

**Economics 469**  
**Economics of Global Health and Population**  
**Spring 2008**  
[preliminary]

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Office hours:  
Monday 1:30 - 2:30 pm  
Tuesday 2 - 4 pm  
and by appointment

**Course description:** This course examines issues in global health and population in developing and formerly socialist countries, with a focus on econometric methods and applied microeconomic theory. The principal goal is for students to become proficient in evaluating empirical analyses and in applying economic reasoning to health- and population-related issues. The course covers selected topics in two related areas: (1) the economics of health, and (2) the economics of population and the family. The topics we will cover in the economics of health include the determinants and consequences of changing population health, approaches to the design and evaluation of policies to address health problems, mortality and economic crisis, and the economics of HIV/AIDS. The topics we will discuss in the economics of population include intrahousehold allocation, marriage and fertility, causes and consequences of unbalanced sex ratios, the economics of abortion, and gender discrimination.

**Prerequisites:** Economics 251 and Economics 255

**Course requirements:** Students will be evaluated on the basis of class participation, class presentations, short evaluative papers on journal articles, and an empirical research paper:

|                                    |     |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Class participation and attendance | 25% |
| Class presentations (3)            | 15% |
| Short papers (4)                   | 20% |
| Research paper                     | 40% |

**Course materials:** Course readings are primarily from academic journals. Articles marked with a \* on the reading list are required while all other readings are optional. There is no textbook for this course, but it will be useful to have an econometrics textbook such as Wooldridge's *Introductory Econometrics* for reference. In addition, some useful articles on econometric methods include:

Murray, Michael P. (2006), "Avoiding Invalid Instruments and Coping With Weak Instruments," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20(4): 111-132.

Angrist, Joshua and Alan Krueger (1999), "Empirical Strategies in Labor Economics," Ch. 23 in Ashenfelter and Card, *Handbook of Labor Economics*, Vol. 3..

Duflo, Esther, Rachel Glennerster and Michael Kremer, "A Toolkit for Randomized Evaluations," *Handbook of Development Economics* Vol. 4 (forthcoming).

## Course outline and assigned readings

### I. OVERVIEW: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON POPULATION AND THE CURRENT STATE OF GLOBAL HEALTH AND POPULATION

Deaton, Angus (2006), "Global Patterns of Income and Health: Facts, Interpretations, and Policies," NBER Working Paper 12735.

Ronald Lee (2003), "The Demographic Transition: Three Centuries of Fundamental Change," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17(4), 167-190.

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson (2003), "Disease and Development in Historical Perspective," *Journal of the European Economic Association* 2(1).

### II. ECONOMICS OF HEALTH

#### A. Theory: human capital and health

Smith (1999) "Healthy Bodies and Thick Wallets: The Dual Relationship Between Health and Economic Status," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 13(2): 145-166.

Grossman (1972) "On the Concept of Health Capital and the Demand for Health," *Journal of Political Economy*, 80(2): 223-255.

#### B. Effect of health on economic development

##### 1. The effects of poor health: nutrition and productivity

Straus, John (1986), "Does Better Nutrition Raise Farm Productivity?" *Journal of Political Economy*, 297-320.

Subramanian, Shankar and Angus Deaton (1996), "The Demand for Food and Calories," *Journal of Political Economy* 104(1): 133-162.

Banerjee, Abhijit V., Angus Deaton and Esther Duflo (2004), "Wealth, Health and Health Services in Rural Rajasthan," *American Economic Review* 94(2): 326-330.

##### 2. The effects of poor health: schooling and health

Glewwe, Paul, Hanan G. Jacoby, and Elizabeth M. King (2001), "Early Childhood Nutrition and Academic Achievement: A Longitudinal Analysis," *Journal of Public Economics*, 81(3): 345-68.

Maccini, Sharon and Dean Yang (2006), "Under the Weather: Health, Schooling and Socioeconomic Consequences of Early-Life Rainfall," mimeo, University of Michigan.

Miguel, Edward and Michael Kremer (2004), "Worms: Identifying Impacts on Education and Health in the Presence of Treatment Externalities," *Econometrica* 72(1): 159-218.

Bleakley, Hoyt (2007), "Disease and Development: Evidence from Hookworm Eradication in the American South," *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122(1): 73-118.

### C. Mortality and health effects of financial crises

Cutler, David, Angus Deaton and Adrian Lleras-Muney (2007), "The Determinants of Mortality," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*

Cutler, David, et al (2002), "Financial Crisis, Health Outcomes and Aging: Mexico in the 1980s and 1990s," *Journal of Public Economics*, 84(2): 279-303.

Brainerd, Elizabeth and David Cutler (2005), "Autopsy on an Empire: Understanding Mortality in Russia and the Former Soviet Union," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.

### D. Economics of HIV/AIDS

#### 1. Consequences

Canning, David (2006), "The Economics of HIV/AIDS in Low-Income Countries: The Case for Prevention," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 20(3): 121-142.

