

Course Syllabus
Health Economics
2024 ASSA Continuing Education

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Location: SALON DEL REY C

Course Overview: This “mini-course” applies theoretical and empirical tools to the study of health insurance and the healthcare sector. This course will cover a broad range of topics including the demand for healthcare and health insurance, the behavior of non-profit and for-profit hospitals, the sources of technological change in the healthcare sector, and the effects of government regulations on the healthcare market. We will also study the role of adverse selection and moral hazard in healthcare markets, both theoretically and empirically. The course will briefly discuss healthcare systems around the world and describe socioeconomic disparities in health outcomes in both the United States and around the world.

Course Schedule

Sunday, January 7

Class 1 [NOTO] 4pm-6pm

Review of the Economics of Uncertainty
The Demand for Health Insurance
What Does Health Insurance Do? The Financial and Non-Financial Consequences of Insurance
Why Are People (Still) Uninsured?

Monday, January 8

Class 2 [HANDEL] 8:30am-10am

Asymmetric Information and Adverse Selection
Unraveling in Insurance Markets and Insurance Rejections
Empirical Evidence of Adverse Selection
Firm-Level Responses to Adverse Selection

Class 3 [HANDEL] 10:15am-11:50am

Moral Hazard and Cost-Sharing Mechanisms (“What Does a Deductible Do?”)
Empirical Evidence of Moral Hazard

Class 4 [NOTO] 1-2:30pm

Non-Profit versus For-Profit Hospitals
Hospitals as Insurers of Last Resort
The Samaritan's Dilemma
Cost-Shifting in Hospitals

Class 5 [NOTO] 2:45pm-4:15pm

Learning-by-Doing in Health Care
Overuse and Underuse in Health Care
Machine Learning in Health Care

Class 6 [HANDEL] 4:30-5:40pm

Behavioral Economics and Health Care
Moral Hazard versus Behavioral Hazard

Tuesday, January 9

Class 7 [NOTO] 8am-9:30am

Healthcare Gradients
Healthcare Inequality and Socioeconomic Disparities in Health Outcomes

Class 8 [HANDEL] 9:45am-11am

National Health System Design
Rationing Mechanisms

Class 9 [HANDEL] 11:15am-12pm

National Health System Design
Rationing Mechanisms

Reading List

(COMING SOON!)