Course Description
This course is designed to introduce students from multiple disciplines to the fundamental characteristics of health care systems; the organization, financing, and delivery of services in the U.S. health care system; the role of prevention and other non-medical factors in population health outcomes; key management and policy issues in contemporary health systems; and the process of public policy development and its impact on the prospects for health system improvement.

Course Prerequisites
The course is open to all graduate students and to undergraduate students with at least junior status. No prior knowledge is assumed.

Class Hours
3 credits, Monday and Wednesday 1:15-2:30 PM

Location
Lectures: Room 1345, Health Sciences Learning Center (HSLC)
Breakout discussions in assigned rooms in HSLC

Course Instructors
Thomas Oliver, Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences, troliver@wisc.edu
Gordon Ridley, Consultant to the Dean, School of Medicine and Public Health, gtridley@wisc.edu

Teaching Assistant
Tracy Wilson, twilson4@wisc.edu

Office Hours
Wednesdays 9-11 AM (Tom Oliver, 760C WARF)
Mondays after class (Tracy Wilson, HSLC Atrium)
By appointment

Teaching Methods
Interactive lectures, web-based materials, breakout discussion sessions, group project and presentation

Course Materials
All required course readings and other materials are available as PDF files or links on the Learn@UW course website.

ADA Compliance
If there is any reason that may interfere with your ability to complete the requirements of this course or to participate in the activities described in this syllabus, contact the course instructor, your advisor, the program advisor, or the program director. Appropriate actions are facilitated by timely requests. Reasonable requests for appropriate academic adjustments will be granted and all requests are held in confidence.
Course Objectives

The specific objectives of the course are:

- To understand important concepts and measures for evaluating the performance of health systems
- To develop knowledge of sectors within the health care system
- To identify key management and policy issues in contemporary health systems
- To analyze strategies for health system improvement through public policy
- To improve skills in written and oral analysis

Requirements

Take-home midterm exam: 25%
Take-home final exam: 25%
Health policy analysis project: 25%
Participation in breakout sessions, lecture sessions, and group project: 25%

Take-home Midterm and Final Exams

These exams will include several essay questions to identify and apply important concepts regarding health systems and to analyze policy and management challenges in improving health system performance. The exams will be based on course lectures and readings, as well as topics discussed in breakout sessions. The midterm exam will be handed out in class on February 27 and is due on March 16 via submission to the Learn@UW dropbox. The final exam will be handed out on April 30 and is due on May 16 via submission to the Learn@UW dropbox.

Health Policy Analysis Project

Students will work in groups (3-4 people) to examine a significant problem in contemporary health systems and potential governmental responses to the problem. Each group will select a problem and conduct a careful evaluation of the probable impact and feasibility of alternative policy options. Based on their group work, students will prepare an 8-10 page memorandum individually or as a group that presents their analysis and recommends a preferred option for health system improvement. The group will then present its analysis and recommendations during one of the concluding sessions of the course. The project includes the following products and due dates:

- 7 March: List of group members and proposed topic
- 30 March: Preliminary outline and bibliography (including relevant course readings)
- 23 April: Detailed outline and draft of policy analysis memorandum
- 26-27 April: Group meetings with course instructors to review outline and draft of health policy analysis memorandum
- 4 May: Final health policy analysis memorandum
- 7 May or 9 May: Final health policy analysis presentation
Criteria for Grading Written Assignments
Grades for written assignments will be based on: 1) the comprehensiveness of the analysis in identifying appropriate concepts, literature and applications; 2) the logic, accuracy, and overall persuasiveness of the arguments; and 3) the quality of the writing style (including basic grammar, punctuation, and proofreading).

Criteria for Grading Class Participation
Regular attendance and participation in discussion are necessary to understand the broad range of material to be covered in the course. The value of the course will depend on the preparation of participants and their willingness to exchange ideas and critique the arguments presented in lectures, readings and breakout sessions.

The participation grade will rest primarily on your contributions to the regular breakout sessions throughout the course. Your letter grade will be based on 1) the quality and, to a lesser extent, quantity of your comments, particularly how well-grounded they are in the material presented in course lectures and readings; and 2) engagement with other group members, particularly your ability to react constructively to others’ comments and move the discussion forward.

