



HCMG 101 - HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS (1.00 cu)

COURSE SYLLABUS

Spring 2018

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30-2:50 pm

Huntsman Hall F85

Instructor

Genevieve Kanter, PhD
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Teaching Assistants

Jossie Carreras Tartak (MBA candidate)
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Ben Chartock (PhD student)
chartock@wharton.upenn.edu

Office Hours

Instructor

- By appointment on Wednesdays (2-3:30 pm) - make appointments on-line:
<https://gpkanter.youcanbook.me>
 - If you can't be on campus during office hours, you may schedule a telephone appointment during these office hour times. Just indicate that it is a telephone appointment and the best number to reach you.
 - Note that appointment scheduling closes 24 hours before scheduled office hours (i.e. Tuesday 2 pm).
 - To expedite scheduling, please do not e-mail with appointment requests.
- After class on Tuesdays and Thursdays - no appointment necessary.

Teaching Assistants

- Ben: Mondays, 12-1 pm, Colonial Penn Center faculty lounge (1st floor, opposite elevators)
- Jossie: Tuesdays, 3-4 pm, Colonial Penn Center faculty lounge

1. Course Description

HCMG 101 (Health Care Systems) presents an introduction to the US health care system. The course will cover institutional details of the American health care system, focusing on the incentive structures that affect the financing and delivery of health care, and analyzing how these structures affect access, cost, and quality of care. The class is organized into 7 sections: (1) health and the health care sector; (2) the organization and delivery of health care; (3) health insurance and the financing of health care; (4) health care reform initiatives; (5) providers of health care services (hospitals, physicians); (6) provision of health care products (pharmaceuticals, health care IT); (7) other systems issues (comparative health systems, health care disparities).

2. Course Purpose

This course is required for all Wharton students who wish to concentrate in Health Care Management and Policy, and is an elective for other University of Pennsylvania students. It is designed to develop students' knowledge of key features of the US health care system and students' skills in analyzing how incentives within the health care system affect key stakeholders (patients, insurers, and care providers).

3. Course Learning Objectives

- Describe major facts about the relationship between health and health care, and about the relationship between health and health care expenditures
- Describe key features of the organization of the US health care system and the delivery of health care in the US
- Describe common forms of provider payment systems and economically analyze the implications of these systems
- Describe the concept of health insurance and two common problems, adverse selection and moral hazard, that can arise in insurance markets
- Identify major actors in insurance markets, including Medicare, Medicaid, and commercial payers, and describe the roles played by these actors
- Analyze the implications of health care reform initiatives using basic economic principles
- Describe and analyze the organization of incentives facing hospitals
- Describe major facts about the training and the supply of physicians
- Describe major facts about pharmaceutical markets and key incentives facing pharmaceutical firms
- Describe major facts about the development and use of information technology in health care
- Identify features of the US health care system that distinguish it from the health care systems of other high-income countries and describe the implications of these differences

4. Textbooks

The following textbooks are required:

- Feldstein, Paul J. 2015. *Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective, 6th Edition*. Health Administration Press. ISBN 978-1-56793-696-4.
- Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. 2016. *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach, 7th Edition*. McGraw Hill/Lange. ISBN 978-1-259-25119-1.

Feldstein, 6th edition, is available on reserve at Lippincott. Feldstein, 5th edition, is also available on reserve, and earlier editions are available on the shelf at Lippincott. Please note, however, that the content in earlier editions may be dated.

Bodenheimer and Grumbach, 7th edition, is available as an e-book through Penn Libraries.

There will be additional readings that will be made available on-line through Canvas.

5. Evaluation

The course grade will be based on 3 problem sets, 3 quizzes, 2 exams, a final paper proposal, a final paper, and class/bonus exercises.

Problem Sets	9% (3% each)
Quizzes	6% (2% each)
Exam I	25%
Exam II	25%
Proposal	9%
Final Paper	25%
Class/Bonus Exercises	1%

5.1. Problem sets

There will be 4 problem sets assigned, 3 of which will count towards your course grade (the problem set with the lowest score will automatically be dropped). You may consult with other students on your problem sets but each student must write up their own work using their own words.

Problem sets should be uploaded to Canvas by 1:30 pm the day they are due (i.e. before class begins). Late problem sets will be accepted and graded but no points will be recorded.

5.2. Quizzes

There will be 4 quizzes, 3 of which will count towards your course grade (the quiz with the lowest score will automatically be dropped). Quizzes will be given at the end of class. The use of notes or other resources—electronic or otherwise—is not permitted. There will be no makeup quizzes.

5.3. Exams

There will be two in-class exams. Exam I will take place on Tuesday, February 13, and Exam II will take place on Thursday, March 29. The use of notes or other resources—electronic or otherwise, including calculators and phones—is not permitted.

Makeup exams for this class are highly unusual and granted only under extenuating circumstances with extensive documentation (e.g. hospital discharge form, obituary notice), pursuant to University rules. In any case, you must notify the instructor within 24 hours of a missed exam.

5.4. Final paper

A final paper is required for completion of the course. The paper will present a detailed analysis of a health care systems issue. The objectives of the paper are to: (1) apply the conceptual and analytical tools covered in class to a topic of the student's own choosing; (2) develop and display in-depth mastery of the material in the chosen content area. Details of the assignment will be made available in Week 11.

