



Universidad  
Carlos III de Madrid



FUNDACIÓN  
RAMÓN ARECES

## Economics of Public Health

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**Meeting Days:** June 23-26, 2015  
**Meeting Time:** 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM  
**Place:** Fundación Ramón Areces (Calle Vitrubio 5, Madrid)  
**Instructor:** Roger Feldman  
**E-mail:** feldm002@umn.edu

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### I. Course Description

This course covers topics at the intersection of public health and economics. It uses economic theory to analyze major public health problems caused by individual behavior and discusses market-based and government-based solutions to these problems.

### II. Course Prerequisites

An introductory micro-economics is useful but not required. We will cover the core economic concepts as needed during the course.

### III. Course Goals and Objectives

The course aims to:

- Enhance your understanding of the economic principles that relate to major public health issues such as obesity, smoking, and risky behaviors
  - Market failures and other information problems that lead to public health concerns
  - Role of market-based solutions
  - Role of government intervention
- Explain how economic analysis can be used to evaluate proposed reforms to improve public health.

### IV. Methods of Instruction and Work Expectations

You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the day as the class time will be spent in a combination of lecture and discussion. The class will be conducted in English.

### V. Course Text and Readings

This is a readings-based course. Copies of most readings are available on the internet. In a few cases where the readings are not available, I will provide a copy.



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## VI. Course Outline and Readings

- Topic 1: Introduction to Public Health Economics
- Topic 2: Obesity
- Topic 3: Peer Effects and Bullying
- Topic 4: Poor Decisions
- Topic 5: Vaccines
- Topic 6: Traffic Safety
- Topic 7: Gun Violence

## VII. Additional Information

### Additional Readings

I may post additional readings on the course website. These are meant to be additional material for class discussion.

- You are encouraged to find news articles related to the topics discussed in class. You should e-mail the article to me before class, so I can post it to other students. You can make a brief presentation summarizing the article and how it relates to what we have learned. Articles in Spanish are welcome.
- I welcome any suggestions you may have for additional readings for each topic.

## VIII. Admission

- Admission to the course is determined by the organization on request.
- Send your application form to the email [fgs@pa.uc3m.es](mailto:fgs@pa.uc3m.es), with CV attached.
- The course is free (no fees).