



HCMG 1010: HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

Fall 2024

Contact Information

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Office hours: by appointment. Please feel free to email the TAs or me about any course questions, and we will set up a time to meet.

TAs:

Cynthia Chude (chude@wharton.upenn.edu); Office hours: Fri, 2-3pm, Colonial Penn Center, TBD
Aidan Crowley (aidan.crowley@pennteam.upenn.edu); Office hours: Thurs., 9-10am, Colonial Penn Center, Chestnut Room

Lectures

Class meeting: Tuesday and Thursday, 12:00-1:30pm, JMHH F85

Course description

This course introduces and examines the main features of the financing and delivery of health care in the United States. It covers health care spending, the relationship between health and health care, private and public health insurance, providers and services, provider reimbursement, health care reform, and factors affecting health policy. The course pays close attention to the economic incentives facing institutions and individuals and to the economic context of important health policy issues.

Course Format

- Lecture/presentation by instructor
- In class exercises
- Discussion of readings and podcasts
- Presentations and discussions with guest speakers

Course Materials

Slides and readings form the core material of the course and are provided through the Canvas website (<http://canvas.upenn.edu>).

Slides: Slides will generally be posted on Canvas prior to class. For guest speakers, slides may be made available after class.

Readings: There will typically be 2-3 relevant articles for each class. **Students are expected to read these in preparation for the class.** Required readings and podcasts are on Canvas marked with an asterisk, and additional optional readings are also provided for each topic.

Required textbook: Better Health Economics, by Tal Gross and Matthew Notowidigdo

- Chapters of this book will frequently be assigned as readings.
- Available on Amazon in both paperback and ebook versions. There are also copies of the book available at the Lippincott Information/Reserve Desk for 3-hour in-library use.

Grading

- In class exam 1 (**October 10**): 35%
- In class exam 2 (**December 5**): 35%
- Writing assignment (**due November 17** at 11:59pm, class discussion **November 19**): 15%
- Guest speaker questions: 15% (must submit for 3 guest lectures, due four days after the guest lecture by 11:59 pm)

Exams: There will be in class exams on **October 10** and **December 5**. Exams will be handwritten and closed book.

Makeup tests will be given without penalty **ONLY** in the event of an excused absence when the instructor has been notified before the evaluation is given. Acceptable excuses for missing an examination are death, serious illness, court appearance, or personal crisis. Documentation (e.g., notification via online Course Absence Notice) must be provided before the class in which the evaluation is administered.

Writing assignment: You are required to write reaction/opinion/analysis of an article or blog post dealing with health care in the form of a “letter to the editor.” Candidate articles/posts will be posted to Canvas during the semester, along with more details about the assignment. The assignment will be graded based on substance (what you say) and exposition (how you say it).

Guest speaker assignments: For any three guest speakers of your choice throughout the semester, students must submit two sample exam questions (one multiple choice, one true/false) based on content in the lecture. Detailed instructions posted on Canvas. Submit the questions to Canvas assignments. **These are due four days after the guest lecture by 11:59 pm. Late questions**

will not be accepted.

Re-grades: any re-grade request **must be done within seven days after the exam or exercise is returned to you.** The request for a re-grade **must be done over email.** The request must include a description of what the problem is and why you think the exam or exercise should be graded differently. In these cases, the **entire exam or exercise will be regraded**, not just the question identified. A regrade can result in an increase, decrease, or no change in points.

Classroom Guidelines and Policies

- Attendance: Your on-time attendance for each class session is expected, as is your active participation.
- Generative AI: You may use generative AI programs (e.g., tools like ChatGPT) to help generate ideas and brainstorm. However, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity. You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor). Any plagiarism or other form of cheating will be dealt with severely under relevant Penn policies.
- Academic Honesty: All students should familiarize themselves with the University's guidelines on citations, plagiarism and academic dishonesty, which are found at:
http://www.upenn.edu/academicintegrity/ai_codeofacademicintegrity.html
Any violations of this policy will result in significant consequences, including but not limited to, grade deductions and reporting to the University.
- Class recordings will not be made available, as it discourages attendance and participation.

Recording Policy

By taking this course, students acknowledge that:

- They will not: (i) record, share, or disseminate Wharton course sessions, videos, transcripts, audio, or chats; (ii) retain such materials after the end of the course; or (iii) use such materials for any purpose other than in connection with participation in the course.
- They will not share links to Wharton course sessions with any persons not authorized to be in the course session. Sharing course materials with persons authorized to be in the relevant course is permitted. Syllabi, handouts, slides, and other documents may be shared at the discretion of the instructor.
- Course recordings, content, and materials may be covered by copyrights held by the University, the instructor, or third parties. Any unauthorized use of such recordings or course materials may violate such copyrights