If you miss a breakout session, you will not receive any credit for that session unless there are extenuating circumstances for your absence. The course director will decide on a case-by-case basis whether your absence should be excused due to circumstances beyond your control that prevented you from attending the session. At a minimum, you will be required to submit detailed written responses to the questions assigned for the missed breakout session. Any unexcused absences will lower your overall class participation grade.

We are fortunate to have a large number of distinguished experts who offer us their time and high-level experience in health systems, management, and policy. We expect regular attendance in the lecture sessions of the course, therefore, as a way to demonstrate our appreciation for their participation and as an opportunity to engage them in questions and discussion. Students are responsible for contacting the TA and course director if they need to miss a class session. We reserve the right to adjust the class participation grade downward for noticeably poor attendance or upward for students who make positive contributions to those sessions by asking good questions of lecturers or providing informed answers to questions posed by the lecturers.

Finally, grades for class participation will be adjusted based on students’ evaluation of the contributions of other group members to the policy analysis project.
THE SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF HEALTH SYSTEMS

Session 1  Introduction to Course
23 January  Tom Oliver, Gordon Ridley

A Systems Perspective on Health Care Reform
Tom Oliver

Session 2  U.S. Health Care System in Global Perspective
25 January  Tom Oliver

Session 3  Development and Structure of U.S. Health Care System
30 January Gordon Ridley

Session 4  Breakout Session #1
1 February

SECTORS OF THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Session 5  Roundtable on Health Professions and Workforce Training
6 February  Byron Crouse, Assoc. Dean, UW School of Medicine & Public Health
Jeanine Mount, Assoc. Dean, UW School of Pharmacy
Nadine Nehls, Assoc. Dean, UW School of Nursing
Virginia Snyder, Director, UW Physician Assistant Program
Lisa Steinkamp, Director, UW Physical Therapy Program

Session 6  Primary Health Care
8 February  Valerie Gilchrist
Professor and Chair, Department of Family Medicine

Session 7  Hospitals and Health Care Systems
13 February Donna Katen-Bahensky
CEO, UW Hospital and Clinics

Session 8  Breakout Session #2
15 February

Session 9  Academic Health Centers and Biomedical Research
20 February Robert Golden
Dean, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Session 10  Pharmaceuticals and Health Care
22 February Gordon Ridley
| Session 11 | Mental Health Care  
| 27 February | Ronald Diamond  
|  | Professor, Department of Psychiatry  
|  | Medical Director, Dane County Mental Health Center  
|  | Midterm exam handed out in class  
| Session 12 | Breakout Session #3  
| 29 February |  
| Session 13 | Long-term Care and Chronic Care Management  
| 5 March | David Zimmerman  
|  | Professor Emeritus, College of Engineering  
|  | Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis  
| Session 14 | Integrative Medicine  
| 7 March | David Rakel  
|  | Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine  
|  | Director, UW Integrative Medicine Program  
|  | Health policy analysis group members and proposed topic due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox  
| Session 15 | Analyzing Policy Options for Health System Improvement  
| 12 March | Tom Oliver  
| Session 16 | Breakout Session #4  
| 14 March |  
| 16 March | Midterm exam due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox  

HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND DELIVERY  

| Session 17 | Disparities in Health Care Access and Outcomes  
| 19 March | Angela Rohan  
|  | U.S. Centers for Disease Control  
| Session 18 | Economic Analysis and Health Care Costs  
| 21 March | David Vanness  
|  | Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences  
| Session 19 | Health Care Quality and Efficiency  
| 26 March | Sally Kraft  
|  | Medical Director, Care and Quality Innovations  
|  | UW Medical Foundation  
| Session 20 | Breakout Session #5  
| 28 March |  

30 March  Health policy analysis preliminary outline and bibliography due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox

SPRING BREAK

Session 21  Medicare  9 April  Tom Oliver
Session 22  Medicaid, CHIP, and the Uninsured  11 April  Tom DeLeire
Session 23  Private Insurance and Integrated Health Systems  16 April  Terry Bolz  CEO, Unity Health Plan
Session 24  Breakout Session #6  18 April

