

CH 2: HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

Instructor: Kevin Irwin
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Time: M/W 10:30-11:45am
Room: 104 Pearson

Office Hours: Wed 1:00-2:00pm (or by appt)
112 Packard Ave 3rd Floor

617-627-2077 (My Office)
617-627-3233 (CHP Office)

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Anjali Wagner (Head TA; handles course administrative issues)
Office hours: 7:00 – 8:00 PM Thursday
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RECITATION SCHEDULE

<u>Sec</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Room</u>	<u>Instructor</u>
A	WED	3:00-3:50 PM	BROM-P 03	KOSINSKI
B	WED	4:30-5:20 PM	PRSN 112	KOSINSKI
C	WED	4:30-5:20 PM	ADIK 13	NDULUE
D	WED	6:00-6:50 PM	OLIN 102	NDULUE
E	THR	4:30-5:20 PM	ADIK 9	WAGNER
F	THR	6:00-6:50 PM	ADIK 13	WAGNER
G	FRI	10:30-11:20 AM	ADIK 13	MARDEN
H	FRI	12:00-12:50 PM	PRSN 112	MARDEN
J	FRI	1:30-2:20 PM	ADIK 9	MARDEN

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will develop a basic understanding of the organization, financing and delivery of Health Care in the United States and its relationship to population health. We begin with an overview of the system, seeking to describe how it is structured and how the conflicting values and principles underlying the system reflect and produce tensions between private interests and public goods. We will gain a broad understanding of how health care is financed and delivered, and then investigate the impact on the health outcomes of various segments of the population. Following our midterm exam, we will consider a number of population trends that exacerbate the challenges faced in health care, and then further explore sources of excess costs.

After building a foundation for understanding how health care is financed, accessed and delivered, we then explore the history, current challenges and future of health care reform. We first explore health care systems of other developed countries, and then consider key components of reform in the US. With an understanding of the inherent tensions of simultaneously increasing access, reducing and managing cost and maintaining or improving quality amidst our disordered distribution systems and labyrinth of insurance programs, we will then analyze the current reform efforts being debated by Congress.

Throughout the course we engage with a set of moral questions in health care policy related to issues like consumer choice the rationing of resources and services. Small groups will be formed in recitation to engage in a series of issue-specific debates that will demonstrate and help to clarify how values shape our current health policies. There is generally widespread agreement that the need to reform this system is as urgent as ever, yet consensus about measures to be taken has remained elusive and contentious. Spring 2010 is a great time to be taking CH-2, as Congress has been actively negotiating health policy reform legislation for several months. Legislative measures may indeed pass during the semester. We will finish the course by analyzing and debating the implications of the most current policy status.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Jonathan Cohn - **Sick: The Untold Story of America's Health Care Crisis---And the People Who Pay the Price** (2008: Harper Perennial) ISBN: 0060580461
- T.R. Reid - **The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care** (2009: The Penguin Press) ISBN: 1594202346

COURSE WEB PAGE

All assigned readings that are not content of the required texts will be made available throughout the semester on the Blackboard Course Web Page. If there are changes made to the syllabus or an assignment, I will post them on Blackboard and send e-mail notification to the class. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have access to this page and the materials posted there.

RECITATION

Your active participation (not just attendance) in recitation is critical. Recitation grades are wholly based on thoughtful engagement that demonstrates that you have done the readings. Additionally, you will participate in a Debate during Recitation.

REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

GRADING - The final grade is based on your ability to think critically and analytically about the course materials, demonstrated through a critical Essay, two Exams, a Policy Memo, a Debate and Recitation participation. Guidelines will be distributed for the Essay, Policy Memo, and the Debates in advance, and reviewed in Lecture.

Essay	15 %
Midterm Exam	20 %
Policy Memo	25 %
Recitation	10 %
Debate	10 %
Final Exam	20 %

Written Work: All written work should be typed using standard margins and 12-point font. For cited work, use the accepted format of your choosing. Remember, proper spelling, grammar, and formatting are an indication of earnest effort and clarity of thought.

Questions & Concerns: Together we share the responsibility of learning in and out of the classroom. Please ask for clarification on any forms of course content at any time during class. I also encourage you to meet with your TA and/or me with any concerns you may have with the course. Likewise, I'd be happy to talk with you about your areas of special interest, etc. My office hours are posted in the heading of this syllabus, or we can arrange another time if those hours don't work.

