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JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL *of* PUBLIC HEALTH

Course Introduction

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Johns Hopkins University

Outline

- Introduction to the instructor
- Introduction to the course
- Expectations

Introduction to the Instructor

- Undergraduate training in health policy
- Graduate training in economics and health services research
- Entire career spent at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- Some research on obesity
- A lot of research on economics and cost-effectiveness
- Teaching economics and cost-effectiveness

Introduction to the Course

- Course began as an institute course
 - Met the needs of offering something on economics in an institute setting
 - Take a topic of popular interest in public health and interpret it through an economic lens
 - Make a small number of economic concepts accessible to an audience to learn the logic and intuition of the concept rather than teaching a course focused on graphs and equations

Course Structure

- Six brief lectures
- Two LiveTalks
- Practice policy analyses
- Brief quizzes
- Final assignment

Brief Lectures

- Economics overview
- Basic facts of obesity
- Consumers, incentives, and weight
- Limitations of consumer sovereignty
- Who benefits from obesity

LiveTalks

- Discuss more recent data on obesity
- Discuss more local data on obesity
- Consider policies that have been tried in different places
- Analyze policies that have been tried in different places
- Use the economic concepts and economic language to explain behaviors we observe
- Preceded by the use of a Wiki to prepare for the LiveTalk

Practice Policy Analyses

- Consider a policy on your own rather than as part of a group Wiki or the LiveTalk
- Read the TA/instructor version of the same analysis
- Compare

Quizzes

- Recognition of the use of basic economic terminology

Expectations Regarding Feedback

- Use the BBS to ask questions
 - Ask early
- Timely feedback on questions from TA/instructor
- Timely feedback on assignments from TA/instructor

What to Do to Get a Good Grade?

- Listen to all the lectures—this is a part of participation
- Participate in (or at least listen to the archive for) all LiveTalks—this is a part of participation
- Participate in the brief small group assignment—this is a part of participation
- Try all the quizzes—also a part of participation
- Try the practice policy analyses—this is not a part of the grade but will be useful for getting a good grade on the final assignment
- Do the final assignment on time