OVERVIEW
This course examines the structure of health care systems in different countries, focusing on the
design and financing of public and private insurance; organization of care delivery systems;
reimbursement of physicians, hospitals, pharmaceuticals and devices; and adoption of new
technologies and expenditure controls.
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 first on mature
systems, including Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada and Korea, which represent four
prototypical system designs, and Italy and Singapore, which illustrate other interesting approaches.
We also look at middle and low income countries with emerging systems –including Chile, Brazil,
India and China – and at major cross-cutting issues such as life-expectancy and 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. You should just focus on the main
concepts and design features of each country’s system of financing and reimbursement, including
important changes over time. Details on specific dates, names, or minor statistics are not required.

A.) All readings that are available without copyright fees 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://canvas.upenn.edu/.

B.) All copyright protected readings require payment of a copyright fee. These must be ordered
through Study.Net, which may be accessed via Canvas using the link on the course home
page or in the left column. 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 changes over time for each country. “International Profiles of Health Care Systems, 2014” Commonwealth Fund Pub. No. 1645 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, online, or via email (courseware@wharton.upenn.edu). Class handouts, any changes to the schedule or readings, and other materials will be posted on Canvas.

CLASS PARTICIPATION
Class attendance and contributions to in-class discussion are important. Fifteen percent of the final course grade is allocated to class participation. Please bring a name card to each class to help us learn your name and assure that you receive credit for your contributions.

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 four students, or individually. Possible topics include: how a particular country has dealt with a costly technology or service, such as cancer drugs, long term care or electronic medical records; the role of private vs. public sector in insurance or service provision or medical education; 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 a topic of specific interest to you. The US should NOT be the main focus of the paper, although it may be used for comparison. The paper should also not replicate material covered in class or in the assigned readings. The paper is due in class November 19 (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.

CASE WRITE-UP
Students should come to class prepared to discuss all the three assigned cases. In addition, each student is required to write up ONE of the three cases.

FINAL EXAM
A final exam is scheduled on the University exam date. Students may instead take the optional make-up exam on December 8th, during the last class period. 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
- Paper 30%
- Final exam 45%
- Case write-up 10%
- Class participation 15%
CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

**August 27: Introduction and Overview**

**September 1: Trends and Framework of Analysis - Prof. Patricia Danzon**

**September 3: The US Health Care System: Overview and Proposed Reforms – Prof. Patricia Danzon**
- Altman and Frist, "Medicare and Medicaid at 50 Years” JAMA July 28 2015

**Optional backgrounders on the US healthcare system**

**September 8: Germany I: Overview and Recent Insurance Reforms**
- Civitas (revised 2013). "Health Care Systems: Germany”.
**September 10: Germany II: Pharmaceuticals, Disease Management; West German Headache Center Case**
- Case: West German Headache Center: Integrated Migraine Care [Available from Study.Net]

**September 15: United Kingdom I: Background and the Internal Market**

**September 17: United Kingdom II: Recent Reforms**

**September 22: Canada I: Overview and Structure**

**September 24: Canada II: Public/Private: Pharmaceuticals**
- **Optional** Law et al. (2013)."Growth in private payments for health care by Canadian households." *Health Policy* 110:141-146.

**September 29: Korea’s Health Care System**

**October 1: Health Systems in Emerging Markets I: Insurance Options; Provider quality; Priority Setting**

**October 6: Latin America I: Chile**

**October 8: Fall Break**

**October 13: Italian National Health Service – Prof. Eugenio Anessi, Catholic University, Rome**

**October 15: Changing the Organization of Delivery Systems: Public-Private Partnerships**

**October 20: Quality Monitoring; P4P ; Review of Cost Containment**
- Quentin et al. (2013). “Hospital Payment Based on Diagnosis-Related Groups Differs in Europe and Holds Lessons for the US.” *Health Affairs* 32(4) 713-723.
October 22: Rationing by Cost-Effectiveness Analysis

October 27: Regulation of Pharmaceuticals I: Prototypes

October 29: Emerging Markets I: China – Donald D. Yin, Ph.D. Associate Vice President, Center for Observational and Real-world Evidence, Merck & Co.
- “Corruption blights China’s healthcare system.” http://world.time.com/2013/08/02/corruption-blights-chinas-healthcare-system/print

November 3: Singapore: Overview and Medical Savings Accounts – Prof. Mark Pauly
- LKY (2013). “Healthcare Financing: How should Singapore’s MOH shift costs from private pockets to public purse?” NUS.

November 5: Latin America II: Brazil – Dr. Leandro Reis MD, Director, National Private Health Insurance Agency
November 10: Regulation of Pharmaceuticals II: TRIPs, Differential Pricing, Generics


November 12: IT and Electronic Health Records (EHRs); Medical Devices;


**Papers due by 9am (hard copy in class and electronic copy via Canvas)**

November 17: Determinants of Health Outcomes: More than Medical Care?


November 19: Healthcare Globalization; Medical Tourism; Dental Care


November 24: Emerging Markets III: India - Prof. Steve Sammut

- Gupta, “Awareness, Utilization and Financial Implications of RSBY in slum areas of Delhi”, mimeo
- WHO India’s Statistical Profile, 2012
November 26: Thanksgiving Break

December 1: Student Presentations I

December 3: Student Presentations II

December 8: Make-up Final
  o 8:30AM – 10:30AM

December 16: Final
  o 9:00AM – 11:00AM