J., 2009. All in the family: Mental health spillover effects between working spouses. The BE journal of economic analysis & policy, 9(1).


6. Health inequality


Makdissi, P and M. Yazbeck, 2016. Avoiding Blindness to Health Status in Health Achievement and Health Inequality Measurement, Social Science and Medicine Volume 171, 39-47.


Plagiarism

**Beware of academic fraud!**

Academic fraud is an act by a student that may result in a false evaluation (including papers, tests, examinations, etc.). It is not tolerated by the University. Any person found guilty of academic fraud will be subject to severe sanctions.

Here are some examples of academic fraud:

- Plagiarism or cheating of any kind;
- Present research data that has been falsified;
- Submit a work for which you are not the author, in whole or part;
- Submit the same piece of work for more than one course without the written consent of the professors concerned.

Please consult [this webpage](#); it contains regulations and tool to help you avoid plagiarism.

An individual who commits or attempts to commit academic fraud, or who is an accomplice, will be penalized. Here are some examples of possible sanctions:

- Receive an “F” for the work or in the course in question;
- Imposition of additional requirements (from 3 to 30 credits) to the program of study;
- Suspension or expulsion from the Faculty.

You can refer to the regulations on [this webpage](#).

**Student Services**

[Academic Writing Help Centre](#)

At the AWHC you will learn how to identify, correct and ultimately avoid errors in your writing and become an autonomous writer.

In working with our Writing Advisors, you will be able to acquire the abilities, strategies and writing tools that will enable you to:

- Master the written language of your choice
- Expand your critical thinking abilities
- Develop your argumentation skills
- Learn what the expectations are for academic writing

[Career Services](#)

Career Services offers various services and a career development program to enable you to recognize and enhance the employability skills you need in today’s world of work.

[**Counselling Service**](#)

There are many reasons to take advantage of the Counselling Service. We offer:

- Personal counselling
- Career counselling
- Study skills counselling

**Access Service**

The Access Service acts as intermediary between students, their faculty and other University offices to ensure that the special needs of these students are addressed and that the best possible learning conditions are being offered.

Note that the University of Ottawa is affiliated with AERO and ACE services for the adaptation of accessible academic materials for students with perceptual disabilities. If you have any questions, please contact the Accessibility Librarian or the Access services for textbooks.

**Policy - Prevention of Sexual Violence**

The University of Ottawa will not tolerate any act of sexual violence. This includes acts such as rape and sexual harassment, as well as misconduct that take place without consent, which includes cyberbullying. The University, as well as various employee and student groups, offers a variety of services and resources to ensure that all uOttawa community members have access to confidential support and information, and to procedures for reporting an incident or filing a complaint. For more information, please visit www.uOttawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention/.

**Last updated: Saturday 6 January, 2018**