Overview
The goal of this course is to give an overview of the distinguishing features of the United States health care system, including organization, financing, and delivery of health care services. The course covers historical, societal, political, and economic forces influencing the accessibility, cost, quality of personal and public health services. Students are exposed to major U.S. health policy issues concerned with health improvement and protection, and the financing, organization, and delivery of health care services.

Course competencies
After completion of this course, student should be able to:

1. Describe the historical evolution of the U.S. health care system and how this background is linked to the current configuration in health care.
2. Describe U.S. health care system problems in terms of organization, financing, and delivery.
3. Identify the main components of the organization, financing and delivery of health services within public and private health insurance systems.
4. Identify and analyze major policy issues facing the nation’s health care system, health care providers, and consumers.
5. Describe the magnitude of aging and uninsured populations and its impact on health care financing and health outcomes.
6. Discuss health policy process, public health law and ethics for improving the health status of populations.
7. Apply “system thinking” for identifying and resolving health policy and organizational problems.
8. Communicate health policy and management issues using appropriate channels, medical and information technologies.
9. Discuss the concept of health insurance and managed care and how they affect health care delivery and public health.
10. Apply basic informatics techniques with vital statistics and public health.
Required Texts

Required Readings
Required course readings (i.e., readings outside of the texts) will be available through the electronic reserves system. The direct link for the electronic reserves page is http://eres.ulib.albany.edu.

Occasionally, some additional readings may be distributed in class.

Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam I</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation I</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Presentation II</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Course Requirements:
Exams I and II (15% each)
There will be two in-classes, closed book exams, worth a total of 30% of your grade. The exams will consist of definitions and essay questions. They will test your understanding of the major concepts presented in class. The first exam will be on February 22, and the second one April 4.

Final Exam (30%)
The final exam will be in-class, closed book. It will take place on May 9. The exam will be cumulative and will cover material presented during the entire semester. The final exam will be more applied than exams I and II, requiring students to use what they have learned to a policy problem (it will be closer to the discussion questions).

Group Presentation (10%)
There will be two group presentations.

I. Historical Evolution of the U.S. Health Care System (10%). Students will be divided into groups and each group will be assigned a topic related to the evolution of the U.S. Health Care System. In the presentation (PowerPoint), I expect that your group will provide a summary of the topic and address each/all question(s) assigned. Submit your PowerPoint file via email one day prior to your group presentation (Assignments due on 01/31/12 at 12 noon).

II. Health Care Reform and Its Impact on the US Healthcare Market (10%). In each presentation (PowerPoint), I expect that your group will submit (1) one peer-reviewed journal article that offers insight or critique that is related to your topic of presentation, and (2) respond to every question raised from other students during class discussion. Your PowerPoint file and the journal article are due at 12 noon on Tuesday one day prior to the class (Assignments due on 04/24/12 at 12 noon).
Group paper (10%) -

Based on your second presentation assignment in “Health Care Reform and Its Impact on the US Healthcare Market,” each discussion group is required to submit a written critique of the journal article selected by the group. The critique paper is to analyze and evaluate the article to reveal its overall meaning, purpose, interpretations and relevance to your presentation assignment. A critique is not the same as criticism and it doesn’t need to be negative. You can agree or agree to disagree with the article and provide explanations. You may cite your group presentation material in the paper.

This written assignment should be no longer than 10 pages (excluding references) with 12 point font, double spacing, 1 inch margins, and JAMA style references. Two points will be deducted if these requirements are not adhered to.

The group paper is due at 12 noon on Wednesday one week after your group presentation (Assignments due on 05/2/12 at 12 noon).

Class Participation (10%)

A. The majority of the class will consist of approximately one hour and a half of lecture and one hour and 20 minutes of discussion or group presentation. Students are encouraged to actively participate in each session. Participation (i.e., class attendance, asking questions, engaging in each week’s discussion) will contribute 10% toward the final grade.

B. Some classes (Weeks 13 and 16), students are required to submit to the instructor via email ONE discussion question based on the required readings (articles/chapters) for that week. The question is due at 12 noon on Tuesday one day prior to the class. Submitted questions will be randomly selected for class discussion. Each discussion question will contribute 2.5% toward the final grade. (Assignments due on 4/10/12 and 5/1/12 at 12 noon, respectively).