Young, Alwyn (2005), "The Gift of the Dying: The Tragedy of AIDS and the Welfare of Future African Generations," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

#### 2. Interventions: what works?

Kremer, Michael (1996), "Integrating Behavioral Choice into Epidemiological Models of AIDS," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 549-573.

Oster, Emily (2007), "Sexually Transmitted Infections, Sexual Behavior and the HIV/AIDS Epidemic," mimeo.

### III. ECONOMICS OF POPULATION AND THE FAMILY

#### A. The economic approach to the family: theory

Becker, Gary S. (1993), "Nobel Lecture: The Economic Way of Looking at Behavior," *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(3): 385 - 409.

Becker, Gary S. (1991), *A Treatise on the Family*, Chapters 1 and 2 (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, enlarged edition).

Bergstrom, Theodore C. (1997), "A Survey of Theories of the Family," in Mark R. Rosenzweig and Oded Stark, editors, *Handbook of Population and Family Economics*, Vol. 1A, pp. 21 - 79.

Behrman, Jere R. (1997), "Intrahousehold Distribution and the Family," in Mark R. Rosenzweig and Oded Stark, editors, *Handbook of Population and Family Economics*, Vol. 1A, pp. 125-87/

#### B. Bargaining within families and intrahousehold allocation

Thomas, Duncan (1990), "Intra-household Resource Allocation: An Inferential Approach," *Journal of Human Resources* 25(4): 635-664.

Lundberg, Shelly J., Robert A. Pollak and Terence J. Wales (1996), "Do Husbands and Wives Pool their Resources? Evidence from the United Kingdom Child Benefit," *Journal of Human Resources*, 32(4): 463-480.

Duflo, Esther (2003), "Grandmothers and Granddaughters: Old-Age Pensions and Intrahousehold Allocation in South Africa," *World Bank Economic Review*, 17(1): 1-25.

#### C. Causes and consequences of unbalanced sex ratios

Sen, Amartya (1990), "More than 100 Million Women Are Missing," *New York Review of Books* (December 20).

Coale, A.J. (1991), "Excess Female Mortality and the Balance of the Sexes in the Population: An Estimate of the Number of 'Missing Females'," *Population and Development Review* 17(3): 517-523.

Rao, Vijayendra (1993), "The Rising Price of Husbands: A Hedonic Analysis of Dowry Increases in Rural India," *Journal of Political Economy*, 101(4): 666-77.

Oster, Emily (2005), "Hepatitis B and the Case of the Missing Women," *Journal of Political Economy*.

Qian, Nancy (2006), "Missing Women and the Price of Tea in China: The Effect of Sex-Specific Income on Sex Imbalance," mimeo, Brown University.

Rose, Elaina (1999), "Consumption Smoothing and Excess Female Mortality in Rural India," *Review of Economics and Statistics* 81(1): 41-49.

#### D. Determinants and consequences of fertility change

##### 1. Theory

Becker, Gary S. (1981), "Chapter 5: The Demand for Children," *A Treatise on the Family* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press).

Bergstrom, Theodore C. (1996), "Economics in a Family Way," *Journal of Economic Literature*, 34(4), 1903-34.

Schultz, T. Paul (1997), "Demand for Children in Low-Income Countries," in Mark R. Rosenzweig and Oded Stark, editors, *Handbook of Population and Family Economics*, Volume 1A, pp. 349 - 430.

Schultz, T. Paul (2001), "The Fertility Transition: Economic Explanations," Yale University mimeo.

##### 2. Effects of population policies

Seltzer, J.R. (2002), "Chapter two: The Origins and Evolution of Family Planning Programs in Developing Countries," in *The Origins and Evolution of Family Planning Programs in Developing Countries*.

Rosenzweig, Mark R. and Junsen Zhang (2006), "Do Population Control Policies Induce More Human Capital Investment? Twins, Birthweight, and China's 'One Child' Policy," IZA Discussion Paper 2082.

Pritchett, Lant H. (1994), "Desired Fertility and the Impact of Population Policies," *Population and Development Review* 20(1), 1-55.

Bongaarts, J. (1994), "The Impact of Population Policies: Comment," *Population and Development Review* 20(3): 616-620.

### 3. Fertility, education and income

Osili, Una Okonkwo and Bridget Terry Long (forthcoming), “Does Female Schooling Reduce Fertility? Evidence from Nigeria,” *Journal of Development Economics*.

Schultz, T. Paul, “Fertility and Income,” Economic Growth Center, Yale University, October 2005.

### 4. Economics of abortion

Pop-Eleches, Cristian (2006), “The Impact of an Abortion Ban on Socioeconomic Outcomes of Children: Evidence from Romania,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 114(4): 744-773.

Lin, Ming-Jen, Jin-Tan Liu and Nancy Qian (2007), “Missing Women More and More: The Effect of Access to Abortion on Sex Ratios at Birth and Excess Female Mortality,” unpublished manuscript.

### E. Future of global health and population

Lutz, W., W. Sanderson and S. Scherbov (2001), “The End of World Population Growth,” *Nature* 412(6846): 543-5.