

**THE WHARTON SCHOOL  
University of Pennsylvania**

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**COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS (HCMG 859)**

**SPRING 2019**

Monday/Wednesday 1:30-3:00pm  
CPC Auditorium

**Professor Claudio Lucarelli ([clucarel@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:clucarel@wharton.upenn.edu))**

Office Hours: M-W 5:00-6:00 PM

Colonial Penn Center 202

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Office Hours: TBD

Colonial Penn Center Basement

**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 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? We will cover some mature systems, including Germany, the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan, which represent prototypical system designs, and Singapore, which illustrate other interesting approach. We will also look at middle and low income countries with emerging systems –including countries in Latin America, such as Chile, Brazil and Mexico; Africa such as Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa; and Asia (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. 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/>.

If there are multiple readings, I recommend that you read the assigned articles for each lecture in the order they appear in the Canvas folder, which reflects changes over time for each country.

**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](mailto: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 me 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 three 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 April 10th** (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.

## **QUIZZES**

We will have short 10-minute quizzes at the beginning of some lectures. The quizzes will cover the assigned readings for that day and the material covered in the previous class. Quizzes will be announced the previous week.

## **FINAL EXAM**

A final exam is scheduled on the University exam date. Students may instead take the optional make-up exam 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	20%
Quizzes	10%
Midterm exam	20%
Final exam	35%
Class participation	15%

**CLASS SCHEDULE  
(Subject to change)**

**January 16: Introduction: Framework of Analysis I.**

Health Insurance

**January 23: Framework of Analysis II.**

Innovation and adoption of new technology

**January 28: Framework of Analysis III.**

Cost effectiveness analysis

**January 30: Framework of Analysis IV.**

Pharmaceutical regulation I

**February 4: Framework of Analysis V.**

Pharmaceutical regulation II

**February 6: The US Health Care System: Overview and Proposed Reforms**

**February 11: The US Health Care System: Overview and Proposed Reforms**

**February 13 : United Kingdom I: Background and the Internal Market**

**February 18: United Kingdom II: Recent Reforms**

**February 20: Germany I: Overview and Recent Insurance Reforms**

**February 25: Germany II: Pharmaceuticals, Disease Management.**

**February 27: Midterm Exam**

**March 4: Spring break**

**March 6: Spring break**

**March 11: Canada: Overview and Structure**

**March 13: Japan's Health Care System**

**March 18: Emerging Markets I: India**

**March 20: Singapore: Overview and Medical Savings Accounts**

**March 25: Health and Health Care in Developing countries: Overview**

**March 27: Mexico**

**April 1: China.**

**April 3: Korea's Health Care System.**

**April 8: Latin America I: Brazil**

**April 10: Latin America II: Chile**

**April 15: Student Presentations I**

**April 17: Student Presentations II**

**April 22: Student Presentations III**

**April 24: Student Presentations IV**

**April 29: Wrap up session**

**May 1: Make-up Final Exam.**

**May 6: Final Exam. 12:00 – 2:00 PM.**