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in each class session. Any class missed without a documented, valid excuse will result in a reduction of the class participation grade. Missing more than two classes in the course, without sufficient explanation, will result in an automatic 0/10 participation grade. If a student does miss a class they should ask classmates for notes from that week.

All assignments are to be handed in on time. A minimum of Two points will be deducted for late submission of assignments.

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in this class or at the School of Public Health. Please refer to the booklet: Community Rights and Responsibilities which you were given when you entered the school. If you do not have a copy, please see Ms. Gauvain-McNulty, Assistant to the Department Chair, or go to the following website: http://www.albany.edu/judicial_affairs/standardsofconduct.html
# Course Calendar Overview

## Health Care Organization, Delivery, and Financing

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>Introduction Overview of the course, the scope of U.S. health care system</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Historical Evolution of the U.S. Health Care System (Group Presentation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Health Insurance and Financing Public Health Insurance: Medicaid and S/CHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Health Insurance and Financing Private Health Insurance: individual and employer-based Payment and Reimbursement Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>February 22</td>
<td><strong>Exam I</strong></td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>Managed Care and Coordinated Care</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Acute Care and Pharmaceuticals Health Care Workforce</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Class Suspended</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Health Care Delivery (Preventable Hospitalization) Health Information Technology</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Cost, Access, and Quality</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td><strong>Exam II</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Long-Term Care (field Trip)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Role of Government in Health Services &amp; Public Health Health policy and process/public health law and ethics</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Health Care Reform and Its Impact on the US Healthcare Market (Group presentation)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>International Health Care Systems Comparisons (Group Paper)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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</table>
Health Care Organization, Delivery, and Financing (HPM500)
Required Readings

01/18/12  Introduction
Overview of the course, the scope of U.S. health care system

01/25/12  Health Insurance Concepts
Health Insurance and Financing: Public Health Insurance: Medicare
Required Readings:
Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 6 (pp.210-218)

02/01/12  Historical Evolution of the U.S. Health Care System (Group Presentation)
Required Readings:
Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 3 (pp. 81-117)
Starr, P. Book One –
   Introduction (pp. 3-9; 24-29)
   Chapter 3: Consolidation of Professional Authority
   Chapter 4: The Reconstitution of the Hospital
   Chapter 5: The Boundaries of Public Health
   Chapter 6: Escape from the Corporation
Starr, P. Book Two –
   Chapter 1: The Mirage of Reform
   Chapter 2: The Triumph of Accommodation
   Chapter 3: The Liberal Years
   Chapter 4: The End of a Mandate
Note: Read the above to get an overview of the historical evolution of the U.S. health care system – do not focus on trying to memorize all of the details.

02/08/12  Health Insurance and Financing
Public Health Insurance: Medicaid and S/CHIP
Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 6 (pp. 218-223)

02/15/12  Private Health Insurance – individual and employer-based
Required Readings:
Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 1 (pp. 1-8)
Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 6 (pp. 199-210, 232-239)

**Payment and Reimbursement Methods**

*Required Readings:*

Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 6 (pp. 226-232)


02/22/12  Exam I

02/29/12  Managed Care and Coordinated Care

*Required Readings*

Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 9 (pp. 333-375)


03/07/12  Acute Care and Pharmaceuticals

*Required Reading*

Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 8 (pp. 299-331)


**Health Care Workforce**

Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 4

03/21/12  Health Care Delivery (Preventable Hospitalizations) Information Technology

Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 5


03/28/12  Cost, Access, and Quality (Guest Lecturer)

*Required Readings*

Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 12


28(2): 323-333.

Managing Health Care Organization (Strategic Planning)
Required Readings:

04/04/12 Exam II

04/11/12 Long-Term Care
Required Readings
Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 10
Kaplan RL. Financing Long-Term Care After Health Care Reform. Journal of Retirement Planning. 2010 (July-August); pp 7-15, 43.

04/18/12 Role of Government in Health Services and Public Health
Health Policy and Process
Required Readings

Public Health Law and Ethics
Required Readings

04/25/12 Health Care Reform and Its Impact on the US Healthcare Market (Group Presentation)
Required Readings

05/02/12 International Health Care Systems Comparisons
required readings
Shi and Singh (2012) – Chapter 1 (pp. 20-28)

05/09/12 Final Exam