

**Mental Health Economics and Policy**  
**Alison Cuellar, PhD**  
**Winter term 2024/25**

Alison Cuellar aevanscu@gmu.edu

Instructor: Alison Cuellar (aevanscu@gmu.edu)  
Class times: Varying class times (WST, Online-lectures if necessary)  
Class size: Max. 15 students  
Kick-off meeting: 7.11.2024 10:00 - 12:00, Room: **WST-B.10.02**  
Credit points: 6 ECTS (master)  
Language: English  
Office hours: By appointment.

For further information regarding the course, please contact Prof. Cuellar.

### Course Description

Description: The complexity and chronicity of mental health conditions, particularly serious mental illness, pose significant policy challenges. This has become even more evident since the COVID-19 pandemic. In this course we will examine economic considerations in the prevention of mental illness, design of health insurance benefits, and in the provision, organization and use of services for mental disorders in several countries. We further discuss empirical strategies, data and causal identification.

### Course objectives:

- Offer students an understanding of unique characteristics of mental health conditions, including their prevention, their treatment, and impacts on human capital formation, relative to other health conditions and implications for economic analysis and policy development
- Provide an overview of modern economic research on key mental health policy issues.
- Motivate students to study the economics of mental health and policy with a clear understanding of causal relationships.

### Grading

The final grade is composed of the grades for the written short term paper and 1 individual presentation:

### Term Paper

The term paper should not exceed 15 pages, excluding the title page, references, figures, and tables.

- Individual presentation 30%
- Term Paper: 70%

7.11.2024 10:00-12:00 Overview of topics, general information, questions-Overview of **Mental Health and Burden of Illness**

14.11.2024 10:00-12:00 **Burden of Illness (continued) and Prevention of Mental Illness;**

21.11.2024 10:00-12:00 **Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Treatment Approaches; Characteristics of MH Disorders and Human Capital Formation**

28.11.2024 10:00-12:00 **Parental Conditions and Children's Mental Health (and vice versa)**

03.12.2024 23.59 **Working Age Adults, Workplace, and Mental Health**

10.12.2024 10:00-12:00 **Health Insurance and Mental Health**

17.12.2024 10:00-12:00 **MH Treatment and Outcomes**

Outline of Term Paper due

~~24.12.2024 Holiday~~

~~31.12.2024 Holiday~~

9.1.2025 10:00-12:00 **MH Treatment and Labor Market Impacts**

16.1.25 10:00-12:00 **Treatment Spillover Effects to Other Sectors**

23.1.2025 10:00-12:00 **Neighborhoods, School Interventions, and Mental Health**

30.1.2025 10:00-12:00 **The Opioid Epidemic in the US.**

### Submission Guidelines

Please use the following naming conventions for the files you submit:

Outline: \\_FirstnameLastname\\_outline}

Paper: \\_FirstnameLastname\\_paper}

Assignments: \\_FirstnameLastname\\_assignment\\_firstauthor}