" Health, Income and Work Across the Life Cycle"

Health is strongly correlated with socioeconomic characteristics such as education, income and wealth and work status. Understanding these correlations is a major challenge for economics and other social sciences. This course explores the nature, causes and consequences of the association between health and socioeconomic factors, in particular work and income. The course consists of two parts. It starts with some simple observations in empirical data about the relationship between health, income and work and how this varies over the life cycle. This first descriptive evidence motivates a brief extension on the model of Health Capital introduced by Michael Grossman (1972) and some models derived from this seminal paper. Next we move to empirical models for health income and work at adult ages. We will discuss some papers in this area that aim to assess causal relationships between health, income and work and possible mechanisms underlying these causal channels. In this first part we finally address issues relating to the measurement of health, consequences for empirical research. In the second part of the course we look at the hypothesis that health and socioeconomic outcomes in adult life and old age are the result of long run mechanisms that originate very early in life. This includes the so called Barker hypothesis that postulates that there is a direct, biological link from early life circumstances to later life health and other hypotheses derived from, for instance, Life Course theory that postulates that early life conditions may be the start of a chains of events leading to old age health.

**Suggested reading (preliminary and incomplete)**

Part I

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Grossman, Michael (1972). On the concept of health capital and the demand for health. [Journal of Political Economy](http://www.refworks.com/refworks2/default.aspx?r=references|MainLayout::init), 80, 2, 223-55

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Kapteyn, A. Smith, J.P. and A. Van Soest (2007), "Vignettes and Self-Reports of Work Disability in the United States and the Netherlands." *American Economic Review*, 97(1): 461-473.

Till Stowasser & Florian Heiss & Daniel McFadden & Joachim Winter, 2011. “[Healthy, Wealthy and Wise?” Revisited: An Analysis of the Causal Pathways from Socioeconomic Status to Health](http://ideas.repec.org/h/nbr/nberch/12443.html),"[NBER Chapters](http://ideas.repec.org/s/nbr/nberch.html), in: Investigations in the Economics of Aging, pages 267-317 National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. <http://www.nber.org/papers/w17273.pdf>

Smith, J.P. (1999). Healthy bodies and thick wallets: The dual relation between health and socioeconomic status. *Journal of Economic Perspectives, 13*, 145-66.

Sullivan, D., and T. Von Wachter (2009). Job displacement and mortality: An analysis using administrative data . *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 125, pp. 1256 – 1306.

Part II

Almond, Douglas (2006), Is the 1918 Influenza Pandemic Over? Long Term Effects of In Utero Influenza exposure in the Post-1940 U.S. Population, *Journal of Political Economy*, Vol 114, N04, pp672-712

Van den Berg, Gerard J., Maarten Lindeboom, and France Portrait (2006). "Economic Conditions Early in Life and Individual Mortality." *American Economic Review*, 96(1): 290–302.

Dehejia, Rajeev, and Adriana Lleras-Muney. "Booms, busts, and babies' health." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 119.3 (2004): 1091-1130.

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