

**Health Systems Course #90436 • 6 Units • Fall 2021 Mini • M, 6:20p – 9:10p**

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**Office hours by appointment**



“Society will permit you to use drugs and instruments that can do great harm as well as great good, and that in the hands of others would be weapons.”

- Donald M. Berwick, MD, MPP, Yale Medical School Graduation Address, May 24, 2010

**Course Description:** Health Systems is a foundational course that introduces students to many of the broad subjects that will be detailed in more advanced course work. The goal of this course is to provide an overview of the health care delivery system and the stakeholders involved in providing care and treatment. You will gain an understanding of many complexities within the US health care system, including (but not limited to) applicable professional principles for those in health care, the role of government, quality improvement initiatives, and concepts related to health equity. Case studies, small group discussions, scholarly readings, and videos will demonstrate the importance of dynamics within health care delivery systems and the myriad motivations of stakeholders involved in the healing process.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course, students will be able to 1) Understand the history, milestones, and current models of US health care delivery, 2) Recognize strengths and weaknesses of various reimbursement models, 3) Comprehend the health care inequities and their consequences in the US, 4) Understand initiatives to improve health care and what such endeavors mean for the future. Each of these objectives will be assessed through class participation, presentations, and papers.

**Materials:** All materials, except those students must research on their own, are listed in the Canvas course site.

**Expectations:** This course requires significant reading, writing, and discussion. It is expected that everyone will come to class prepared to discuss the readings. My goal is to make this an excellent learning experience for you. If at any time you feel that the course is not meeting your expectations,

please contact me. I ask that you be respectful of others by arriving to class on time and not using your electronic devices in class without discussing the purpose with me first.

**Evaluation/Grading/Assessment:** All assignments and class participation are graded on a point scale as outlined below. The maximum points one can achieve for the entire semester is 300. Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

**Letter Grade    Point Range**

A	273-300
B	243-272.5
C	213-242.5
R - Fail	Below 213

<b><u>Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Possible Points</u></b>	<b><u>Due Date</u></b>
Participation	30	Ongoing
Personal and professional development plan	30	9/6/21
2-page analysis paper	50	9/21/21
4-minute video on stakeholder agendas	50	9/28/21
Group presentation	70	10/12/21
Final paper	70	10/12/21

**Assessment 1:** Participation – 30 point maximum. 30 points are added for class participation as evaluated over the course of the semester by the instructor. All students are expected to display critical thinking and express their perceptions and conclusions in class discussions and activities. Sharing your own knowledge and experience benefits the entire class. Constructive contribution to the class discussion and genuine listening to others is an important element of class participation. It is not possible to pass this class having missed more than 2 classes. Participation grade will be dropped 10 points for missing one class.

**Assessment 2:** Personal and professional development plan – 30 point maximum.

**Assessment 3:** 2-page analysis paper – 50 point maximum. Students will complete a 2-page analysis detailing how COVID disrupted healthcare delivery systems in the US. Exploration of the impact to and reaction of various stakeholders, such as payers, providers, pharma, research entities, etc., is expected.

**Assessment 4:** 4-minute video on stakeholder agendas – 50 point maximum. Students will complete a 4-minute video exploring the agendas of three stakeholders from this list: Individuals, government, clinicians and non-clinical staff, private payers, employers, pharma, research science professionals. The video must include a comparison/contrast of each stakeholder's goal and the effect of that goal on other stakeholders.

**Assessment 5:** Group presentation – 70 point maximum. Students will select one topic from an instructor-provided list and explore challenges associated with the topic and recommendations for improvement.

**Assessment 6:** Final paper – 70 point maximum. Students will complete a paper examining how the challenges and recommendations in their group presentation compare to a non-US based health care system.

**Academic Statement:** You are expected to attend class, be prepared for class and participate in the discussions. Written assignments are due on or before the due date. If you must miss a class, please notify me with as much advanced notice as possible; if you cannot talk with me directly, please leave a message on my voice mail or e-mail. For any class that you miss, you are responsible for obtaining the notes and related materials from another student. Please let me know if you do not understand class material or requirements or if any special circumstance prevents you from completing a class requirement on time.

You are responsible to know and adhere to all University policies on academic integrity. The Heinz School provides a booklet on Plagiarism and Cheating and the University lists all policies on the web at [www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Cheating.html](http://www.cmu.edu/policies/documents/Cheating.html). Please acquaint yourself with their contents. Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failure in the course and your case will be referred to the Associate Dean, who may decide to take further action.

**Recording academic classroom activities, lectures, etc and use of electronic devices:** Classroom activities, lectures, etc. may not be recorded without my written permission in advance. If a student is permitted to record classroom activities, lectures, etc., the student may do so for his/her own personal use only; additionally, no copies of the original recording can be made. All electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, laptops, tablets, etc., are to be turned off and stowed prior to entering the classroom. There is no difference between texting/instant messaging/etc and holding a full conversation in person while in a classroom setting. Students using such devices for personal reasons within the classroom without prior approval will be asked to leave the room until they are finished with their task. Few things will annoy your instructor more than texting in class.

**Face Coverings:** In order to attend class meetings in person, all students are expected to abide by all behaviors indicated in A Tartan's Responsibility, including any timely updates based on the current conditions.

In terms of specific classroom expectations, whenever the requirement to wear a facial covering is in effect on campus, students are expected to wear a facial covering throughout class. Note: the requirement to wear a facial covering is in effect for the start of the Fall 2021 semester. If you do not wear a facial covering to class, I will ask you to put one on (and if you don't have one with you, I will direct you to a distribution location on campus, see <https://www.cmu.edu/coronavirus/health-and-wellness/facial-covering.html>). If you do not comply, you will be referred to the Office of Community Standards and Integrity for follow up, which could include student conduct action. Finally, please note that sanitizing wipes should be available in our classroom for those who wish to use them.

### Course Schedule

Date	Topic(s)	Homework	Items Due
8/30/21	Introduction to the fundamentals of the US health care system and overview of class	Professional development plan; assigned readings	N/A

9/6/21	NO CLASS	N/A	Personal and professional development plan
9/13/21	History, the government, and financing health care	2-page analysis paper, assigned readings	N/A
9/20/21	Healthcare models, Quality/Safety efforts, pharma and biotech	4-minute video; assigned readings	2-page analysis paper
9/27/21	Equity, vulnerable populations and intercultural competency	Group presentations & final paper	4-minute video
10/4/21	Health care technology	Group presentations & final paper	N/A
10/11/21	Group presentations and wrap-up		Group presentation & final paper