

**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

**HSA 6114 – INTRODUCTION TO THE U.S. HEALTH SYSTEM  
COURSE SYLLABUS  
Fall 2013**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Allyson Hall, PhD  
Room: HPNP 4137  
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**GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANTS** Cilia Zayas, MHA cilia@ufl.edu  
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**CLASS MEETINGS** Mondays 1:55-3:50, G101  
Wednesdays 12:50-1:40, G301; G109; G110; HSC CG-57

**OFFICE HOURS** Hall Mondays 12-1pm  
Escobar Tuesday 12-2pm  
Zayas Wednesdays 2-3pm  
Park Thursdays 2:30-4:30pm  
Amaya Tuesdays 2-4pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This three credit course provides an overview of the evolving structure of the US public health and health care delivery systems. As an introductory course students will be exposed to the facts, key issues, and vocabulary of health and health care in the US. Throughout the course students will engage in group dialogue and critique through article reviews, case study analysis, and special topic exploration.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND COMPETENCIES**

The objectives of the course are designed to contribute towards mastery of key competencies for the MPH and MHA programs

Course Objectives	Competencies
Explain the determinants of health as they contribute to the demand for health care	Continually scan and interpret key trends and activities in the health care environment
Describe the organization of public health in the United States	
Describe the dynamics of the health care delivery and financing systems.	

Course Objectives	Competencies
Outline key issues facing the delivery of health care	
Articulate the role of the government in public health and health care delivery	Apply principles and methods of health policy analysis and development to key national, state, and local health issues.
Source, critique, and summarize relevant articles and papers	Apply principles and methods of health policy analysis and development to key national, state, and local health issues.  Continually scan and interpret key trends and activities in the health care environment
Formulate responses to critical issues in public health and health care delivery	Apply principles and methods of strategic and program planning in public health contexts  Effectively manage public health program and projects.

## COURSE READINGS AND MATERIALS

There is no assigned textbook, but students may want to purchase the text listed below for additional background information.

**Shi L and Singh DA (2012) Delivering Health Care in America. A Systems Approach 5<sup>th</sup> Edition Jones and Bartlett Learning, Sudbury MA**

Readings will be posted in the course website under the Weekly Lessons tool for the week.

You should also sign up for the Kaiser Family Foundation's *Daily Online Reports*. The reports serve as a tremendous source of information on health care related news stories and links to original articles. You can sign up on: [http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily\\_reports/rep\\_index.cfm](http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm)

### Additional readings may be assigned or suggested

PowerPoint presentations will be available on the course website either immediately before or immediately after the lecture. **POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS WILL NOT ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE PRIOR TO CLASS.** These presentations are provided as a courtesy to students. Students should not assume that all material presented in the lectures will be included in the PowerPoint slides. Therefore, students should be prepared to read assigned materials and to take notes while viewing the lectures.

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION

I will use the following distribution in assigning letter grades. I tend not to change this distribution nor give the extra .10 of a point to move a grade into the next category. ***Please note an A represents exemplary performance and will be earned by a relatively small percentage of students.***

A	95-100
A-	90-94.9
B+	85-89.9
B	82-84.9
B-	80-81.9
C+	75-79.9
C	72-74.9
C-	70-71.9
D	65-69.9

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student. The student should then provide this documentation to me as early in the semester as possible.

### STATEMENT OF UNIVERSITY'S HONESTY POLICY (CHEATING AND USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS)

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Graduate Student Handbook for details). Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

**We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.**

Assignment		Points	Due Dates
Case Study 1	Budget Cuts to a state health department	20	September 18 via Assignment tool in Sakai
Case Study 2	Emergency Department Wait times	20	November via the Assignment tool
Article Critique 1	See Article Critique Guidelines	10	One week after presentation to group
Article Critique 2	See Article Critique Guidelines	10	One week after presentation to group
Reaction to Article Critique 1	See Reaction Guidelines	5	One week after critique delivered to group
Reaction to Article Critique 2	See Reaction Guidelines	5	One week after critique delivered to group

Midterm Exam	Material covered from August 21-October 9	15	October 14
Final Exam	Material covered from October 21-December 4	15	December 9
Participation	Instructor reserves the right to deduct up to 5 points for non-participation in Wednesday discussion groups	-5	

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

All assignments should be submitted online through the Sakai system. Submit your papers in WORD and not as a PDF. The instructor may on occasion submit your paper to Turnitin to detect plagiarism. Students will receive an email notice when an assignment is submitted in Sakai. If you do not receive such an email within an hour, you should resubmit your assignment. It is a student's responsibility to submit your assignment attachments correctly within Sakai. Be sure not only that you HAVE actually made an attachment, but that you have made the CORRECT attachment. Please check on your submission after submitting as not submitting it correctly could count as submitting it late if this is corrected after the due date. The assignment will allow 2 submissions to make any corrections you wish to make before the due date.

