[Course title]

Course Syllabus and Policies

[Section number] [Instructor’s name]

[Semester and year] [Office location]

[Days of the week and hours of class] [Office hours]

[Room number and building name] [Office phone]

[Cell phone]

[Email address]

**TEXTS AND RESOURCES**

* Knickman, J. R., & Kovner, A. R. (2015). *Jonas & Kovner’s Health Care Delivery in the United States.* 11th edition. New York, NY: Springer Publishing Co.
* [other resource]
* [other resource]

[The content below is merely a suggestion. Feel free to revise it as needed to effectively customize it for your course.]

**OVERVIEW**

This course covers current challenges faced by the U.S. health care delivery system and how health policy, both historically and today, has sought to address these challenges. This system is compared with those of other nations to highlight its relative strengths and weaknesses. We will consider health care concerns associated with population and public health, including how the behavior of individuals and groups influences health. Risk factors associated with vulnerable populations are identified and discussed. We will also explore the logistics of the health care system, including how it is organized, who makes up the workforce, how health care is financed, the costs and value of health care, how it is managed, and the role of information technology in this sector. Finally, we will take a look at the future of health care delivery in the U.S. and of health care policy.

**PURPOSE**

To help you better understand the purpose, history, components, organization, strengths, weaknesses, and proposed and implemented reforms associated with the U.S. health care delivery system.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Identify and discuss key issues facing the U.S. health care system.
2. Explain the past and present roles of all levels of government and public policy in the health care system.
3. Compare the U.S. health care system with those of other nations and describe similarities and differences.
4. Define and discuss the significance of population health and public health in the United States.
5. Explain how individual and group behaviors influence health and the implications for public health delivery.
6. Identify vulnerable populations in the United States and describe the challenges they face in accessing health care and potential solutions to this problem.
7. Describe the current organization of the U.S. health care system, how it has evolved over time, and the shape it is likely to take in the future.
8. Discuss the current makeup of the health care workforce, the challenges posed by shortages in certain professions, and how these shortages are being addressed.
9. Explain how health care is financed in the United States, what costs are involved, and how the concepts of value and quality influence health care delivery.
10. Identify and describe the role of organizations that manage and govern health care in the United States.
11. Discuss how innovations in information technology are affecting health care delivery.
12. Discuss key drivers of change in the health care system and the likely impact these will have on providers, employers, insurers, public policymakers, and consumers.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**Instructor’s Statement**

[Describe the format for the course, that is, lecture and discussion, online, hybrid (combination of onsite and online), teaching/learning strategies, and instructor’s expectations regarding student participation in the class. A sample statement you may wish to include is as follows: “The instructor acts as mentor and facilitator and students and faculty share their experiences and learn from each other. It is expected that mutual respect for all participants be observed to create and maintain a safe and stimulating learning environment.”]

**Evaluation Methods**

[Describe the types of assignments for the course. For example, if online, threaded discussions,

group project and paper, short papers, and reports, either oral or written. If on campus, lecture

and discussions, student-led seminars, case studies, group work with group report and paper,

or short individual paper.]

**Evaluation by Percentage of Final Grade**

Final exam: [%]

Midterm exam: [%]

Tests: [%]

Quizzes: [%]

Homework: [%]

Projects: [%]

Class participation: [%]

**Course Projects**

Project #1: Class debate over the role of federal government in health care.

Due: [XX]

Research the topic of the role of the U.S. federal government in health care, finding and reading at least five reputable sources (newspapers, magazines, journals, books, or websites). Based on your research, prepare a written argument supporting what you believe the role of government should be in the health care system. Cite the five (or more) sources you found, include at least three major points in support of your position, and be prepared to speak for about 5 minutes as part of a class debate on the topic.

Project #2: PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the health care system of another nation.

Due: [XX]

Select a nation from a list provided by your instructor (or your instructor may assign you one) and research its health care system. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation that includes 15 to 20 slides and present it to the class on the date assigned by your instructor. You must include the following information in your presentation:

* History of the health care system, including changes and recent developments
* Type of health care system currently in place (roles of government, private sector, providers)
* Major features of the current system
* Current population of the nation
* Total expenditure on health care each year (in the nation’s monetary unit, in U.S. dollars, and as a percentage of gross domestic product)
* Expenditure on health care per capita
* World Health Organization rankings in major indices of health (infant mortality, life expectancy, etc.)
* Strengths and weaknesses of the system compared with those of other nations
* Popularity of system among citizens

Project #3: Interview with a health care system stakeholder.

Due: [XX]

Identify a significant stakeholder in the U.S. health care system, contact him or her, and arrange and conduct an interview (in person, over the phone, or by email). This stakeholder may be a hospital administrator, a physician, a nurse, a health insurance executive, a politician, a human resources manager at a company, or a consumer with significant knowledge of or experience with the health care system. (Note: your instructor may assign you a stakeholder type.) During the interview, pose the following questions (you may ask additional questions, as you have time):

* What are the major problems with the U.S. health care system today, from your perspective?
* How effective has the Affordable Care Act been in addressing these problems so far?
* What major trends do you see occurring in the health care system in the next 5 to 10 years?
* What changes would you like to see in the system, and how could they be brought about?
* What do you see your role as in improving health and health care?

Write up and submit a transcript of the interview to your instructor.

Project #4: Design your own health care system.

Due: [XX]

Drawing on all that you have learned in the course thus far, design your health care system for the United States. Be creative! Feel free to make your system as similar to or different from the current system as you would like. Model the system after that of another nation, if you’d like, or design one that is completely original. Include the following elements in your design:

* The role of federal, state, and local governments
* The role of insurance companies
* The role of employers
* The role of providers
* The role of consumers
* How health care would be paid for
* The advantage of your system over the existing one
* The biggest criticism your opponents would have of your system
* How you would answer this criticism

You may present your health care system in a PowerPoint presentation with 15 to 20 slides, a multimedia presentation or oral report lasting about 5 minutes, or a 1,000-word paper.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week #** | **Lecture/Discussion Topic** | **Assignment/Test**  (all chs refer to Knickman & Kovner) |
| 1 | Introduction to the U.S. health care system: problems and policy | Read chs 1 & 2 |
| 2 | The role of government in health care | * Read ch 3 * **Test on chs 1 & 2** |
| 3 | Comparative health systems | * Read ch 4 * *Project #1 due* |
| 4 | Population health | * Read ch 5 * **Test on chs 3 & 4** |
| 5 | Public health | * Read ch 6 * *Project #2 due* |
| 6 | Health and behavior | * Read ch 7 * **Test on chs 5 & 6** |
| 7 | Vulnerable populations | * Read ch 8 * *Project #3 due* |
| 8 | Organization of care | * Read ch 9 * **MIDTERM EXAM (chs 1-8)** |
| 9 | The health care workforce | Read ch 10 |
| 10 | Health care financing | * Read ch 11 * **Test on chs 9 & 10** |
| 11 | Health care costs and value | Read ch 12 |
| 12 | Quality of health care | * Read ch 13 * **Test on chs 11 & 12** |
| 13 | Management and information technology in health care | * Read chs 14 & 15 * **Test on chs 13 & 14** |
| 14 | Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the future of health care in the U.S. | * Read ch 16 & the ACA supplemental ch * *Project #4 due* |
| 15 | Preparation for final exam | **FINAL EXAM** |