THE WHARTON SCHOOL
University of Pennsylvania

COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS (HCMG 859/HCMG 204)
FALL 2011

Monday/Wednesday; 10:30 - 11:50 AM
Lauder Fisher Auditorium

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Office Hours: By Appointment (Colonial Penn Center, 4th Floor)

Administrative Assistant: TBA
Office: Colonial Penn Center, Room G-1 (Basement Level)

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
All course readings are required unless marked as optional on the syllabus. The main concepts/takeaways from readings will be discussed in class and are fair game for quiz and exam questions. You will not be tested on minutiae, e.g., specific dates, names, or minor statistics. Every student enrolled in the class must pay the copyright fee on Study.net (<$10). Study.net records how many/which students pay this fee. Once you pay the fee you have several options to access the course readings:

A.) All readings are posted on webCafé in lecture-specific folders.¹ You can view or print the readings on your own from webCafé.
B.) You can also view/print individual readings via Study.net.² This is not recommended due to stability and quality issues at Study.net.
C.) You have the option to order a printed bulkpack (≈$65). Bulkpacks are ordered via Study.net and picked up at Wharton Reprographics in SHDH.

The recommended reading order for each lecture is as indicated on the syllabus reading list below. Please keep in mind that last-minute updates and changes will be available only on webCafé. We will email the class whenever a reading change is made.

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¹ URL: https://webcafe.wharton.upenn.edu/eRoom/hcmg/859-fa11-1
² URL: http://www.study.net/r_mat.asp?crs_id=30021503
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 November 30th** (NO EXCEPTIONS). In addition to the hard copy submitted in class please email a copy of your paper (email address TBA). 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 (Monday, December 19, 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

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<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

September 7: Introduction and Overview


September 12: Trends and Framework of Analysis


September 14: The US Health Care System: Overview and Proposed Reforms

- The Economist (2009). “This is going to hurt.” (June 25, 2009).
- **Optional** US background: Kaiser Family Foundation fact sheets (two pages each, all on webCafé): “Medicare at a Glance” (Jan 2010); “Medicare Advantage” (Nov 2009); “The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit” (Nov 2009); “The Medicaid Program at a Glance” (June 2010); “The Uninsured and the Difference Health Insurance Makes” (Sept 2009).

September 19: Germany I: Overview and Recent Insurance Reforms

September 21: Germany II: Reimbursement Reforms, Disease Management and LTC

- Campbell, J. Ikekami, N. and M. Gibson. (2010). "Lessons from Public Long Term Care Insurance in Germany and Japan " Health Affairs 29(1):87-95. **NOTE: Focus on Germany.**

September 26: Canada I: Overview and Structure

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

September 28: Canada II: Public/Private and other Issues

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

October 3: United Kingdom I: Background and the Internal Market


October 5: United Kingdom II: Recent Reforms and Issues – Prof. Alistair McGuire, LSE (TBC)
o The Economist (2010). “Once more into the ring.” (July 15, 2010).

October 10: Fall Break: No Class

October 12: Rationing by Cost-Effectiveness Analysis


October 17: Latin America: Chile – Prof. Mark Pauly, Wharton


October 19: Singapore: Overview and Medical Savings Accounts – Prof. Mark Pauly, Wharton


October 24: Health Care in Emerging Markets I: China


**October 26: Latin America II: Brazil – Dr. Leandro Reis, MD, Executive Director, National Private Health Insurance Agency (TBC)**


**October 31: Health Care in Low-income Countries: Setting Priorities; Public-private partnership**


**Optional** World Health Organization (2006). *Priorities in Health: Chapters 2,3,4,5*

**NOTE: SKIM. ON WEBCAFÉ ONLY.**

**November 2: Health Care in Emerging Markets II: India**


**November 7: Japan I: HC System Structure and Cost Control – Prof. Naoki Ikegami, Keio Univ.**


**November 9: Japan II: Background and Legal Issues – Prof. Arnold Rosoff, Wharton**

- Other readings TBD

**November 14: Regulation of Pharmaceuticals I: Prototypes**


**November 16: Regulation of Pharmaceuticals II: Differential Pricing, TRIPS, Generics etc.**


**November 21: The Italian National Health Service – Prof. Eugenio Anessi, Catholic University, Rome**


**November 23: Determinants of Health Outcomes: More than Medical Care?**


**November 28: Recap and review + Quality Monitoring/P4P + Rationing by Waiting**


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

**December 5: Student Presentations II**

**December 7: Student Presentations III**

**December 19: 9am-11am_FINAL EXAM Location TBA**