Please refer to the Assignment tool in Sakai for all course assignments guidelines and due dates.

## LATE POLICY

Only in extreme circumstances will the instructor accept late assignments. If you anticipate turning an assignment in late please discuss with the instructor or teaching assistant beforehand.

## WEDNESDAY DISCUSSION DAYS

Wednesdays will be used for small group discussion and synthesis of lecture material. Students will be divided into small groups of 6 prior to the first discussion day, August 28<sup>th</sup>. In each group and depending on the day, students will participate in:

- **Article Discussions.** Two students in a group will select and discuss an article relevant to the topic of the day. Students will select two topics for which they will select an article to present to their group. Students will also submit summary of the article via the assignment tool in Sakai. **In addition, a copy of the article must be uploaded to their group's discussion board the Monday before the Wednesday presentation [look for the add assignment tab]. Title the upload with your last name and date of presentation** Remaining members of the group should have read the article prior to the group meeting.

Two additional students will provide a written reaction to the article summary via the assignment tool in Sakai.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, a sign-up sheet will be distributed to each group. Students will sign-up for the two topics for which they will select an article and present to the group. Students will also sign-up to summarize two article discussions. The summary will be submitted online.

***In summary: students in each group will sign up to present two articles and 2 additional summaries for a total of 4 assignments in this category.***

**More information on the article critiques and reactions are detailed below.**

- **Case Studies:** Discussion on a particular scenario in public health and health care delivery. Students will prepare individual write-ups to be submitted via Sakai. The Wednesday class meeting will provide a forum for discussing the case study. More information will be detailed in the case study assignments.
- **Special Topic Discussion:** Focus on a particular topic as outlined in the syllabus. For several special topics the focus will be on reviewing and critiquing a relevant video/movie. There is no written assignment associated with the special topic discussion.

## **ARTICLE CRITIQUE GUIDELINES**

Each student will sign up for two article critiques on August 28th. For each of these two topics the student will select a pertinent article to read, provide a written summary, and an overview to their group. Articles can come from the peer-reviewed literature (e.g. JAMA) or the popular press (e.g. New York Times, Modern Healthcare).

Your written article critique should include:

- The name of the article, and site the source (*i.e. was it from JAMA, New York Times, or other source, what was the date.*)
- A summary of the major elements of the paper (e.g. description of the policy, research project, best practice, public health program etc., that the paper is about)
- Your reaction to the piece (*what interested you? Did anything shock or surprise you? Is there anything you disagree with?; any biases the authors may have?*)
- Discuss how the article is relevant to the topic or lecture (*i.e. implications for health policy, health care delivery, or health management*)

Full points will be given if all 4 elements to the critique are included in the write-up.

Students are encouraged to incorporate outside knowledge and ideas into the critique. A summary of the article is **not** sufficient, but is necessary. This is not an exercise in reading comprehension, but rather an assessment of your ability to think critically about information that is presented to you.

Upload your written critique/summary (maximum 2 pages double or single spaced) via the assignment tool in Sakai. **In addition, upload the article to the discussion board for your group at least two days prior (i.e. Monday) to the day of discussion.**

Students presenting the articles are also responsible for leading the subsequent discussion. Since there will be two presentations about 25 minutes should be devoted to each article.

- Summary of article content (~2 minutes)
- Critique of the article (2-5 minutes)
- Relevance to the lecture/health policy/health care delivery (2-5 minutes)
- Discussion with group (2-5 minutes). **THINK OF A QUESTION TO ASK YOUR CLASSMATES**

## REACTION TO ARTICLE CRITIQUE GUIDELINES

Students who are not providing critiques for a particular topic are expected to review articles posted for that Wednesday's article discussion prior to the group meeting. Students will submit a summary and reaction to the group's discussion via the Assignment tool for 2 articles.

Reactions should include a brief outline of the paper, a summary of classmate reaction and discussion points, and a discussion of their own views (e.g. agree or disagree with classmate's discussion, additional questions that need to be asked).

## SOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ARTICLE CRITIQUES

### Foundations and Think Tanks

The Kaiser Family Foundation	<a href="http://www.kff.org">www.kff.org</a>
Commonwealth Fund	<a href="http://www.cmwf.org">www.cmwf.org</a>
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	<a href="http://www.rwjf.org">www.rwjf.org</a>
The Urban Institute	<a href="http://www.urban.org">www.urban.org</a>
The Heritage Foundation	<a href="http://www.heritage.org">www.heritage.org</a>
Families USA	<a href="http://www.familiesusa.org">www.familiesusa.org</a>
Cato Institute	<a href="http://www.cato.org/health-care">www.cato.org/health-care</a>
Center for Studying Health System Change	<a href="http://www.hschange.org">www.hschange.org</a>
AcademyHealth	<a href="http://www.academyhealth.org">www.academyhealth.org</a>
Public Health Foundation	<a href="http://www.phf.org">www.phf.org</a>
Public Health Research Institute	<a href="http://www.phri.org">www.phri.org</a>
National Academy for State Health Policy	<a href="http://www.nashp.org">www.nashp.org</a>

### Peer-Reviewed Journals/Newspapers/Trade Magazines

Health Affairs	Journal of Health and Social Behavior
JAMA	Health Services Research
NEJM	Medical Care
American Journal of Public Health	Medical Care Research and Review
Healthcare Management Review	New York Times
Medical Care	Wall Street Journal
Medical Care Research and Review	Washington Post
	Healthcare Executive
	Hospitals and Health Networks

## COURSE OUTLINE

DATE	TOPIC
August 21	<p><b>Introduction and Course Overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion of course readings and assignments</li> </ul>
August 25	<p><b>Lecture: The Health of Individuals and Populations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue of rationing and scarce resources in medical care</li> <li>• Definitions of health and illness</li> <li>• Measuring health</li> <li>• Social determinants of health and disease</li> </ul> <p>Braverman P, Egerter S, Williams DR (2011) The Social Determinants of Health: Coming of Age <i>Annual Review of Public Health</i> 32:381-398</p> <p>Marmot M. Social Determinants of Health Inequalities. <i>The Nation's Health</i> Eighth Edition 2011: 164-170</p> <p>Singer P Why We Must Ration Health Care <i>The New York Times</i> July 19, 2009</p> <p>Schroeder SA (2007) We Can Do Better – Improving the Health of the American People <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> 357:1221-1228</p> <p>Wilkinson, RG, Pickett KE. Income Inequality and Socioeconomic Gradients in Mortality. <i>The Nation's Health</i> Eighth Edition 2011: 155-163</p>
August 28	<p><b>Special Topic Discussion: The Hot Spotters</b></p> <p>VIEW MOVIE: <i>HOT SPOTTERS (15 MINUTES LONG)</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/doctor-hotspot/">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/doctor-hotspot/</a> or/</p> <p><a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DiwTjeF5AU">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DiwTjeF5AU</a></p> <p>Gawande A 2011 The Hot Spotters <i>The New Yorker</i> January 24, 2011</p>
September 2	<b>NO CLASS: LABOR DAY</b>
September 4	<b>Article Discussion: Impact of Public Health on the Health of the Public</b>
September 9	<p><b>Lecture: Introduction to Public Health Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of public health services</li> <li>• Financing public health services</li> <li>• The Affordable Care Act and Public Health</li> <li>• Quality improvement in public health</li> </ul> <p>Fee E and Brown TM (2002) The Unfulfilled Promise of Public Health: Déjà vu All Over Again <i>Health Affairs</i> (21) 6: 31-43.</p> <p>Gostin LO, Boufford JI, Martinez RM The Future of Public's Health: Vision, Values, and</p>

