

HEALTH CARE POLICY AND REFORM
Peking University School of Government
Second Semester 2015-2016
Wednesday 18:40 – 21:30, 505 SG Building

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The aging population and increasing demand for healthcare resources have generated political debate and scholarly interest in health care policy and health system reforms around the world. The aim of this course is to provide students with an overview of the health care system, its components, and the policy challenges created by the organization of this system. The topics covered include: the global health and health care systems, the consumer demand for health and medical care, the physician behavior and health care supply, health insurance and the related issues, medical institutions and hospital markets, public health programs and the role of government, the pharmaceutical industry and drug policy, health reforms in China, etc. Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be familiar with the main subjects and issues in this field, and be able to conduct independent research on related topics.

PREREQUISITES:

No disciplinary background is assumed, nor is any special familiarity with the field of health care required.

SUGGESTED TEXTBOOK:

Frank A. Sloan and Chee-Ruey Hsieh, *Health Economics*, The MIT Press, 2012.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

- 1) Charles Phelps, *Health Economics (5th Edition)*, Prentice Hall, 2012.
- 2) Kathryn Jacobsen, *Introduction to Global Health (2nd Edition)*, Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2013.
- 3) David M. Cutler, *Your Money or Your Life: Strong Medicine for America's Health Care System*, Oxford University Press, 2005.
- 4) Joseph P. Newhouse, *Pricing the Priceless: A Health Care Conundrum*, The MIT Press, 2002.
- 5) Frank A. Sloan and Hirschel Kasper, *Incentives and Choice in Health Care*, The MIT Press, 2008.

GRADING POLICY – your final grade will be based on the following components:

1) Term Paper: 60%

Each student is expected to submit a term paper at the end of the semester based on original research on a topic in health care policy. The paper should be a formal analytical piece on a subject related to the materials covered in this course, such as the interplay of patients and providers, operation of public / private health insurance programs, health system reforms in your home country, analysis of a particular health care policy, etc. You will be responsible for posing an original research question, surveying the relevant literature, choosing the appropriate research method, obtaining the applicable data, completing a rigorous political or economic analysis, and giving sound and implementable policy suggestions. Please refer to class notes for formatting guidelines. The expected length of the paper is 6,000 – 8,000 words.

2) Presentation of Term Paper: 10%

During the last several class sessions, each student will be asked to present your research findings based on your term paper. During the presentation, you are expected to give a clear introduction of the issue of interest, lay out the analytical structure of your research, report the major findings based on your work, and answer questions raised by the audience. Your grade will be determined by the clarity and effectiveness of your presentation. The length of the presentation should be limited to 10-15 minutes with no more than 10 PowerPoint slides.

3) Presentation on Selected Health Policy Papers: 10%

During the seminar session of each class, a team of 2-3 students will be requested to present a selected article in the reading list. In this 30 minute presentation, you should summarize the research topic, methodology and the main findings of the article, and also give your comments based on your reading. You should submit your presentation slides via email one day prior to the class for the instructor's approval, and your grade will be based on the preparation for your talk, your understanding of the paper, and your performance in the presentation.

4) Attendance and Class Participation: 20%

You are expected to attend each lecture/seminar session and actively participate in the class discussion. Bonus points will be given to those who frequently give thoughtful comments to other people's presentation in the class. Attendance sheet will be handed out in each class, and those who skip a class without a valid and documented excuse will have 5 points deducted from their attendance score for each absence.

Notes: 1) Cheating of any sort will result in an automatic Fail for the course, and will be immediately reported to the university authorities. 2) If you have a diagnosed physical or mental condition which will make it difficult for you to carry out the course work, please notify me during the first two weeks of the course so we may discuss appropriate arrangement or reasonable accommodations.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic
Week 1	Introduction to the Health Care System
Week 2	Health, Health Care and Economic Growth: A Global Perspective
Week 3	The Consumer Demand for Medical Care
Week 4	Physicians, Medical Institutions, and the Supply of Medical Care
Week 5	Demand for Health Insurance and the Rand Health Insurance Experiment
Week 6	Supply of Health Insurance and the Managed Care
Week 7	The Role of Government in Health Care
Week 8	International Comparison of Health Care Financing
Week 9	Pharmaceutical Industry and Drug Policy
Week 10	Health Care Reforms in China
Week 11	Student Paper Presentation (1)
Week 12	Student Paper Presentation (2)
Week 13	Student Paper Presentation (3)
Week 14	Term Paper Writing (No Class)

READING LIST AND PRESENTATION ASSIGNMENTS:

2. Health, Health Care and Economic Growth: A Global Perspective

Cutler D, Deaton A, Lleras-Muney A. (2006). The Determinants of Mortality. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 20 (3), 97-120.

3. The Consumer Demand for Medical Care

Masiero, G., Filippini, M., Ferech, M., & Goossens, H. (2010). Socioeconomic determinants of outpatient antibiotic use in Europe. *International Journal of Public Health*, 55(5), 469-478.

4. Physicians, Medical Institutions, and the Supply of Medical Care

Wang H, Zhang L, Yip W, Hsiao W. (2011). An experiment in payment reform for doctors in rural china reduced some unnecessary care but did not lower total costs. *Health Affairs*, Vol. 30 (12), 2427-36.

5. Demand for Health Insurance and the Rand Health Insurance Experiment

Rajkotia Y, Frick K. (2012). Does household enrolment reduce adverse selection in a voluntary health insurance system? Evidence from the Ghanaian National Health Insurance System. *Health Policy and Planning*, Vol. 27 (5), 429–437.

6. Supply of Health Insurance and the Managed Care

Landon B, Zaslavsky A, Saunders R, Pawlson L, Newhouse J, Ayanian J. (2012). Analysis of Medicare advantage HMOs compared with traditional Medicare shows lower use of many services during 2003–09. *Health Affairs*, Vol. 31 (12), 2609–2617.

7. The Role of Government in Health Care

Abiola S, Gonzales R, Blendon R, Benson J. (2011). Survey in sub-Saharan Africa shows substantial support for government efforts to improve health services. *Health Affairs*, Vol. 30 (8), 1478-1487.

8. International Comparison of Health Care Financing

Schoen C, Osborn R, Squires D, Doty M, Pierson R, Applebaum S. (2010). How health insurance design affects access to care and costs, by income, in eleven countries. *Health Affairs*, Vol. 29 (12), 2323-2334.

9. Pharmaceutical Industry and Drug Policy

Sampat B, Lichtenberg F. (2011). What are the respective roles of the public and private sectors in pharmaceutical innovation? *Health Affairs*, Vol. 30 (2), 332-339.

10. Health Care Reforms in China

Yip W, Hsiao W, Chen W, Hu S, Ma J, Maynard A. (2012). Early appraisal of China's huge and complex health care reforms. *The Lancet*, Vol. 379, 833-842.