

THE WHARTON SCHOOL
University of Pennsylvania

COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS (HCMG 859)

SPRING 2022

Monday/Wednesday 12:00-1:30pm
SHDH 107

Professor Claudio Lucarelli (clucarel@wharton.upenn.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays 5:00-7:00 PM
Colonial Penn Center 202

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Office Hours: TBD
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OVERVIEW

This course examines the structure of health care systems in different countries, focusing on the design and financing of public and private insurance; the organization of healthcare delivery systems; reimbursement of physicians, hospitals, pharmaceuticals and devices; the 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 approaches to combining public and private sectors are better at achieving equity? Other issues are positive: How do these different systems deal with the tough choices, such as decisions about the adoption of new technologies and how efficient are they? We will cover some mature systems, including Germany, the United Kingdom, and Japan, which represent prototypical system designs. We will also look at middle and low income countries with emerging systems –including countries in Latin America, such as Chile; Africa such as Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa; and Asia (India and China) – and at major cross-cutting issues such as life-expectancy, infant mortality rates, and service quality. We will draw lessons for the US from foreign experience and vice versa.

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 slides, 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. Twenty percent of the final course grade is allocated to class participation. **Please bring your name plate to help us learn your name and assure that you receive credit for your contributions.**

The first two to three weeks of the semester, I would like to meet with each of you individually for about 10 minutes, so we can create a more personal learning environment. Please schedule those meetings with our TA, most likely via a Doodle poll.

TERM PAPER AND PRESENTATION

Students will write a brief (about ten pages) paper related to the health care system in one or more countries. You may work in groups of up to two 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. 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 on April 4, (NO EXCEPTIONS)**. Please submit an electronic copy of your paper via Canvas.

Starting April 4, you will present your papers to the class and the order of presentation will be assigned in reverse order from the time we receive your e-mail communicating your group composition. The presentations are twenty five minutes and there will be about 10 minutes for questions from your classmates and discussion. Be prepared to present twenty five minutes, with no more than ten slides.

OFFICE HOURS

I will hold office hours on Mondays from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM . I will also be online during office hours, you will just need to log in to the Zoom platform using a link that will be posted in Canvas. If you would like to discuss course material, progress, or ask questions in private, please let me know in advance by e-mail so I can schedule a separate meeting either in person or in Zoom.

FINAL EXAM

The final exam is scheduled for March 16 in class. The final exam will include several short answer questions. A sample exam will be posted in Canvas. Students with academic accommodations should contact me in advance to adjust to their specific requirements. The University of Pennsylvania Honor Code applies for this and all evaluations in this course.

GRADING

Paper	25%
Presentation	20%
Final exam	35%
Class participation	20%

CLASS SCHEDULE
(Subject to change)

January 24: Introduction and Framework of Analysis I: Health Insurance

January 26: Framework of Analysis II: Innovation and adoption of new technology

January 31: Framework of Analysis III: Cost Effectiveness Analysis

February 2: Framework of Analysis IV: Pharmaceutical regulation I

February 7: Framework of Analysis V: Pharmaceutical regulation II

February 9: The US Health Care System: Overview and Proposed Reforms

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

February 16: United Kingdom : Background, the Internal Market and recent reforms

February 21: United Kingdom : Background, the Internal Market and recent reforms

February 23: Germany : Overview and Recent Insurance Reforms

February 28: Germany : Overview and Recent Insurance Reforms

March 2: Japan

March 14 : Chile

March 16: Final Exam

March 21: Israel and Palestine

March 23: Korea

March 28: India

March 30: China

April 4: Student presentations

April 6: Student presentations

April 11: Student presentations

April 13: Student presentations

April 18: Student presentations

April 20: Student presentations

April 25: Wrap up session

April 27: Make up exam

