

International Health and Development 2009

INHL 611: Health Economics for Developing Countries

Learning objectives:

At the end of the course students will be able to

1. Define/describe supply and demand, consumer theory, production and costs and their rationales for explaining basic economic phenomena and be able to perform basic numerical analyses using these concepts,
2. Describe the strengths and limitations of market processes for explaining the functioning (or non-functioning) of health systems in developing countries,
3. Describe the principles of insurance and insurance markets (including risk aversion, moral hazard, and adverse selection), and able to explain the limitations and strengths of various insurance and pre-payment schemes as they relate to developing country health sectors,
4. Describe the trade-offs between equity and efficiency,
5. List the basic causes of market failure (monopolies, externalities, public goods, insurance markets) and the rationales and limitations of government interventions in health care markets,
6. Use, with confidence, the basic principles of cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis so as to develop the capacity to implement or assess basic economic evaluations,
7. Relate basic economic concepts to actual developing country experiences – both positive and negative,
8. Compare and contrast different health sector reforms in different developing countries and, where relevant, developed countries, and,
9. Analyze current and emerging health care issues in developing countries using the perspectives offered by the economic discipline.