Economics of Public Health

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

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.
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, with CV attached.
- The course is free (no fees).