

ECONOMICS OF HEALTH CARE

IN THE TRUMP ERA

Course Syllabus

This course highlights key features of the health care system through the lens of economics and in consideration of the challenges posed by the Trump administration. It builds on courses I teach at UC Berkeley on economics, health policy, and innovation in the life sciences. Everyone is passionate about health care, so this four-week course will be structured as an interactive seminar with emphasis on discussion and current events.

Instructor

James Robinson

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James Robinson is Leonard D. Schaeffer Professor of Health Economics at the University of California Berkeley, where his research and teaching focus on the biotechnology, medical device, insurance, and health care delivery sectors. He has published three books and over 150 papers in peer-reviewed journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA, and Health Affairs. He serves as thought and content leader for tours by US healthcare executives of health systems in other nations.

Course Schedule

- **Economics of insurance (September 15)**
 - Principles of market insurance
 - Employment-based and individually purchased insurance
 - Impact of reduced subsidies for the California insurance exchange
- **Social insurance (September 22)**
 - Principles of social versus market insurance
 - Medicare and Medicaid (Medi-Cal)
 - The One Big Beautiful Act
- **Organization of care (September 29)**

- Economics of organizational integration and market consolidation.
- Hospital mergers and acquisition of physician practices
- Integration of all with all: insurers, PBM, medical groups, specialty pharmacy
- **Biomedical innovation (October 6)**
 - Financing of R&D investment: push and pull mechanisms
 - Global competition in the life sciences
 - Trump administration cuts to NIH, FDA, import tariffs on drugs, ‘most favored nation’ drug pricing