Students with Disabilities: If you require an accommodation as a result of a documented disability, please be sure to register with the Disability Services Office at the beginning of the semester. If you have not already done so, call the Student Services Desk at 7-2000 to arrange an appointment with Sandra Baer, Program Director of Disability Services.

Timeliness of Assignments: Assignments will be penalized 10% for each day's delay. In the interest of fairness, exceptions can only be made for extenuating circumstances. For instance, this does not include general printing problems.

Academic Integrity: We are all are responsible for producing original work. It is essential to know your rights and responsibilities concerning academic integrity. **Please take this seriously.** Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes **plagiarism, which is often unintentional.** A booklet on academic integrity is available from the Dean's office at the following link:

<http://uss.tufts.edu/dosa/deansoffice/judicial/academicintegrity.asp>

READINGS: To be completed in advance of corresponding week.

- Shaded readings are recommended but not required.

WHAT, WHERE, WHO?

WEEK ONE (Jan 25 & 27): INTRODUCTION

- Cohn: Introduction (Boston) and Chapter 1 (Gilbertsville)

WEEK TWO (Feb 1 & 3): The Business of Medicine – Major System Characteristics

- Gawande, A. (2005). "PIECEWORK." New Yorker **81**(7): 44.
- Angell, M. (2008) "Privatizing Health Care is not the Answer: Lessons from the United States." Canadian Medical Association Journal **179**(9) 916-919.
- Bishop, G. and A. C. Brodkey (2006). "Personal responsibility and physician responsibility - West Virginia's Medicaid plan." New England Journal of Medicine **355**(8): 756.
- Yamin, A.E (2005). "The Right to Health under International Law and its Relevance to the United States." American Journal of Public Health **95**(7) 1156-1161.
- Stone, D. A. (1997). "The doctor as businessman: The changing politics of a cultural icon." Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law **22**(2): 533.
- Siegel, B., H. Mead, et al. (2008). "Private gain and public pain: Financing American health care." Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics **36**(4): 644.
- Edwards, R. T. (2005). "Blind faith and choice." Health affairs (Project Hope) **24**(6): 1624.
- Martin, T. (2006). "Going blind on our watch." Health affairs (Project Hope) **25**(4): 1121.
- Nichols, L. M., P. B. Ginsburg, et al. (2004). "Are market forces strong enough to deliver efficient health care systems? Confidence is waning." Health Affairs **23**(2): 8.

FINANCE AND DELIVERY

WEEK THREE (Feb 8 & 10): Insurance Markets

- Cohn – Chapters 2-4
- Gladwell, M. (2005). "The Moral Hazard Myth." New Yorker **81**(25): 44.
- Robinson, J. C. (2004). "Reinvention of Health Insurance in the Consumer Era." Journal of the American Medical Association **291**(15): 1880.

WEEK FOUR (Feb 17 & 18): Public Insurance

2/18 ESSAY 1

- **Kaiser Fact Sheets**
 - Medicare
 - Medicaid
 - S-CHIP

OUTCOMES & QUALITY

WEEK FIVE (Feb 22 & 24): Health Outcome Indicators & Disparities

- Cohn – Chapters 5-6 (pages 115-165)
- Gawande, Atul "The Cost Conundrum: What a Texas Town can Teach Us about Health Care" The New Yorker (June 1, 2009)
- Gawande, Atul "The Cost Conundrum Redux" The New Yorker (July 23, 2009)
- Hellander, I. (2008). "The deepening crisis in U.S. health care: A review of data, Spring 2008." International Journal of Health Services **38**(4): 607.
- Fisher, E.S., Goodman, D.C., Chandra, A. (2008). "Disparities in health and health care among Medicare beneficiaries." A brief report of the Dartmouth Atlas Project. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

WEEK SIX (Mar 1 & 3): Uninsured, Underinsured

- Cohn – Chapters 7-8 (pages 167-213)
- Garson Jr, A. (2007). "Heart of the uninsured." Health affairs (Project Hope) **26**(1): 227.
- Fiscella, K. and R. M. Epstein (2008). "So much to do, so little time: Care for the socially disadvantaged and the 15-minute visit." Archives of Internal Medicine **168**(17): 1843.
- Rowland, D. and A. Shartzter (2008). "America's uninsured: The statistics and back story." Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics **36**(4): 618.
- Hadley, J., J. Holahan, et al. (2008). "Covering the uninsured in 2008: Current costs, sources of payment, and incremental costs." Health Affairs **27**(5).
- Rowland, D. and A. Shartzter (2008). "America's uninsured: The statistics and back story." Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics **36**(4): 618.
- Musgrove, P. (2006) "Life and death and who's going to pay." Health Affairs **25**(6): 1664-1667.

