Economics 770
Health Economics
Department of Economics
Emory University

Prof. Sara Markowitz
Rich Memorial Building Room 306G
Phone: 404-712-8167
Email: sara.markowitz@emory.edu
Office hours: Tues 9:00-12:00, or stop by whenever my door is open.

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce graduate students in economics to the field of Health Economics. The provision of health care and the production of health have different institutional properties and incentives than other consumer goods, making health-related markets unique topics for study. This course will focus on the demand-side of health, emphasizing the difference between health as an outcome and medical care as one of many inputs into the production of health.

Course Requirements: Students will be responsible for class presentations of articles, an empirical project, and a term paper. Each item is worth 1/3 of your grade. Students are also expected to come to class having read the material and contribute to class discussions.

Readings: Most of the course material will come from articles that are available for downloading through the Emory library. Students who wish to write a dissertation in Health Economics may wish to purchase the following:


For those new to the topic, the following undergraduate/Master’s level text provides a solid overview of many of the topics:

INTRODUCTION


HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTION THEORY/PRODUCTION OF HEALTH


Becker, Gary S. 1965. “A Theory of the Allocation of Time.” *Economic Journal*, 75(299), 493-517. *(This is the original article, but the theory is more clearly explained in Michael and Becker 1973)*

Grossman Model of the Demand for Health:


Grossman, Michael. (1972). “On the Concept of Health Capital and the Demand for Health.” *Journal of Political Economy*, 80(2), 223-255. *(This paper is based on the first two chapters of the NBER monograph.)*


Criticisms and Extensions of the Grossman Model *(These are for your information only. We will not cover these in class.)*


**Examples of Estimates of Health Production Functions**


**HEALTH AND SCHOOLING**

**Schooling Causes Health**


Health Causes Schooling


Third Factor Story


Health and Income


Labor Markets and Health


**INSURANCE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES**


**UNHEALTHY BEHAVIORS: ECONOMICS OF SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE**

**Overview Articles**


Cook, Philip J., and Moore, Michael J. “Alcohol.” Chapter 30 in *Handbook of Health Economics*
Alcohol


Smoking


Illegal Drugs


Addiction


UNHEALTHY BEHAVIORS: ECONOMICS OF OBESITY


INSURANCE, MORAL HAZARD, AND ADVERSE SELECTION


