

Harvard College/GSAS course number: 107675

2023 Fall / Full Term

Professor: Ariel Pakes (email: apakes@fas.harvard.edu)

TF: Ed Kong (schedule office hours via email); email edk571@g.harvard.edu

Meeting Time: Tuesdays 12:45p - 2:45p EST

Location: Littauer Econ Building (room TBD)

Course Description:

Important Note: Students interested in taking the course should fill out [this google form](#)

Please also submit a petition to enroll through my.harvard.edu

The seminar will focus on policy issues in health economics. We will read papers on an assortment of policy options and formulate frameworks for analyzing their likely impacts on outcomes of interest. Examples include the analysis of mergers in hospital and insurance markets, the choice of capitation vs fee-for-service contracts, policy options for health insurance, the re-structuring of health service providers, the economics of prescription drugs, and the impacts of policy choices on the costs and quality of care. Some knowledge of microeconomic and statistical tools, particularly those related to industrial organization, will be helpful (a few of the needed techniques will be taught during the course). This is a Junior Tutorial.

For students shopping courses, the following two presentations give a flavor of what to expect (the first lecture will be a mix of both):

1. [Pakes - "Health Care - Problems and Promises"](#)
2. [Pakes - "Background from Industrial Organization"](#)

Course Organization:

The first class will be in lecture format; subsequent weeks will consist of 2-3 student presentations on that week's topic.

- [Download the syllabus/reading list here](#)

Course Requirements:

Readings: See the syllabus above for the list of required (**bolded**) and optional readings. If you are unable to find a paper, please email the TF. Many of the required readings are also under *Files/Readings* and can be accessed from there.

Assignments: There are 4 assignments for the course: two in-class presentations and two critical reading papers.

1. **In-class presentations:** Each week (except the first class), 2-3 students will present on one of the required/bolded readings (see [syllabus & readings here](#)). Each student is required to present at least 2 times. For a basic outline of a presentation, please see this [sample presentation](#) (actual presentations should be ~20-40 slides for a 45-1hr talk).
2. **Critical Reading papers:** Each student is required to two critical reading papers. Each paper should discuss one of the **bolded** readings (these can and should be based on the articles you presented) and be *no longer than 10 pages*. See [here](#) for more detailed guidelines.

Grades: Grades will be determined based on the 2 presentations, 2 critical reading papers, and in-class discussions.