Health Economics  
HPAM-GP 4831-001  
Professor Sherry Glied  
Email: Sherry.Glied@nyu.edu  
Office Hours: As posted on Wagner Website  
Office Location: Puck, Room 2100

Class will meet 6:45-8:45pm on six Tuesdays:  
March 25, April 1, April 8, April 22, April 29, May 6

Syllabus

The purpose of this course is to extend students understanding of economic theory and empirical research in key areas of health economics and enabling students to leverage that knowledge and apply it to timely issues in health policy and management.

Academic Integrity: Students are reminded that they have signed an Academic Oath at NYUWagner and they are bound by this oath and the principles of the academic code of the school. More details can be found here: http://wagner.nyu.edu/current/policies/

Late Assignment Policy: Extensions will be granted only in case of emergency, out of respect to those who abide by deadlines despite equally hectic schedules. Late submissions without extensions will be penalized 10% per 24-hour period.

Students with disabilities: Any students requiring accommodations should contact me to make proper arrangements. Please be prepared to share your documentation from the NYU disabilities office regarding appropriate accommodations.

Prerequisites: Microeconomics, Health Economics I, Statistics I  
Proficiency in Excel expected.

Requirements:

- Please do all required readings before class and be prepared to discuss the policy reading assigned each week.
- Three 2-3 page papers (25% of grade each)
- Final exam – (25% of grade)-date and format TBD

Assignments: All papers are to be submitted as an MSWord document attachment to iveliz.vazquez@nyu.edu. Be sure your name is on the document file and indicate ‘HPAM-GP 4831’ in the subject line.

Grading: I will grade a random 1/3 of the papers each time for style as well as content. I will return the style grades with the third paper grade (so you won’t know which paper is graded on style until you have done all three).
**Session 1:** (March 25, 2014) Adverse selection – Do we need an individual mandate?

**Readings:**


**Policy Issue: the Individual Mandate**


**Session 2:** (April 1, 2014) Moral Hazard—What Services Should Health Insurance Cover?

**Readings:**


**Assignment:** dental coverage – due April 6, 2014

Write a 2-3 page memorandum recommending whether (and what type) dental coverage should be included in an essential health benefits requirement for adults. In developing your recommendation, consider the price elasticity of demand for health insurance as well as the other theories discussed in class. The attached excel spreadsheet contains information on dental coverage and utilization from the 2011 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. Use these data to buttress your argument.

**Session 3:** (April 8, 2014) Are ACOs the answer? -- Agency / Vertical Integration/ Organization

**Readings:**

Policy issue: vertical integration


Assignment: Electronic Health Records – due April 20, 2014
Write a 2-3 page memorandum analysing how electronic health records will affect the industrial organization of the health care system. Are electronic health records the GPS of medicine? Do patterns of participation in EHRs support your hypothesis? See http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db129.pdf and related briefs for data.

Session 4: (April 22, 2014) Does competition contain health care costs?-Competition/cost growth/technology

Readings:


Policy issue: Technology adoption


Assignment: cost growth – due April 27, 2014
Review the National Health Expenditure data at www.cms.gov and the Medicare trustee’s report released April 2014 (or whenever). Develop a hypothesis about what is causing the slow-down in health care spending. Review recent articles looking at this slowdown. Looking at cost growth across categories of spending, provide evidence in support of your favored hypothesis.
Session 5: (April 29, 2014) Bads -- Infectious disease, externalities, public health

Readings:


Policy issue: Graphic warning labels RIA pages

Session 6: (May 6, 2014) What are the benefits of health insurance expansions? - Equity issues, SES and Health

Readings:


Policy issue: Medicaid expansion
