

Syllabus

Syllabus—Health Care Systems in the US

INLS 490-261, Fall 2022

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Hours
David Potenziani, PhD	dpotenzi@email.unc.edu	Online by request

Course Description

This course is meant to introduce students to the breadth and complexity of the US health care system. We will look at the functioning parts of how and who delivers health care beginning with a global perspective to provide some context. Then we will examine the institutions where care is delivered, the people who provide those services, and the medicines, devices and technologies involved. All of these exist within, outside, and strongly influenced by government policies and programs from the federal level to the states and down to local jurisdictions. With this basis in hand, then we turn our attention to financing all the above—a sector of the domestic economy that sees **\$4.1 trillion in spending—more per capita than any country on earth, by far.** We will examine what outcomes we get for our money and methods used to assess system performance. All the above in the first half of the semester.

After a summative Project Assignment delivered at mid-term (more on that below), we will return to explore the development of the health care system we have today. We will trace the roots of our system to understand the *why* undergirding its form, financing, and operation. We will finish with an examination of the current state of affairs in light of extant federal policy. Our final episode will be an examination of the emergence, response, and outcomes to date of the COVID-19 pandemic in the US, looking at our chosen counties this time as laboratories of practice.

Course Approach and Regular Assignments

The premise of the course approach is to encourage your encounter with the subject matter and materials to construct your own knowledge of the field.

Readings and Responses

You will read the text as well as a selection of wide-ranging materials that range from primary sources to peer-reviewed journal articles. These will serve as the foundation for ongoing discussions and even formal debates using the Sakai Forums feature. Please take advantage of the multi-media and interactive features of Panopto to give your contributions extra force and clarity. These conversations will be asynchronous within a window of time. The approach will reserve several hours for you and your peers to contribute your thoughts as well as react and respond to those of others.

Group Project I: Community Health Assessment

Students will also be assigned to a group to each investigate a county and build a Community Study with an evidence-based understanding the various aspects of health care in that jurisdiction with deliverables (written report, slide deck, and recorded group presentation) for a live Zoom session at midterm.

Group Project II: Community COVID-19 Response

Student groups will use the second half of the term to return to their counties and investigate their county's experiences with the COVID-19 pandemic. They will have the same types of deliverables (written report, slide deck, and recorded group presentation) for a live Zoom session at the end of the term.

Required Text

Goldsteen, Raymond L., Goldsteen, Karen, and Goldsteen, Benjamin Z. *Jonas' Introduction to the U.S. Health Care System*, Ninth Edition. New York: Springer Publishing Company, 2020. (Be sure to get the 9th Edition since it has all the chapters that inform questions in the reading quizzes.)

Other Readings

Each week may feature other reading available online. Depending on the conditions of access, they may be directly linked to their online places or placed in Sakai's Course Reserves or directly in the lessons section.

Grading Scales

Graduate Grading Scale	
95-100	H
80-94	P
70-79	L
<69	F

Undergraduate Grading Scale	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
<60	F

Assignment Categories and Weighting

Category	Percent Weight
Reading Quizzes	10
Topic Short Answers & Discussions	10
Topic Infographics	10
Topic Essays	10
Topic Forums	10

Debates	15
Project Essays	15
Project Slides	10
Project Presentation	10
Total	100

Course Schedule					Assignments					
WK	Item	Topics	Zoom &/or Topic Open Date	Due Date	Reading Quiz	Q&A	Essay	Infographic	Forum	Debate
0	Orientation	Course Overview	Aug 16	Aug 21					X	
1	Topic 1	Course Overview The What and How of Health Care	Aug 23	Aug 28	X		X			
2	Topic 2	Care Institutions	Aug 30	Sep 11	X	X			X	
Labor Day Weekend and Wellness Day, Sep 6										
3	Topic 3	Health Care Workers	Sep 13	Sep 18	X			X		
4	Topic 4	Medicines, Devices, and Technology	Sep 20	Sep 25	X					X Starts on Sep 19
5	Topic 5	Government	Sep 27	Oct 2	X	X				
6	Topic 6	Financing Health Care	Oct 4	Oct 9	X		X			
7	Topic 7	System Performance	Oct 11	Oct 16	X					
8	Project 1	County Health Systems	Oct 18	Oct 16						

		Assessment							
Fall Break (Oct 20-21)									
9	Topic 8	Health Care Debates	Oct 25	Oct 30	X			X	
10	Topic 9	Prehistory--- Incrementalism	Nov 1	Nov 6	X				X Starts on Oct 31
11	Topic 10	Reform Misfires	Nov 8	Nov 13	X		X		
12	Topic 11	The ACA	Nov 15	Nov 20	X			X	
13	Topic 12	What's Next?	Nov 22						
14	Project 2	County Health Systems Under Covid	Nov 29	Nov 22					