

Econ 5231
Health Economics
Guidelines for Course Seminar Component

A. Presentation and Short Literature Summary (30% of total grade)

Aim of Assignment

The purpose of the Presentation and Short Literature Summary is to give you an opportunity to develop critical thinking and research skills, while introducing you to pertinent topics in health economics. The assignment is structured to develop both oral and written communication skills. In terms of work, a short literature summary lies between a brief synopsis of a research paper and a full literature survey on the topic of that paper. The presentation will follow the general format of the short literature summary and will allow you to share your knowledge with your classmates.

Structure of Assignment

By now you have a chosen paper from the course reading list (please see the schedule below to confirm that your article assignment is correct). Your chosen paper will be the focus of both the presentation and short literature summary. To put you in the right frame of mind, consider each paper as a piece of research at a point in time, reflecting the past and informing the future. A good paper adds a significant contribution to the field or topic (the past) and will also serve as a basis for subsequent research (the future). This path through time is easily documented using the reference list and “cited-by” lists. Your short literature summary will address this progression through time for your assigned paper. A “finished product” will be comprised of the following:

1. With reference to your chosen paper (i.e. past + present):

A. Motivation (paraphrase these three main points):

1. Introduce the topic, discuss its importance, and describe previous evidence *relative* to the given paper.
2. Provide an explanation of the shortcomings of previous work and argue why these shortcomings are significant.
3. Discuss how the chosen paper will address the shortcomings of previous work and describe the contributions of the current work.

B. Theory or Model:

Provide a formal statement of the empirical problem and the main regression equation of interest. You may want to briefly highlight potential difficulties in estimation/analysis of the relationship of interest.

C. Results:

Paraphrase the following: regression results, economic interpretation of results and comparison to previous results. This may include discussion of results for different sub-groups, robustness checks, and evidence addressing the shortcomings of previous work.

D. Conclusion

Conclude by reemphasizing what can be learned from the paper, what contributions have been delivered on, and the bottom line message of the paper.

2. With reference to subsequent work or extensions (i.e. future):

E. Future Work

1. Find *two* subsequent papers that address/follow from the current research paper (your

selection should not include papers from the syllabus). Provide a short description of each of your chosen papers delivering the main contributions and findings.

2. Identify future directions for the research topic that you think are interesting.

I strongly suggest you restrict your choice of articles to “higher quality” economics journals (a search on journal rankings in economics will inform this list). NBER working papers, or other reputable working papers, are also acceptable sources.

Logistics

The allotted time of each presentation is 15 minutes and you will deliver it in class on the lecture week corresponding to your chosen topic. A rubric for presentation evaluation is provided to aid in your preparation. The short literature summary should be no more than 5 pages (single-spaced) and should be succinct and well written. The short literature summary will be evaluated on the components listed in the above section. I have posted some reference information on writing in economics on the course website. You also have the Dalhousie writing centre available to you.

B. Structured Class Participation (10% of total grade)

For those weeks where you are *not* presenting (i.e. 4 out of 5 weeks), you will be required to research and prepare a short verbal summary of at least one article (related to the week’s topic and not already on the syllabus). In class, be prepared to summarize the article orally. To avoid replication you will post the chosen article’s reference information to the course website before class. Your chosen article cannot already be listed on the discussion board (i.e. time is of the essence). You must submit the first page of the article (title/abstract information) to me in class.

C. Summary of Deliverables

What to do on a week you are not presenting?

1. Research and choose one article related to the week’s topic
2. Post the article on the course blog by 5pm each Monday (1 mark \approx .83% of grade)
 - a. Go to the “Discussions” tab on the course website and choose the relevant week
 - b. Click “Create message” and post the following information (see example post for week 7)
 - i. Subject: week and article title
 - ii. Message: citation and abstract
 - iii. Attach: PDF of the article; named with the lead author, journal code, year
3. Be prepared to deliver a short verbal summary in class (1 mark)
4. Print out the first page of the article containing the title and authors. Write your name in the top margin and submit it to me in class. (1 mark)

What to do on a week you are presenting?

1. Prepare a presentation and short literature summary according to the above guidelines
2. Send your presentation to me by 12 pm on the day of your presentation (10% of grade)
 - a. Naming convention: “Week” + ”Lead Author” + “Your name”. Example:

07AlmondWard.pdf

- b. Your presentation slides (in PDF form) will be uploaded to the course website and on to the lecture laptop.
- 3. Submit 2 versions of your short literature summary by the beginning of class in the week following your presentation: 1 hard copy and 1 electronic PDF copy. (20% of grade)
 - a. The electronic copy will be posted on the course website for the benefit of everyone.
 - b. Naming convention: “Week” + ”Lead Author” + “Your name”. Example:
07AlmondWard.pdf

D. Assigned Papers

Week 9 – March 12

Physician behavior, Pharmaceutical sector

Week 10 – March 19

The Health Endowment

Reading: Human Capital Before Age Five

SES gradients in Health

EKATERINA

Currie, Janet, “Healthy, wealthy, and wise: Socioeconomic status, poor health in childhood, and human capital development” Journal of Economic Literature, 2009

MARYIA

Currie, Janet and Enrico Moretti “Mother’s Education and the Intergenerational Transmission of Human Capital: Evidence from College Openings” Quarterly Journal of Economics, November 2003.

SEAN

Deaton, Angus. “Income, Aging, Health and Well-Being around the World: Evidence from the Gallup World Poll” NBER Book Series - The Economics of Aging. Editor David Wise (p. 235-267)

Week 11 – March 26 4 to 6:30

Obesity

STEVEN

Robert Sandy, Gilbert Liu, John Ottensmann, Rusty Tchernis, Jeffrey Wilson, O.T. Ford “Studying the Child Obesity Epidemic with Natural Experiments” Chapter in forthcoming NBER book Economic Aspects of Obesity, Michael Grossman and Naci H. Mocan, editors

Week 11 – March 28 4 to 6:30

Business Cycles, Pollution

Health Externalities

Week 12 – April 2

Final Exam