Some of the things you could share include:

Why did you take this class?

What are you hoping to learn?

What do you think about the relevance and importance of healthcare and health in your own life? Why?

What are some of the key issues that policy makers and voters should think about when designing healthcare systems?

Do you have any initial thoughts about the role of health economics in helping to address these key issues?

Hello All,

My name is Aravind and this class will be my credit 16 & 17 of the MS Econ program. My academic background is in engineering, statistics, data science and now economics. I hope to learn the dynamics of different players within the healthcare system to be able to function as a full stack data scientist. I did not take this class because I didn’t have other options, but I rather chose this class with good reason. My focus will eventually be to analyze data collected by the wearables, and to make meaningful inferences from it. I also want to understand how behavioral economics principles can be applied to the healthcare industry.

I grew up in India and my father is a retired pharmacist and I am married to an MD physician. When a parent works in a hospital, it’ s easy to get to know a lot of sick people or at least about the health conditions of people that are close to you. Naively, I took healthcare for granted and that access to healthcare is universal and that it is available to everyone because all these people were able to get good healthcare. When I moved to US to do my first masters, I was told that buying health insurance is mandatory and part of my commitment for my visa to be valid. I did buy it every year, but I never had to use it. The one time I needed it, it was for a dental procedure and it didn’t cover any of it!

I do not know for a fact ‘what are the key issues that policy makers should think when designing the healthcare system’ but I am hoping to figure that one by the end of the class. Generally, I think the voters should try to get as much credible information as possible to make healthcare decision that is best for them economically. The problem that I think that exists in the healthcare industry is the idea that all the players act with incomplete information.

In my view, I expect the healthcare system to be as transparent as possible so players have complete or close to complete information. If the system is designed in such a way that it incentivizes people to be healthy, one of the effects could be setting exorbitant costs of healthcare. On the other hand, if the healthcare is too low, it doesn’t motivate people to be healthy. However, accidents do happen and some of us are predisposed with health conditions that is not entirely in our. My hope is that in the long run, the equilibrium is reached in such a way that this conundrum is solved.

Cheers,

Aravind