PUBLIC POLICY AND HEALTH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

Session 25  Implementing Health Care Reform: Improving Health Care Delivery  23 April  Jonathan Jaffery  Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
Outline and draft of health policy analysis memorandum due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox
Session 26  Implementing Health Care Reform: Improving Payment Systems  25 April  Karen Timberlake  Director, UW Population Health Institute
26-27 April  Group meetings with course instructors to review outline and draft of policy analysis memorandum
Session 27  The Policy Making Process  30 April  Tom Oliver
Final exam handed out in class
Session 28  Case Study: Mental Health Parity  2 May  Linda Reivitz  Professor Emeritus, UW School of Nursing
4 May  Health policy analysis memorandum due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox
Session 29  Presentations of Policy Analysis Projects
7 May

Session 30

Presentations of Policy Analysis Projects

9 May

16 May

Final exam due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox
MODULE 1: The Scope and Structure of Health Care Systems

Session 1
A Systems Perspective on Health Care Reform
23 January
Tom Oliver


Session 2
U.S. Health Care System in Global Perspective
25 January
Tom Oliver


Prologue: A Moral Question
Chapter 1: A Quest for Two Cures
Chapter 2: Different Models, Common Principles
Chapter 3: The Paradox
Chapter 12: The First Question
Chapter 13: Major Surgery


Supplemental online videos:

**PBS Frontline Program: Sick Around the World**


Five Capitalist Democracies and How They Do It
Each has a health care system that delivers health care for everyone—but with remarkable differences.[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/countries/](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/countries/)

Watch Online (videos on each country)
- United Kingdom
- Japan
- Germany
- Taiwan
- Switzerland

Health Care Systems—The Four Basic Models
- Beveridge Model
- Bismarck Model
- National Health Insurance Model
- The Out-of-Pocket Model

Analysis of Themes

What Lessons Can We Learn?
How Does It Work for Doctors in These Five Countries?
Does Universal Coverage Mean Socialized Medicine?
The Cost of Drugs Issue

Supplemental readings:

  - Overview, pp. xi-xix
  - Chapter 1, “Why Do Health Systems Matter?” pp. 1-19
  - Chapter 2, “How Well Do Health Systems Perform?” pp. 21-46
  - Annex Table 1, Health System Attainment and Performance in All Member States, pp.152-55


Bitràn, R., Escobar, L., and Gassibe, P. 2010. After Chile’s health reform: Increase in coverage and access, decline in hospitalization and death rates.*Health Affairs* 29 (December): 2161-70.
Session 3  Development and Structure of U.S. Health Care System
30 January  Gordon Ridley


Session 4  Breakout Session #1 in assigned rooms
1 February

MODULE 2: SECTORS OF THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Session 5  Roundtable on Health Professions and Workforce Training
6 February  Byron Crouse, Assoc. Dean, UW School of Medicine & Public Health
Jeanine Mount, Assoc. Dean, UW School of Pharmacy
Nadine Nehls, Assoc. Dean, UW School of Nursing
Virginia Snyder, Director, UW Physician Assistant Program
Lisa Steinkamp, Director, UW Physical Therapy Program


Association of American Medical Colleges. 2011. Wisconsin Physician Workforce Profile. (one-page summary data)

Supplemental reading:


Session 6  
Primary Health Care  
8 February  
Valerie Gilchrist  
Professor and Chair, Department of Family Medicine


Session 7  
Hospitals and Health Care Systems  
13 February  
Donna Katen-Bahensky  
CEO, UW Hospital and Clinics


Session 8  
Breakout Session #2  
15 February
Session 9  
Academic Health Centers and Biomedical Research  
20 February  
Robert Golden  
Dean, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

*Within Our Grasp or Slipping Away? Assuring a New Era of Scientific and Medical Progress.*  
(No date). A Statement by a Group of Concerned Universities and Research Institutions. From:  


Session 10  
Pharmaceuticals and Health Care  
22 February  
Gordon Ridley


Session 11  
Mental Health Care  
27 February  
Ronald Diamond  
Professor, Department of Psychiatry  
Medical Director, Dane County Mental Health Center


Wisconsin Department of Health Services. 2010. Mendota Mental Health Institute: Program of Assertive Community Treatment.

