ECO 618: Seminar in Health Economics
Tue/Thu 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.
Anspach Hall 153
Fall 2016

OFFICE HOURS
Just stop by during these times
No need to call or email!
Wednesdays
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
& 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
(Exceptions will be announced via Blackboard)

Contact Information
Professor Aparna Lhila
Associate Professor of Economics
Office Phone: (989) 774-3380
Email: LHILA1A@cmich.edu
Office: Sloan Hall 317

Course Rationale
Use advanced-level microeconomic theory to analyze health care decisions and markets.
Employ advanced statistical methods to produce an empirical research paper.

Upon completion, you will be able to:

• Demonstrate an understanding of microeconomic theory as it applies to health and healthcare.
• Evaluate the role that demand for health, the effects of health institutions and laws, information, and third-party payee system on health and healthcare decisions.
• Derive empirically testable, health-policy relevant hypotheses from microeconomic theory.
• Apply the scientific method to test hypotheses using appropriate secondary data.
  • Disseminate results of analyses both in writings and peer presentations.
• Actively participate in discussions by critiquing both peer-written papers and published articles.

My expectations are:

• That your work will be academically honest. Ignorance of the policy is not an excuse. CMU policy:
  https://www.cmich.edu/colleges/cgs/Graduate_Assistant_Training/Pages/Policy-on-Academic-Integrity.aspx
  • That you will come to class regularly!
  • That you will complete the assigned readings.
  • That you will submit your work in a timely manner.
• That you will participate in class discussions actively and enthusiastically.
  • That you will help each other.
• That you will show up for your peers' presentations.
HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM ME:

- That I will treat you with respect
- That I will do my best to help you grasp the course material
- That I will be fair in my assessment of your work
- That I will return graded assignments in a timely manner

Policy for Students with Disabilities

CMU provides students with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities or services. If you require accommodation to meet course requirements, contact the Student Disability Services. Obtain documentation regarding appropriate accommodations, provide me a copy, and I will make appropriate arrangements.

Campus Resources

- **CMU Virtual Lab**
  You can access statistical software, Stata (preferably) and/or SAS, free-of-charge through remote computing at CMU. Instructions for setting up Virtual Lab on your home computer: [https://www.cmich.edu/office_provost/oit/kb/help-desk/Pages/VDI-Virtual-Lab-Configuration-Instructions-for-Windows-and-Mac.aspx](https://www.cmich.edu/office_provost/oit/kb/help-desk/Pages/VDI-Virtual-Lab-Configuration-Instructions-for-Windows-and-Mac.aspx)

- **CMU Writing Center**
  The quality of your writing is an important component of your term paper. Seek help from the Writing Center early and often in the process.
  Park Library 400 (Northwest corner of the Fourth Floor)
  989.774.2986
  Hours
  Weeks 1 and 2: Aug 29 to Sept 2 and Sept 5 to 9
  Monday through Thursday 9 am to 5 pm; Friday 9 am to 1 pm
  Regular Schedule Begins Week 3 on Sunday, Sept 11
  Sunday 5 pm to 9 pm; Monday through Thursday 9 am to 9 pm
  Friday 9 am to 1 pm; Saturday 11 am to 3 pm

- **Student Disability Services**
  Park Library 120
  Phone: (989) 774-3018
  Email: sds@cmich.edu
  Hours: M-F 8:00-5:00
ASSIGNMENTS & WEIGHTS

Class participation  15%
Discussion and dialogue are fundamental to the success of this seminar-type class. You must do your readings and come prepared to engage in class. Active discussion in research seminars counts, too!

Assigned paper presentation  10%
Present paper(s) assigned from the reading list. Provide overview, research question, underlying theory, empirical strategy, results, and a critical discussion. Use PowerPoint as visual aid. ~15 minutes

Reading discussion  20%
On Blackboard, post a summary and 2 questions that come to your mind for each assigned paper prior to class discussion.

Peer review report  10%
You will review a peer’s paper and offer feedback. Provide a summary of the paper and comments on the strengths and opportunities for improvement. 1-2 pages.

Final paper presentation  15%
You will present your final term paper to the class in the last days of the semester. ~20 minutes.

Term paper  30%
Your final paper is due (hard copy and digital copy) 2-3:50 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13 in my office.

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower-Bound Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<td>87%</td>
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<td>Below 60%</td>
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A successful paper presentation addresses:

- What is the research question?
- Why is this research question interesting/relevant?
- Which paper did you follow? Describe the paper and how yours differs.
- An explanation of the underlying economic theory or the mechanism by which X affects Y
- The empirical method used
- Data – source, how analytical sample was created, descriptive statistics, final sample size
- Results – tables with regression coefficient, s.e., and n
- Conclusions, including the limitations of the study
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates to Remember</th>
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<td>Deviations from the plan will be announced in class and/or Bb, as needed</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1, 6, and 8</td>
<td>Econometrics review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 22</td>
<td>Introduction to Stata</td>
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<td>Bring laptop with Virtual Lab installed &amp; ready</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 29</td>
<td>Research day</td>
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<td>Tuesday, October 4</td>
<td>Research seminar</td>
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<td>Bring ideas for paper topics; discuss and finalize in class</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 20</td>
<td>Research day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 25</td>
<td>Research seminar</td>
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<td>Bring data summary: mean, min, max, standard deviation of <em>all</em> relevant variables</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 8</td>
<td>Draft due (optional) – Intro, literature, data, and method</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 22</td>
<td>Research day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving break</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 29</td>
<td>Research seminar</td>
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<td>Bring regression results and final questions</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 1</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 6</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 8</td>
<td>Last class Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 13</td>
<td>Final paper due in my office</td>
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<td>2-3:50 p.m.</td>
<td>E-mail digital copy and drop off paper copy</td>
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TOPICS AND READINGS
Journal articles on this reading list are available on Blackboard >> Course Reserve >> ECO 618

1. **Writing an empirical article**

2. **Overview of the field of health economics**

3. **Demand for health**

4. **Education and health**

5. **Health and labor market**

6. **Demand for addictive goods**

7. **Health insurance**

8. **Production of medical care**
9. **Health sector labor market**

10. **Information and health**

11. **Macroeconomy and health**

12. **Health issues in developing economies**

13. **Advertising and demand for health inputs**

14. **Peer effects on health behaviors**