WEEK SEVEN (Mar 8 & 10): MIDTERM & POLICY MEMO RESEARCH

- (Mar 8) Midterm Review & Research Sources for Policy Memo

MIDTERM EXAM MAR 10

WEEK EIGHT (Mar 15 & 17): Growing Population Health Challenges

- Bodenheimer, T. (2008). "Coordinating care - A perilous journey through the health care system." New England Journal of Medicine **358**(10).

SPRING BREAK

WEEK NINE (Mar 29 & 31): Additional Costs

- Klevens, R. M., J. R. Edwards, et al. (2007). "Estimating health care-associated infections and deaths in U.S. hospitals, 2002." Public health reports (Washington, D.C.: 1974) **122**(2): 160.
 - Overtreatment
 - Fraud
 - Malpractice
 - Waste and Errors
 - Pharmaceuticals

WEEK TEN (Apr 5 & 7): HEALTH CARE REFORM

DEBATE #1

- T.R. Reid "The Healing of America"
 - Leonhardt, David "Making Health Care Better "New York Times" (Nov 8, 2009).
- Fuchs, V. R. and E. J. Emanuel (2005). "Health care reform: Why? What? When? What it might take to effect comprehensive change." Health Affairs **24**(6): 1399.
 - Brown, L. D. (2003). "Comparing health systems in four countries: Lessons for the United States." American Journal of Public Health **93**(1): 52.
 - Schablosk, A. K. (2008). Health Care Systems Around the World, Insure the Uninsured Project.

WEEK ELEVEN (Apr 12 & 14): HEALTH CARE REFORM

DEBATE #2

APRIL 13 – GUEST LECTURE: Lindsey Tucker, Health Care for All

- Cohn – Conclusion (pages 215-231)
- McDonough, J.E., Rosman, B., Butt, M., Tucker, L. & Kaplan Howe, L. "Massachusetts Health Reform Implementation: Major Progress and Future Challenges" [Health Affairs 27, no. 4 (2008): w285–w297 (published online 3 June 2008; 10.1377/hlthaff.27.4.w285)]
 - McDonough, J.E., Rosman, B., Phelps, F. & Shannon, M. "The Third Wave of Massachusetts Health Care Access Reform" [Health Affairs 25 (2006): w420–w431; 10.1377/hlthaff.25.w420]

- Steinbrook, R. (2008). "Health care reform in Massachusetts - Expanding coverage, escalating costs." New England Journal of Medicine **358**(26): 2757.
- Weil, A. R. and J. R. Tallon Jr (2008). "The States' Role in national health reform." Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics **36**(4): 690.
- Oberlander, J. (2007). "Health reform interrupted: The unraveling of the Oregon health plan." Health Affairs **26**(1).

WEEK TWELVE (Apr 21): COMPONENTS OF REFORM

DEBATE #3

- Tort Reform
- Mandates
- Guaranteed Issue
- Medical Homes
- Comparative Effectiveness
- Electronic Medical Records
- Hospital Safety

POLICY MEMO DUE

WEEK THIRTEEN (Apr 26 & 28): ANALYZING CURRENT REFORM

DEBATE #4

- TBD

- Morone, J. A. and D. Blumenthal (2008). "Nine lessons for health reform: Or will we finally learn from the past?" Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics **36**(4): 722.
- Oberlander, J. (2008). "The politics of paying for health reform: Zombies, payroll taxes, and the holy grail." Health Affairs **27**(6).
- Stone, D. (2008). "Protect the sick: Health insurance reform in one easy lesson." Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics **36**(4): 652.
- Wilensky, G. R. (2008). "Health care reform: Lessons from the past, lessons for the future." Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics **36**(4): 725.
- Navarro, V. (2008). "Looking back at the future: Why Hillary care failed." International Journal of Health Services **38**(2): 205.
- Lillie-Blanton, M., S. Maleque, et al. (2008). "Reducing racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic disparities in health care: Opportunities in national health reform." Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics **36**(4): 693.

WEEK FOURTEEN (May 3): FINAL EXAM REVIEW

SUMMARY OF DUE DATES:

FEB 11	ESSAY
MAR 10	MIDTERM EXAM
WEEKS 10, 11, 12, 13	DEBATES
APR 21	POLICY MEMO
MAY 10	FINAL EXAM