1. **Course description.** This is a PhD level course in the Economics of Health that is also open to qualified second year Economics masters’ students. The emphasis will be on acquiring a set of tools and a framework within which to organize empirical analysis. In this course, we will focus on decisions made by household members and the market for health insurance. The course will also have relevance for students interested in broader empirical microeconomic research.

2. **Prerequisites:** A semester of graduate level microeconomics, graduate econometrics, and graduate microeconometrics (recommended).

3. **Required readings.** No textbook, though we do include a non-technical volume that provides contextual background of the issues and literature, and North Holland Handbooks and JEL surveys will be useful. Rather, the course consists of 38 required readings, which each student is expected to cover thoroughly, with an eye to content, theory, model, econometric technique, and useful next steps researchers might undertake on the paper’s topic.

4. **Honor code and course policies.** Failure to acknowledge assistance on an assignment, or to cite a source of information used in an assignment, or to represent the work of others as your own, constitutes a violation of the University’s honor code. Any violations may result in failure of the assignment or the course, or expulsion from the University. Any exam missed for a non-legitimate reason will be accorded the grade of 0. Any exam missed for a legitimate reason will be made up with an oral exam as soon as it can be scheduled by EcoTeach. Late work will be penalized by 1/3 grade point per day late (excluding Sundays). Presentation notes must be posted on Sakai at least 24 hours prior to the class at which the presentation will take place.

5. **Grading and assignments.** The grades will be determined as weighted averages of exams, presentations, and a 15-page research proposal:
   - Class participation: 10%
   - In-class presentations and supporting notes (2-3 per student): 20%
   - Research proposal: 25%
   - Midterm examination: 20%
   - Final examination: 25%

   To enhance the efficiency of class presentations, each presenter is expected to prepare a handout for distribution to the entire class. The handout should contain pertinent aspects of the formal presentation.
to avoid having to write out lots of equations in class. Even if you are not a presenter, you are expected to have read the article in detail before class. Presenters should focus on making critical analytical comments and explaining difficult parts rather than covering the paper exhaustively.

At times, we will provide brief background lectures on related literature. Papers most likely to be covered are noted below (at the end of each section, and in smaller font).

Our intention is to provoke discussion, and for the presenter to discuss new techniques, modeling approaches, data sets, and findings, as well as to discuss shortcomings and possible extensions. At times, we will help by providing general background notes from earlier readings that can be incorporated, so that the presenters can emphasize critical points rather than slowly going through the model (and spending lots of time writing it up).

6. **Course readings**

I. **DEMAND FOR MEDICAL CARE**


II. **HEALTH PRODUCTION**


## III. HEALTH INSURANCE


*October 10 Fall Break*


Miller, Grant, Diana Pinto, and Marcos Vera-Hernandez, 2013, “Risk protection, service use, and health outcomes under Colombia’s health insurance program for the poor,” American Economic Journal:
IV. ADDICTION


V. THE GREAT TRANSITIONS, PATTERNS OF HEALTH, AND THE IMPACT OF NUTRITION


VI. HEALTH & ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT


RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE MONDAY DECEMBER 12, MIDNIGHT
FINAL EXAMINATION (TAKE-HOME) DUE SATURDAY DECEMBER 17, 10:00 P.M.