DATE	TOPIC
	<p>Strategies. <i>Health Affairs</i> 2004 vol 23 (4):96-107.</p> <p>Mullan, F. (2000) Don Quixote, Machiavelli, and Robin Hood: Public Health practice, past and present. <i>American Journal of Public Health</i>, 90(5):702-706.</p> <p>Tilson H and Berkowitz B (2006) The Public Health Enterprise: Examining Our Twenty-First Century Challenges <i>Health Affairs</i> 25:4 900-910</p> <p>Ogden LL (2012) How Federalism Shapes Public Health Financing, Policy, and Program Options <i>Journal of Public Health Management and Practice</i> 18:4 317-322.</p> <p><i>LISTEN TO ONLINE LECTURE ON PUBLIC HEALTH (under lessons tab)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theoretical underpinnings of public health</li> <li>• History of Public Health</li> <li>• Core public health areas</li> <li>• Public health achievements</li> <li>• Health Promotion and prevention</li> </ul>
<b>September 11</b>	<p><b>Case Study Discussion: State Health Department Budget Cuts</b> See Assignment Tab for information on the case study</p>
<b>September 16</b>	<p><b>Lecture: The Policy Process and Legislative Relationships in Health and Health Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The policy making process</li> <li>• Government as provider, purchaser, and payer</li> <li>• Regulatory activities</li> <li>• State vs. Federal Responsibilities for health</li> </ul> <p>Feldstein, Paul. Chapter 1: Introduction The Politics of Health Legislation An Economic Perspective. Third Edition Health Administration Press: 2006: 1-25</p> <p>Feldstein, Paul. Chapter 2: An Economic Version of the Interest Group Theory of Government. The Politics of Health Legislation. Third Edition Health Administration Press: 2006: 23-52</p> <p>Longest , BB (2001) The Process of Public Policymaking: A Conceptual model in Lee PR and Estes CL <i>The Nation's Health</i> Jones and Bartlett, Sudbury MA</p> <p>Weeks E. State's Rights and Health Care Reform. <i>Debates on U.S. Health Care</i> 2012: 121-131. Sage Reference, Los Angeles CA</p> <p>Duncan, RP Hall, AG et. al. Medicaid Program Flexibility. <i>Debates on U.S. Health Care</i> 2012: 368-383. Sage Reference, Los Angeles CA</p>
<b>September 18</b>	<p><b>Special Topic Discussion: The Legislative Process and the Affordable Care Act</b> <i>LISTEN TO ONLINE LECTURE ON THE POLICY DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ( under lessons tab)</i></p> <p>Optional Readings:</p>



DATE	TOPIC
	<p>Jost T (2013) The Affordable Care Act and the Supreme Court: American Health Care Reform Inches Forward Despite Dysfunctional Political Institutions and Politics <i>Health Economics, Policy and Law</i> 8: 113-118.</p> <p>Beaussier AL (2012) The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: The Victory of Unorthodox Lawmaking 37 (5): 741-778</p> <p><u>Individual Case Study Write Up Due – State Health Department Budget Cuts</u></p>
<b>September 23</b>	<p><b>Lecture: Historical Context and Future Trends in US Health Care Delivery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History, trends and characteristics—what are the social ,medical, and technological factors that have led to the health care system as we know it today?</li> <li>• Health care financing, costs and spending</li> <li>• Trends in US health and health care</li> </ul> <p>Relman AS (2004) The Health Care Industry: Where is it Taking US?. In Conrad P editor <i>The Sociology of Health and Illness</i>, 7<sup>th</sup> edition pages 268-275</p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation <i>Health Care Costs. A Primer. Key Information on Health Care Costs and Their Impact.</i> March 2009</p> <p>White C (2007) Health Care Spending Growth: How Different is the United States from the Rest of the OECD? <i>Health Affairs</i>:154-161.</p> <p>Berwick D Escape Fire: Lessons for the Future of Health Care, <i>The Commonwealth Fund</i> New York, NY</p>
<b>September 25</b>	<p><b>Article Discussion: Emerging Trends in US Health Care Delivery</b></p>
<b>September 30</b>	<p><b>Lecture : Health Care Access and Utilization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic and non-economic barriers to care</li> <li>• Relationship between access and health status and health outcomes</li> <li>• Role of health insurance and how it functions</li> <li>• Why does the US not have national health care – even after the Affordable Care Act</li> </ul> <p>Rothman DJ <i>A Century of Failure: Health Care Reform in America</i> In Conrad P editor <i>The Sociology of Health and Illness</i>, 7<sup>th</sup> edition pages 292-300</p> <p>Andersen R. (1995) Revisiting the Behavioral Model and Access to Medical Care: Does it Matter? <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior.</i> 36 (1):1–10.</p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation, <i>Uninsured and Untreated: A Look at Uninsured Adults Who Received No Medical Care for Two Years</i>, July 2010</p>
<b>October 2</b>	<p><b>Special Topic Discussion: Money and Medicine</b></p> <p>VIEW MOVIE AT: <a href="http://www.pbs.org/program/money-medicine/">http://www.pbs.org/program/money-medicine/</a> click on Money</p>

