Coursebook

Current Topics in Health Economics
075 275

Faculty of Management and Economics
Adjunct Professorship of Health Economics and Health Policy

Ruhr-University Bochum

Prof. Dr. Ansgar Wübker
Summer Semester 2020
Current Topics in Health Economics 075 275
1. General information

Responsible unit: Adjunct Professorship of Health Economics and Health Policy
Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Ansgar Wübker
Dr. Ingo Kolodziej
Contact: ingo.kolodziej@rwi-essen.de
Class times: June 19, 2020, 9:00 – 17:30 (s.t.), via Zoom video conference
Class size: Maximum 20 students
Kick-off meeting: April 17, 2020, 10:30 (s.t.), via Zoom video conference
Credit points: 5 ECTS (master)
Language: English

2. Course Description:

In this seminar, students will explore a variety of current topics in health economics. The topics will cover both empirical and theoretical contributions. Students will have the possibility to acquire the necessary knowledge and methodological skills for the successful completion of a master thesis in health economics and related fields. To this aim students will prepare a term paper based on current themes in the field of health economics. Students will prepare their seminar papers in the first half of the semester and present their papers in the second half of the semester. Further course details will be given at the introductory meeting.

3. Eligibility and prerequisites

The seminar is open to master students enrolled in the M.Sc. in “Economics” or “Management and Economics”. Enough proficiency in microeconomics and in particular microeconometrics and econometrics in order to be able to read and understand the current international theoretical or empirical literature is strongly recommended. We further recommend the study of the following literature on econometrics:


The seminar is restricted to a maximum of 20 students.

4. Grading

The final grade is calculated as a weighted average of the grades for (i) the term paper, (ii) an oral presentation of the paper and a discussion of another student’s term paper, and (iii) the active participation in the course.

The weights are as follows:

- 65%: Term paper
- 25%: Presentations
- 10%: Active participation in the course

The conditions of these components are briefly described below:

a) Term paper
The term paper should not be longer than 15 pages, excluding the title page, references, figures, and tables.

Some criteria for grading papers are:

- 1. Economic Content. Does the paper contain some substantive economic content? Although it may seem obvious that one should write an economics paper for an economics course, you would be amazed at the papers we have received which are political science, physics, chemistry, etc. Interdisciplinary papers are fine (even encouraged) but one of the disciplines must be economics and its representation must be more than token.
- 2. Analytical Depth. Has the author analyzed the important issues in some depth or is the treatment superficial? Has the author sought out and included relevant facts? Does the research reflect a reasonable awareness of the relevant literature? Does the paper make clear how all the facts fit together?
- 3. Organization and Style. Is the paper organized into coherent subsections which, when integrated, form a logical sequence of arguments leading directly to the conclusions? Is it well written? Does the introduction provide an overview of the paper and the role of each section? Are the conclusions summarized and clearly specified? Is the paper grammatically correct?
4. Originality. Has the author exhibited some degree of originality or has he/she simply regurgitated readily accessible materials? Has the author clearly identified the nature of the original contribution for the reader?

Also see the Guidelines for Seminar Papers (provided on Moodle) and EconBiz’ “Write your Best Paper in Economics and Business Studies” (and others, available via https://www.econbiz.de/eb/en/research-skills/how-to-guides/)

b) Presentations
Each student must give an oral presentation of his/her term paper. The presentations should be used to present the contents of the paper and provide additional input for discussion. Each presentation is scheduled for 15 minutes. Additionally, each student has to discuss a term paper of another student. The aim is to give advice on how to further improve the paper. This discussion should be 10 minutes. Afterwards there is an overall discussion of the paper of 5 minutes.

c) Active participation
Students are requested to actively participate in the course. Active involvement in class discussions is expected.

5. Course materials
All course material will be provided in the respective Moodle course
Course ID: Current Topics in Health Economics – Summer Term 20

6. Course schedule
The seminar is scheduled as a block seminar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 17, 10:30 (s.t.)</td>
<td>The kick-off meeting will take place on the April 17 as a zoom video conference. Please send an email to <a href="mailto:Ingo.kolodziej@rwi-essen.de">Ingo.kolodziej@rwi-essen.de</a> before April 16 if you would like to participate in the seminar. We will then invite you by email to the Zoom video conference. You can find instructions on how to use Zoom here: <a href="https://support.zoom.us/he/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials">https://support.zoom.us/he/en-us/articles/206618765-Zoom-Video-Tutorials</a> or here: <a href="https://www.pc-magazin.de/ratgeber/zoom-videokonferenz-anleitung-einrichten-3201417.html">https://www.pc-magazin.de/ratgeber/zoom-videokonferenz-anleitung-einrichten-3201417.html</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Until April 24</td>
<td>Registration with Three preferred topics (please provide preference order 1, 2 and 3 for the selected topics) Email: <a href="mailto:ingo.kolodziej@rwi-essen.de">ingo.kolodziej@rwi-essen.de</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Until April 28</td>
<td>Confirmation of topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 13/14</td>
<td>See your supervisor (provide a preliminary outline in advance, including a brief description of what you plan to do in each paragraph and a preliminary reference list)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Registration Opening FlexNow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Until June 10</td>
<td>Writing period, handing in of the term papers no later than 10th of June via Email (PDF and Word) and 2 hardcopies on the day of the seminar (including affirmation and signature)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 11</td>
<td>Time plan of seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>Handing in of the presentation via Email</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 19</td>
<td>Registration Deadline FlexNow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 19 Zoom video conference</td>
<td>Deadline for handing in a revised version of the paper via Email (PDF and Word); changes in track-modus; possibility to improve grade of the paper (e.g. max. improvement: 2.7 -&gt; 2.3); only accepted if changes are made visible!</td>
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The files you hand in must be named as follows:
Outline: CTHESS20_FirstnameLastname_Studentnumber_outline
Topics

IMPORTANT:
The suggested background literature is a first starting point for your analysis.
Further research is necessary!

Topic Block I: Fundamentals

- Market failure in healthcare markets: a critical assessment

  Background literature:


- Moral Hazard in healthcare markets: What do we know and what can we do?

  Background literature:


- Is prioritization of medical care necessary? – international experiences and applicability to Germany

  Background literature:


**Topic Block II: The production of health**

- **The fetal origin hypothesis – idea, concept and empirical evidence**

- **Child health – the impact of the internet on child mental health**

- **The effect of education on health – what do we know?**


• The effect of unemployment on health – is there a causal relationship?


• The effect of income and income inequality?


• The effect of retirement on health – theoretical arguments and empirical evidence


- **The effect of loneliness on health – mechanism and evidence**


**Topic Block III: Health Behavior – Smoking, Alcohol, Obesity and Drugs**

- **Smoking bans – economic justification, effectiveness and health effects**

Background literature:


- **Alcohol control policies: Do they work?**

Background literature:


- **The obesity pandemic – which economic incentives work, and should we implement them?**

  Background literature:


- **The impact of cannabis access laws on the opioid crisis**

  Background literature


**Topic Block IV: Informal care and the labor market**

- **Are there Wage penalties due to caregiving?**

  Background literature


- **The impact of informal caregiving on labor productivity**

  **Background literature**


- **What are the labor market effects of informal caregiving? Looking at the extensive and intensive margin of work**

  **Background literature**


