

## Course description

### Applied Health Economics

#### 1. Course name, ECTS, quarter/semester, contact hours

Applied Health Economics, 4 ECTS, Semester 2, Quarter 3, 42 contact hours

#### 2. Author of the course

Professor Christopher J Gerry

#### 3. Outline

Health is the most fundamental measure of economic progress. There is increasing interest in health and health care as well as the role of government in securing these. Ambitious and controversial health care reform programmes are being introduced or are on-going across Russia, Central Asia and parts of Eastern Europe as well as in Western Europe, China and the US. This course in 'Applied Health Economics' provides a policy-oriented introduction to the economics of health. By teaching you to look at health and health care through the lens of the economist, this module will transform the way you think about health and health care. The course builds a theoretical framework which provides the tools for examining the main problems in the health care sector and the challenges faced in the design of public policy aimed at improving the delivery and effectiveness of health care.

At the end of the module you will have acquired:

- i. The ability to apply economic theory, models and empirical techniques to the analysis of decision making by individuals, health care providers and governments with respect to health and health care.
- ii. A critical awareness of the strengths and limitations of decision making and public policy in the context of health care.
- iii. A greater understanding of market failure, government failure and the policy options when both are prevalent.
- iv. An awareness of how ethical considerations become relevant in economic policy making.
- v. An awareness and understanding of the full range of health 'determinants', including health care.
- vi. Skills of working critically with academic literature at the interface of theory and evidence.
- vii. Improved critical thinking and analytical skills.
- viii. Presentation, essay writing and problem solving skills.
- ix. Competence in independent research on selected topics

#### 4. Structure and content

Defining questions of the course include:

- *Why do some people have health and others do not?*
- *Why don't individuals simply buy and sell as much health as they need?*
- *How can and do societies supply (& finance) health care and services?*
- *How should society spend its health resources?*

The course draws on examples from across the globe but pays particular attention to the (often unique) health dynamics and reforms of the post-Communist countries of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia and China.

### **5. Prerequisites**

Microeconomics. Open to: Visiting (or other) students with suitable background in Microeconomics (Introductory/Intermediate).

### **6. Assessment**

Assessment is in two parts. There will be a two-hour written exam at the end of the quarter. This will contribute 50% to the final mark. Additionally, there will be a series of coursework exercises offering the chance for extensive feedback on non-assessed work and contributing 50% to the overall mark through the assessed work.