THE WHARTON SCHOOL  
University of Pennsylvania  

COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS (HCMG 859/HCMG 204)  
FALL 2012  

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

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Office Hours: Monday 3-4pm or by appointment (Colonial Penn Center 207)  

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

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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; organization of delivery systems; reimbursement of physicians, hospitals and pharmaceuticals; 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? We focus in detail on Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan, which represent four prototypical systems widely used in OECD countries. We then look at other countries with interesting systems – including Italy, Singapore, Chile, Brazil, India and China – and at major cross-cutting issues such as life-expectancy, infant mortality rates, pay for performance and service quality. 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.  

A.) All freely available readings and those accessible through Penn Libraries are posted in the files section of Canvas in lecture-specific folders. You can view or print the readings on your own from Canvas: https://wharton.instructure.com.  

B.) All copyright protected readings require payment of a copyright fee. These must be ordered through Study.Net, which may be accessed using the link on the Canvas course home page. Non-MBA students must pay this fee to Study.Net. For MBA students, it is already collected through tuition.  

C.) You have the option to order a printed copy of the Study.Net course pack. Course packs are ordered via Study.net and picked up at Wharton Reprographics.  

We recommend that you read the assigned articles for each lecture in the order indicated on the syllabus, which reflects the historical evolution of each country. Please keep in mind that last-minute updates and changes will be available only on Canvas. We will post an announcement via Canvas whenever a reading change is made.
“International Profiles of Health Care Systems, 2011,” Commonwealth Fund Pub. No. 1562 provides overviews of several countries that we cover (Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the U.S.), as well as several other OECD countries. This is posted in the Readings file on Canvas.

CANVAS ACCESS
Students who have a Wharton account will automatically have access to Canvas 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 Wharton courseware consultants at the WCIT office or online. Class handouts, updates to the syllabus and other materials will be posted on Canvas.

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 to help us learn your name and guarantee you receive credit for your contributions.**

QUIZZES
There will be approximately three, 5 minute in-class quizzes covering 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. You may work in groups of up to five students, or individually. 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. 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 21 (NO EXCEPTIONS).** In addition to the hard copy submitted in class please submit an electronic copy of your paper via Canvas. 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 (**Thursday, December 13, 9-11am**). The final will include a choice of several short essay questions and several short-answer/quiz questions. A sample exam will be posted on Canvas.

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 5: Introduction and Overview

September 10: Trends and Framework of Analysis

September 12: The US Health Care System: Overview and Proposed Reforms

**Optional backgrounders **

September 17: Germany I: Overview and Recent Insurance Reforms
- Oduncu, F.S. (2012). “Priority-setting, rationing and cost-effectiveness in the German health care system.” *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*
September 19: Germany II: Pharmaceuticals, 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 24: United Kingdom I: Background and the Internal Market

September 26: United Kingdom II: Recent Proposed Reforms; PPPs; IT

October 1: Canada I: Overview and Structure
- European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies. “Health Systems in Transition: Canada - Section 1.2: Geography and Sociodemography” (3p.)

October 3: The Italian National Health Service – Prof. Eugenio Anessi, Catholic University, Rome
October 8: Singapore: Overview and Medical Savings Accounts – Prof. Mark Pauly, Wharton

October 10: Latin America I: Chile – Erin Taylor

October 15: Canada II: Public/Private; Pharmaceuticals; IT
  o The Economist (2010). “Follow the leader” (July 8, 2010).

October 17: Rationing by Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

October 22: Fall Break

October 24: Regulation of Pharmaceuticals I: Prototypes
October 29: Latin America II: Brazil – Dr. Leandro Reis, MD, Executive Director, National Private Health Insurance Agency


October 31: Health Care in Emerging Markets I: Insurance options; Priority Setting


November 5: Health Care in Emerging Markets III: India – Ashoke Bhattachariya, PhD


November 7: Health Care in Emerging Markets II: China


November 12: Regulation of Pharmaceuticals II: TRIPS, Differential Pricing, Generics


**November 14: Determinants of Health Outcomes: More than Medical Care?**

**November 19: Recap and Review + Quality Monitoring/P4P + Rationing by Waiting**
- The Economist “Medicare reform: A healthy difference.” 8/18/12

**November 21: Student Presentations I**
- Papers Due by 10:30am (electronic copy via Canvas and hard copy in class)

**November 26: Student Presentations II**

**November 28: Japan I: Background and Legal Issues – Prof. Arnold Rosoff, Wharton**

**December 3: Japan II: HC System Structure and Cost Control – Prof. Naoki Ikekami, Keio Univ.**

**December 5: Student Presentations III**

**December 13: 9am-11am FINAL EXAM Location TBA**