

PhD Course

Inequality in health and health care

Block course:

23 May, 2019: 9am - 5pm

24 May, 2019: 9am - 5pm

25 May, 2019: 9am - 5pm

Course Instructor: Professor Owen O'Donnell

Course Value: 5 ECTS

Course requirement: laptop with Stata installed

Course Overview: Health differs markedly by education, race, occupation and income. In high-income countries, a 30-year-old male college graduate can expect to live almost eight years longer than a contemporary with only compulsory schooling. The striking magnitude and the persistence of socioeconomic disparities in health is a major public health issue. In the context of population ageing and rising medical expenditures, it is also attracting attention in economics.

This course will arm you with tools to measure health inequality. In addition to gaining competence in the computation of health inequality indices, you will be forced to consider the normative implications of the measures. You will also become familiar with the theoretical and empirical literature in economics that seeks to explain socioeconomic disparities in health. And you will be exposed to epidemiological approaches to understanding these inequalities. Finally, you will be introduced to the analysis of equity in the distribution of healthcare.

Topics:

- normative evaluation of health inequality;
- measurement of health inequality;
- computation of health inequality indices;
- decomposition of health inequality;
- economic models of health behaviour;
- equity in the delivery of healthcare;

General literature:

Fleurbaey, M and Schokkaert, E (2012). Equity in health and health care. in MV Pauly, TG. McGuire and PP Barros (editors), *North Holland Handbook of Health Economics volume 2*, chapter 16, Amsterdam: North Holland.

O'Donnell, O, van Doorslaer E and van Ourti T (2015). "Health and Inequality" in A.B. Atkinson and F.J. Bourguignon (eds.) Handbook of Income Distribution volume 2B, chapter 17, Amsterdam: North Holland.

O'Donnell, O, van Doorslaer, E, Wagstaff, A and Lindelöw, M (2008). *Analyzing Health Equity using Household Survey Data: A Guide to Techniques and Their Implementation*, Washington, D.C.: The World Bank.

Assessment: Oral presentation of a computational assignment on the last day of the course, plus a written report on the assignment submitted after the course. The assignment will consist of an empirical exercise on measurement and explanation of health inequality. Specific questions will be posed that require generation and interpretation of results. Datasets will be made available but students are encouraged to use their own data. Assessment is based on both the oral presentation and the written report. A document that describes the content of the assignment will be distributed.

Teaching language: English