Midterm exam handed out in class

Session 12
29 February

Breakout Session #3

Session 13
5 March

Long-term Care and Chronic Care Management
David Zimmerman
Professor Emeritus, College of Engineering
Center for Health Systems Research and Analysis


Kaiser Family Foundation. 2007. *Views about the Quality of Long-Term Care Services in the United States*.


Session 14
7 March

Integrative Medicine
David Rakel
Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine
Director, UW Integrative Medicine Program


http://onwisconsin.uwalumni.com/features/integrative-medicine-man/

Health policy analysis group members and proposed topic due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox
Session 15  Analyzing Policy Options for Health System Improvement  
12 March  Tom Oliver


Chapter 1, The Eight-fold Path  
Appendix A, Things Governments Do  
Appendix B, Semantic Tips


Session 16  Breakout Session #4  
14 March

16 March  Midterm exam due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox

**MODULE 3: HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND DELIVERY**

Session 17  Disparities in Health Care Access and Outcomes  
19 March  Angela Rohan

U.S. Centers for Disease Control


Chapter 1: Race and Health Care in the United States, pp. 3-31.  
Chapter 9: Healing a Nation, pp. 312-36.


**PBS: Unnatural Causes**

Public Broadcasting System. Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?  
[http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/index.htm](http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/index.htm)
In Sickness and in Wealth: Segment on “Health in America”
http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/hour_01.htm

When the Bough Breaks: Segment on “Unraveling the Mystery of Black-White Differences in Infant Mortality.” http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/hour_02.htm

Becoming American: Segment on “The Latino Paradox.”
http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/hour_02.htm


Place Matters: Segment on “Living in Disadvantaged Neighborhoods is Bad for Your Health.”
http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/hour_03.htm

Not Just a Paycheck: Segment on “How the Growing Wealth Divide Affects Health.”
http://www.pbs.org/unnaturalcauses/hour_04.htm

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**Session 18**
**Economic Analysis and Health Care Costs**

21 March

David Vanness
Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences


http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/01/21/what-we-give-up-for-health-care/?emc=eta1


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Supplemental readings:


**Session 19**  
**Health Care Quality and Efficiency**  
**26 March**  
Sally Kraft  
Medical Director, Care and Quality Innovations  
UW Medical Foundation

Boston: Jones & Bartlett. Chapter 12: Cost, access, and quality.


**Supplemental readings:**


**Session 20**  
**28 March**  
Breakout Session #5

**30 March**  
Health policy analysis preliminary outline and bibliography due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox

**SPRING BREAK**
Session 21  Medicare  
9 April  Tom Oliver


Session 22  Medicaid, CHIP, and the Uninsured  
11 April  Tom DeLeire


Supplemental readings:


**Session 23**

**Private Insurance and Integrated Health Systems**

16 April

Terry Bolz
CEO, Unity Health Plan


**Session 24**

**Breakout Session #6**

18 April

**MODULE 4: PUBLIC POLICY AND HEALTH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT**

**Session 25**

**Implementing Health Care Reform: Improving Health Care Delivery**

23 April

Jonathan Jaffery
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine

Readings TBA

Outline and draft of health policy analysis memorandum due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox

**Session 26**

**Implementing Health Care Reform: Improving Payment Systems**

25 April

Karen Timberlake
Director, UW Population Health Institute
Readings TBA

26-27 April  Group meetings with course instructors to review outline and draft of policy analysis memorandum

Session 27  The Policy Making Process
30 April  Tom Oliver


Supplemental readings:


**Session 28**
**Case Study: Mental Health Parity**

2 May
Linda Reivitz
Professor Emeritus, UW School of Nursing


http://www.mentalhealth.org/features/surgeongeneralreport/chapter6/sec1.asp


Mental Health Parity: A Partial History 2001-2008 (compendium of articles, abstracts and news reports)

4 May
Health policy analysis memorandum due via submission to Learn@UW dropbox
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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