



HPM 715L
Health Economics Lab
(Credit Hours: 1)

Department of Health Policy and Management
School of Public Health

Fall 2009 Syllabus

Class Location: 228 Rosenau (except 9/24, which will be in 123 Rosenau)

Meeting Times: Thursdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Faculty: Sally Stearns

Office: 1104 C McGG

Email: sstearns@unc.edu

Phone: 843-2590

Office Hours: 2-3 pm T & Th or by appt.

Course Overview

HPM 715L, the Health Economics Lab, will help students expand their knowledge of advanced topics in health economics through readings and group discussion. The lab is also a forum in which students will be able to apply economic theory and interpretation of statistical analyses to topics of current interest. This class is required for all MSPH students. Students in other degree programs who want more rigorous training in health economics are welcome to attend, with permission of instructor.

Learning Objectives and HPM Competencies

<i>Course Learning Objective</i>	<i>Competencies</i>
1 Link the concepts and techniques learned in HPM 715 (Health Economics) to applications in the health economics literature.	Analytical Thinking System Thinking Self-confidence
2 Ensure that students understand the policy implications from health economics analyses.	Community and Public Health Orientation Organizational Awareness
3 Introduce more advanced topics in health economics.	Political Savvy Analytical Thinking System Thinking Initiative
4 Interpret the policy implications of health economics applications in the student's own area of interest.	Communication Skills Innovative Thinking Professionalism

Resources

Website

HPM 715L has its own website using Blackboard software. (See <http://blackboard.unc.edu>.)

The most current versions of the syllabus and class schedule are always on the website.

Be sure to check that the email address Blackboard has for you is correct. Click on the “Bb Desktop” tab in Blackboard and then click on “Personal Information.” If you need to change your email address, click on “Edit Personal Information” and follow the directions. Note that you need to change your email address in both Blackboard and the On-Line Campus Directory.

Text and Articles

This course does not use a textbook. Articles for this course are listed in the Class Schedule. You may use electronic or paper copies of the articles. Links to some articles are available HSL Electronic Reserves at: <http://eres.hsl.unc.edu/eres/coursepass.aspx?cid=1711>. Any articles not available through HSL Electronic Reserves will be available through HSL or Blackboard.

Requirements and Expectations

Class Participation

Students are expected to come to class prepared to participate in discussions. The course is designed to encourage interaction and debate by students. Tentatively, classes will be comprised of the following four sections:

- Intro/overview by selected students (doing their short analysis on the article)
- Questions about article (methods, results, etc.)
- Small group discussion of additional questions
- Summary with focus on policy implications or future research needs

Cell Phones and Laptops

Turn off cell phones in class. Laptops may be used in class only for looking at an electronic copy of the article. Please do not do e-mail or surf the web during class.

Evaluation Method

Grade Components and Scale

Component	% of Grade	
Short Reading Analysis	25%	95 or above (H)
Article Questions	25%	93 to 95 (H-)
Class Attendance	25%	85 to 92 (P+)
Final Reading Analysis	25%	80 to 84 (P)
		75 to 79 (P-)
		60 to 74 (L)
		Below 60 (F)
TOTAL	100%	

Exams: This class does not have exams.

Assignment Descriptions

Short Reading Analysis Paper: Students will write a four page assessment/critique (double-spaced, 12 point font, Times Roman, 1 inch margins) of one of the class articles. You choose the class article you would like to do. Reading Analyses are due at the beginning of class. Half of the paper should be a brief summary of what the article does; the second half should be a critique of the approach, methods, assumptions, and authors' conclusions. The paper should conclude with a paragraph that summarizes your assessment of policy implications and an indication of what you think a policy maker should take away from this article. Due in hard paper copy for **one** article only at the beginning of class article that you choose. The students submitting their paper that day will be responsible for summarizing what they think are the key points from the article at the beginning of class.

Class Attendance/Participation and Question Submission: Students are required to attend class, read articles in advance, submit via Blackboard one question about the article prior to class, bring other questions as desired, and participate in class discussions. One question must be submitted by each student to Blackboard before the start of class. Questions may be provided with either (a) an indication of an answer or (b) an indication that you don't know the answer. The questions will be used to motivate and structure class discussion. Unexcused absences will reduce your grade, but excused absences are allowed. For excused absences (e.g., professional conferences, religious holidays that you observe, or personal emergencies), please notify Sally, preferably in advance.

Final Reading Analysis Paper: Students will write an analysis of an article chosen by the student from a short list of articles. Students may suggest articles to be used, and the article will be assigned no later than October 29th. The paper will have exactly the same format as the short reading analysis. Please hand in your paper with your PID only (no names). Due in hard copy on December 3rd in class.

Evaluation Criteria

- Class participation (as described above) with thought about questions and answers.
- Logical and appropriate interpretations and conclusions in both reading analyses.
- Clearly written analysis papers with presentation and discussion arranged logically.

UNC Honor Code

The principles of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship govern the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University as they have during the long life of this institution. Your acceptance of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in the Code of Student Conduct and a respect for this most significant Carolina tradition. Your reward is in the practice of these principles.

Your participation in this course comes with the expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable,

because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work.

If you have any questions about your responsibility or the responsibility of faculty members under the Honor Code, please consult with someone in either the Office of the Student Attorney General (966-4084) or the Office of the Dean of Students (966-4042).

Read “The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance” (<http://instrument.unc.edu>).

Course Evaluation

The Department of Health Policy and Management is participating in the Carolina Course Evaluation System (CES), the university's new online course evaluation tool, enabled at the end of each semester. Your responses will be anonymous, with feedback provided in the aggregate; open-ended comments will be shared with instructors, but not identified with individual students. Your participation in CES is a course requirement, as providing constructive feedback is a professional expectation. Such feedback is critical to improving the quality of our courses, as well as providing input to the assessment of your instructors.
