

**Poverty and Access to Health**  
**Independent Study (3 Credit Hours)**  
**Undergraduate Course**  
**ECON 4910: Asher Baden**  
**Spring 2021**

**Instructor**

Nora Lustig  
Samuel Z. Stone Professor of Latin American Economics  
204 Tilton Hall  
[nlustig@tulane.edu](mailto:nlustig@tulane.edu)

Sara Toomey  
Associate Professor  
Harvard Medical School  
[sara.toomey@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:sara.toomey@childrens.harvard.edu)

**Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to review the literature on health care access and quality in the United States and to address how income poverty and inequality are determinants thereof. The course will rely on a review of the literature (qualitative analysis) and quantitative analysis using econometrics.

**Pre-requisites:** Econometrics, **Microeconomics**, Public Finance and Public Policy.

**Objective**

The objective of the course is to train students in the analysis of poverty and inequality measures, health economics, and health care quality research methods.

**Learning Outcomes**

1. Describe the U.S. health care system.
2. Apply econometrics to analyze the effect of income and other factors (e.g., education and race) on health care access and quality (measured by readmission rates, primary-versus urgent-care usage, number of hospital visits, etc.).
3. Explain the determinants of findings related to access and quality (i.e., why does population “X” exhibit a higher ratio of urgent care to primary care visits compared to population “Y”?).

**Program Outcomes**

This course contributes to the program outcomes for the BA degree in Economics by allowing students to demonstrate competency in economic disciplines: econometrics, public policy, and microeconomics.

**Technology**

STATA will be used for data analysis.

**Evaluation and Grading**

The course will be conducted through a series of progress reports submitted every three weeks culminating in a term paper meeting the following criteria:

- Sole authorship by an individual student.
- A paper of at least 3500 words (15 pages) of expository, analytical writing.

- First draft due: TBD
- Final version due: TBD

### Academic Honesty

All students must be familiar with and abide by Tulane's Code of Academic Conduct, which is available online at <http://tulane.edu/college/code.cfm>

### Readings

More references will be added throughout the course.

- <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/poverty.pdf>
- <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-268.html> (Data)
- <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2019/demo/p60-267.html> (Data)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/shs/tables.htm> (Data)
- <https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/chart-book-economic-security-and-health-insurance-programs-reduce>
- <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2020/demo/p60-270.html> (Data)
- <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/poverty> (Review)
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5765488/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12765704/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16914705/>
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ssqu.12098>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22583341/>
- <https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/data-search/Search-the-Data#topic-area=3495> (Data)
- <http://webarchive.urban.org/UploadedPDF/2000178-How-are-Income-and-Wealth-Linked-to-Health-and-Longevity.pdf> (Review)
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33523745/>
- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33515192/>
- <https://bmcpubhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2458-11-638>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5858378/>
- [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341748030\\_Evaluation\\_of\\_Rural\\_Public\\_Libraries\\_to\\_Address\\_Telemedicine\\_Inequities](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341748030_Evaluation_of_Rural_Public_Libraries_to_Address_Telemedicine_Inequities)