

Stockholm School of Economics in Riga
Topics in Economics: Health and Public Economics
August 27 - September 21, 2007
Professor Glenn Blomquist, Visiting Fulbright Scholar

Contact Information: Room 216, Visiting Faculty Office, Monday through Friday 12:30-13:30 if not in class. Other times can be arranged. Email: gblomquist@sseriga.edu.lv

Course Description: Health matters for the economic well being of individuals. Health matters for the growth and development of societies. Household production of health is fundamental. Demand and supply of health and medical care are examined from the perspectives of individuals as consumers/patients. Topics covered include externalities and public health, how technology and quality influence expenditures, insurance and information, and how values of health improvements are estimated for benefit-cost analysis. Students successfully completing this course should be able to apply economics to production of their own health, and to business and public policy choices.

Evaluation: Exam 75%, Short Essays 5%, Projects 20%. Guidance on group projects will be given in the seminars.

Readings: There is no textbook for this course. Students are responsible for all material covered in the lectures, seminars, required readings, and the class notes. Class notes will be posted as pdfs on the e-learning platform after each class. Information about required readings of journal articles and working papers will be given on the e-learning platform. Some readings will be pdfs and some will be available electronically through the SSE Riga library web page.

Class Meetings: Check the e-learning platform for the latest information. Changes are certain.
Lectures: Usually Monday, Wednesday, Friday. 10:15-12:00 in W32
Seminars: Usually Tuesday, Thursday. 10:15-11:15 (half 1) 11:30-12:30 (half 2) in W32

Course Schedule (Revised September 4, 2007)

Week 1

Health Matters in Economics and Economics Matters in Health (Monday, August 27)

Seminars - continuation of lecture (Tuesday, August 28)

Production of Health (Wednesday, August 29)

Seminars - continuation of lecture (Thursday, August 30)

Demand for Health Capital (Friday, August 31)

Week 2

Demand for Health Care and Externalities (Monday, September 3)

Seminars - introduction of group projects (Tuesday, September 4)

Cost of Health Care, Technology, and Expenditures (Wednesday, September 5)

Seminars - guidance on group projects, meet with your project group (Thursday, September 6)

Demand for Health Insurance, Information and Insurance Markets (Friday, September 7)

Week 3

Evaluation of Public Programs (Monday, September 10)

Seminars - lecture on risk perception & valuation and project groups (Tuesday, September 11)

Benefit Cost Analysis (Wednesday, September 12)

Time for group work, no seminars (Thursday, September 13, Soros Day)

Valuing Health (Friday, September 14)

Week 4

5 Group presentations (Monday, September 17)

6 Group presentations (Tuesday, September 18)

5 Group presentations (Wednesday, September 19)

5 Group presentations (Thursday, September 20)

Optional Review Session (Friday, September 21)

Group Project due: 17:00 Friday, September 21. Submitted electronically.

Course Exam (09:00 - 12:00, Monday, September 24)