5.4.1. Proposal

In the course of independently developing details of the paper, you will be required to submit a proposal detailing the purpose of the paper, a proposed outline of the paper, and your research plans and proposed resources (1-2 pages, single-spaced). The proposal should be uploaded to Canvas by 1:30 pm Thursday, April 5 (i.e. before class begins). Penalties for late proposals are as follows: (a) within 24 hours: 25% penalty; (b) more than 24 hours late but less than 48 hours late: 50% penalty; (c) more than 48 hours late: no points.

5.4.2. Paper

Students are expected to prepare a final paper (5-7 single-spaced pages, excluding tables, figures, references, and appendices). This paper should be uploaded to Canvas by 12 noon on Wednesday, May 2, 2018. Late papers will be accepted and graded, but penalties will be levied for lateness. Penalties for late papers are as follows: (a) within 24 hours: 25% penalty; (b) more than 24 hours late but less than 48 hours late: 50% penalty; (c) more than 48 hours late: no points.

5.5. Class/bonus exercises

On occasion, you will be asked to participate in class exercises or complete surveys. A small number of points will be given for participation in these activities.

5.6. Blind grading

Every effort will be made to grade problem sets, quizzes, exams, and papers blind, i.e. the instructor and TAs will not know the identity of the student submitting the work when they do the grading. For this reason, please include, with your assignments, a cover sheet or header with the assignment title and *only* your 8-digit ID number (no names). Please use the following format for your ID number: xxx-xxx-xx.

5.7. Re-grades and appeals process

Although care is taken in grading, mistakes in grading assignments and exams can on rare occasions occur. Errors typically take one of three forms: (1) a mathematical error was made in the calculation of points; (2) your answer was correct and consistent with the solutions, but the grader misinterpreted and misgraded your answer; (3) your answer was an alternative and reasonable answer even though it does not match the solutions.

Re-grades will take equity into account. Appeals based on "too many points" being deducted are usually unsuccessful if all students were graded in a similar way.

If you feel an error was made in grading, please write a detailed explanation of why you believe an error was made and submit the written explanation along with a hard copy of your original graded assignment to the instructor. These documents should be submitted to the instructor's office (underneath the door) in Blockley Hall by 12 noon on Wednesday, May 2.

A request for a re-grade can result in a lower score based on your explanation or justification.

All appeals for re-grades must go through this formal process. No electronic appeals (i.e. documents submitted by email or through Canvas) will be accepted. To maintain blinding, no informal (i.e. in-person) appeals will be accepted.

5.11. Grading scale

A+	98-100
A	94-97
A-	90-93
B+	88-89
B	84-87
B-	80-83
C+	78-79
C	74-77

C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	64-67

6. Class Policies and Expectations of Student Conduct

6.1. Class attendance

Attendance will not be taken. Nevertheless, it is strongly recommended that you attend class and be prepared to engage in class activities because attendance in class will be crucial in preparing you for the exams and assignments. In addition, there may be in-class quizzes and activities that count towards your course grade. If you have to miss class for any reason, you are responsible for reviewing the material covered and for turning assignments in when they are due. If what you need is not available on Canvas, please request materials and information from a fellow student.

6.2. Working schedule

An updated schedule of class session topics, readings, assignments, and due dates will be posted after each class to account for the material covered in each class and unforeseen events. Please be sure to check the working schedule every Tuesday and Thursday evening to stay updated on upcoming readings and assignments.

6.3. E-mail guidelines

- Please e-mail me about any typos or errors you see on slides, problem sets, quizzes, and solutions, and any clarifications you need for assignments.
- Clarifying questions related to assignments should be sent by 5 pm the Tuesday before the assignment is due.
- You *do not* need to e-mail me on issues related to class attendance (e.g. if you are unable to attend) or to confirm appointment scheduling.
- If you have substantive questions about or difficulty with specific topics, these are better addressed in-person (after class or during office hours) rather than by e-mail.
- Try not to be offended if you do not receive a response; this is because of the volume of e-mails rather than intended neglect (please remind me of your question next time you see me).

6.4. Holidays

Please inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester of any anticipated exam absences because of religious holidays, and we will negotiate reasonable accommodations for those absences.

6.5. Civility in discourse and courtesy towards fellow classmates

Please respect each person and their ideas and questions. Please turn off all cell phones (unless otherwise authorized for class exercises) and do not listen to music, play games, web-surf, or read outside materials during class.

6.6. Academic conduct and academic integrity

Students are expected to know, understand, and abide by the code of academic integrity as specified in the Pennbook: <https://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/13/code-of-academic-integrity>

Unless otherwise instructed, all of your work in this course should represent your own completely independent work. Any student found to have committed acts of misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, facilitating academic dishonesty, gaining unauthorized advantage, or illegal or unlawful

acts) will be subject to the sanctions and procedures outlined by the Charter of the University of Pennsylvania Student Disciplinary System: <http://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/15/charter-of-the-university-of-pennsylvania-student-disciplinary-system>

6.7. E-mail contact

Announcements and other course information will be sent to you via Canvas, so please be sure to regularly check the email account designated in Canvas as your preferred account.

7. University Academic Policies

7.1. Accommodations for disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring accommodations should follow the procedures outlined by the Weingarten Learning Resources Center: [https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/sds/ps_faq.php#Disability Self-Identification and Requesting Accommodations](https://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/sds/ps_faq.php#Disability%20Self-Identification%20and%20Requesting%20Accommodations):

7.2. Course add/drop guidelines

Students may drop courses until the end of the 5th full week of classes. This semester, the last day to drop a course is Friday, February 16.