DATE	TOPIC
	and Medicine (watch preview above). Also read "About the Program"
October 7	<p><b>Lecture: Structure of Health Insurance in the United States</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Types of Insurance: Medicaid, Medicare, employer-based, small group market</li> <li>• Principles of health insurance</li> <li>• History of managed care</li> <li>• Organizational structures in managed care</li> <li>• Reimbursement mechanisms under managed care</li> <li>• Implementation of Health Reform</li> </ul> <p>The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (2012) Health Coverage of Children: The Role of Medicaid and CHIP</p> <p>The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (2010) Medicare: A Primer</p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation – Summary of the New Health Reform Law available at: <a href="http://www.kff.org/healthreform/8061.cfm">http://www.kff.org/healthreform/8061.cfm</a></p>
October 9	<b>Article Discussion: Health Insurance Coverage</b>
October 14	<b>Midterm: Multiple Choice</b>
October 16	<b>NO CLASS: FLORIDA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION MEETING</b>
October 21	<p><b>Lecture: Comparative International Examples of Health Care Delivery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Framework for understanding health care systems</li> <li>• Models of health care delivery in other countries</li> </ul> <p>Thomson S, Osborn R, Squires D, Jun M (2012) International Profiles of Health care Systems, 2012. <i>The Commonwealth Fund</i>, New York NY</p>
October 23	<b>Article Discussion: Comparative International Examples</b>
October 28	<p><b>Lecture: Primary, Integrated and Ambulatory Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparisons between solo and group practices</li> <li>• Ambulatory care, safety net, and community health centers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Definition of primary care</li> <li>▪ Primary vs. Specialty care</li> <li>▪ Managing chronic care</li> <li>▪ Medical homes and patient-centered care</li> <li>▪ Patient and provider roles</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Vest JR, Bolin JN et al (2010) Medical Homes: Where you Stand on Definitions Depends on Where You Sit <i>Medical Care Research and Review</i> 67(4) 393-411</p> <p>Bodenheimer T, Wagner EH, Grumbach K (2002) Improving Primary Care for Patients with Chronic Illness 288:1775-1779</p>

DATE	TOPIC
	<p>National Association of Community Health Centers (2011) America's Health Centers</p> <p><b>Lecture: Hospital and Acute Care Settings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of hospital care in the US</li> <li>• Types of hospitals; organization of hospitals</li> <li>• Trends in hospital care delivery</li> <li>• Accountable Care Organizations</li> </ul> <p>Meyer H (2011) Accountable Care Organization Prototypes: Winners and Losers? <i>Health Affairs</i> 30: 1227-1231.</p> <p>DeVore S and Champion RW (2011) Driving Population Health Through Accountable Care Organizations <i>Health Affairs</i> 30: 41-50.</p>
October 30	<b>Case Study Discussion: The ER that Became the Emergency</b>
November 4	<b>NO CLASS: AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION MEETING</b>
November 6	<p><b>Article Discussion: Primary Care</b>  <u>Individual Case Study Write Up Due – The ER that became the Emergency</u></p>
November 11	<b>NO CLASS: VETERANS DAY</b>
November 13	<b>Article Discussion: Inpatient and Acute Care</b>
November 18	<p><b>Lecture: Mental Health Care Services</b>  Marina Cecchini, MBA  Administrator UF Health Shands</p> <p>Readings TBA</p>
November 20	<b>Special Topic Discussion: Quality Improvement in Health Care</b>
November 25	<p><b>Lecture: Long-Term Care</b>  Jim Antonucci  Executive Director  North Florida Retirement Village</p> <p>Readings TBA</p>
November 27	<b>NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>
December 2	<p><b>Lecture: Healthcare workforce</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenges facing the health workforce</li> <li>• Demographic and geographic trends in the health workforce</li> <li>• Nurses, doctors, public health workers</li> </ul> <p>Donelan K, Buerhaus PI, DesRoches C, Burke SP (2010) Health Policy Thoughtleaders'</p>

DATE	TOPIC
	<p>views on Health Workforce in an Era of Health Reform <i>Nursing Outlook</i> 54:175-180.</p> <p>LDI Issue Brief <i>Medical Migration to the U.S.: Trends and Impact</i>, April/May 2007.</p> <p>Gebbie K and Turnock KM (2006) The Public Health Workforce, 2006: New Challenges <i>Health Affairs</i> 25: 923-933</p> <p>Rother J and Lavizzo-Mourey R (2009) Addressing the Nursing Workforce: A Critical Element for Health Care Reform <i>Health Affairs</i>: w620-624</p>
<b>December 4</b>	<p><b>Special Topic Discussion: Cultural Competency in Health Care</b></p> <p><i>LISTEN TO ONLINE LECTURE ON CULTURAL COMPETENCY (under lessons tab)</i></p> <p>Betancourt, Green, Carrillo, Park, "Cultural Competence and Health Care Disparities: Key Perspectives and Trends" <i>Health Affairs</i> March/April 2005</p>
<b>December 9</b>	Final Exam