OVERVIEW
This course examines the structure of health care systems in different countries, focusing on financing, pricing and reimbursement, delivery systems and adoption of new technologies. We study the relative roles of private sector and public sector insurers and providers, and the effect of system design on cost, quality, efficiency and equity of medical services. Some issues we address are normative: Which systems and which public/private sector mixes are better at achieving efficiency and equity? Other issues are positive: How do these different systems deal with the tough choices, such as decisions about new technologies? Our main focus is on the prototypical systems in four large OECD countries--Germany, Canada, Japan, and the United Kingdom--but we also look at other countries with interesting systems –including Italy, the Netherlands, Chile, India, and Singapore – and at developing countries. We will draw lessons for the US from foreign experience and vice versa.

READINGS
Readings are available on WebCafe (https://webcafe.wharton.upenn.edu/eRoom/hcmg/859-fa10-1). The same readings are available individually or as an electronic or printed course pack via Study.Net (http://www.study.net/r_mat.asp?crs_id=30016619). All readings are required, unless marked on the syllabus as “**Optional”. You are expected to come to class having read the required readings for that class.

WEBCAFÉ ACCESS
Students who have a Wharton account will automatically have access the webCafé once they register for the class. Students who do not yet have a Wharton account can create one at http://accounts.wharton.upenn.edu. If you have problems, contact the webCafé consultants at the WCIT office or online. Class handouts and other materials will be posted on the webCafé.

CLASS PARTICIPATION
The quality and quantity of your in-class comments and questions are important. Ten percent of your final course grade is allocated to your contribution to class discussion. Bring a name card to each class in order to guarantee you receive credit for your contributions.

QUIZZES
There will be approximately three very brief in-class quizzes covering the basic concepts from assigned readings. Quiz dates will not be announced in advance.
TERM PAPER AND PRESENTATION
Students will write a brief (about 10 pages) paper related to the health care system in one or more countries. Possible topics include: how a particular country has dealt with a costly technology or service, such as stents, long term care or electronic medical records; the role of private vs. public sector in insurance or service provision; how a country deals with specific health issues, such as smoking etc. We will provide a list of possible topics early in the semester, but encourage you to think of an issue you are interested in personally. You may work in groups of up to five students, or individually. The US can be used as a benchmark for comparison but the US should NOT be the main focus of the paper. The paper should not duplicate material covered in class or in the assigned readings. The paper is due in class December 1st (NO EXCEPTIONS). In addition to the hard copy submitted in class please email a copy of your paper to Jennifer Laverty jlaverty@wharton.upenn.edu. The papers will be presented and discussed in class.

MIDTERM EXAM
A take-home, short-answer midterm exam will be scheduled in the middle of the semester (exact distribution and return date/time TBA). The midterm will be shorter but similar in format to the in-class final exam.

FINAL EXAM
A final exam is scheduled on the University exam date for 10:30 M/W classes (Wednesday, December 22, 9-11am). The final will include a choice of several short essay questions and several short-answer/quiz questions. A sample exam and response will be posted on webcafe.

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

September 8: Introduction and Overview
- “The Health of Nations” The Economist, July 15, 2004

September 13: Trends and Framework of Analysis
September 15: Germany I: Overview and Recent Insurance Reforms

- Zander et al. "Health Policy in Germany After the Election” Health Policy Monitor (Nov. 2009)

September 20: Germany II: Reimbursement Reforms, Disease Management and LTC


September 22: The US Health Care System: Overview and Proposed Reforms

- OECD, Ch. 3 “Health Care Reform” in Economic Survey: The United States. pp.127-137
- The Economist (2009). “This is going to hurt.” (June 25, 2009).

**Optional US background: Kaiser Family Foundation fact sheets (two pages each)

- “Medicare at a Glance” (January 2010)
- “Medicare Advantage” (November 2009)
- “The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit” (November 2009)
- “The Medicaid Program at a Glance” (June 2010)
- “The Uninsured and the Difference Health Insurance Makes” (September 2009)
September 27: Canada I: Overview and Structure

- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. “Health Systems in Transition: Canada - Section 1.2: Geography and Sociodemography “(3pp.)

September 29: Canada II: Cost Control and Current Issues

- The Economist (2010). "Follow the leader" (July 8, 2010).

October 4: United Kingdom I: Background and the Internal Market


October 6: United Kingdom II: Recent Reforms and Issues

- The Economist (2010). “Once more into the ring.” (July 15, 2010).

October 11: Fall Break: No Class
October 13:  Rationing by Cost-Effectiveness Analysis


October 18:  Latin America: Chile  Prof. Mark Pauly, Wharton


October 20:  Singapore:  Overview and Medical Savings Accounts – Prof. Mark Pauly, Wharton


October 25:  Regulation of Pharmaceuticals I:  Prototypes

**October 27: Regulation of Pharmaceuticals II: Differential Pricing, TRIPs, Generics etc.**


**PD Check recent PPRs for update on Germany, risk sharing in Italy and emerging markets**

**November 1: Health Care in Developing Countries I: General and China**

- World Health Organization (2006). Priorities in Health: Chapters 2,3,4,5 NOTE: SKIM.
- **Hanson, K. and W. Jack (2010). “Incentives could induce Ethiopian doctors and nurses to work in rural settings.” Health Affairs 29(8):1452-60 (August 2010).**

**November 5: Health Care in Developing Countries II: Brazil and Mexico**


**November 8: India**

- Knowledge@Wharton (2010). “Narayana Hrudayalaya: A Model for Accessible, Affordable Health Care?”
November 10: Japan I: Background and Legal Issues - Prof. Arnold Rosoff, Wharton

- Other readings TBD

November 15: Japan II: HC System Structure and Cost Control. Prof. Naoki Ikekami, Keio Univ.

- OECD Ch. 3 “Health-care reform in Japan: controlling costs, improving quality” 2009.

November 17: Private Health Insurance: A Variant of the Public Option? – Alex Preker, World Bank (TBC)

- IFC World Bank. The Business of Health in Africa. pp. vii to 33 (i.e., Executive Summary through the end of Section 2)

November 22: The Italian National Health Service – Prof. Eugenio Anessi, Catholic University, Rome


November 24: What Do Cross-National Comparisons Prove?

November 29: Recap and review + Quality Monitoring/P4P + Rationing by Waiting


December 1: Student Presentations I
Papers Due, 10:30 (email and hard copy in class)

December 6: Student Presentations II

December 8: Student Presentations III

December 16: 9am-11am FINAL EXAM Location TBA