HCMG 101 – HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS  
SPRING 2017  
T/TH 1:30-2:50, JMHH F85  

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Office hours: Thursdays, 3:30-5:00, 206 Colonial Penn Center  

TAs: Christine Casey (chcasey@wharton.upenn.edu; office hours: TBA) and Timothy Horvat (Timothy.Horvat.wg18@wharton.upenn.edu; office hours: TBA); office hours held in the HCMG Lounge, Colonial Penn Center (on Locust Walk across from SHDH), basement. If you cannot make office hours, please make appointment with the TAs or me.  

OVERVIEW  
This course introduces and examines the main features of the financing and delivery of health care in the United States. It covers providers of care, health care products and services, the relationship between health and health care, private and public insurance and related financing mechanisms, health care reform, factors affecting health policy, and the impact of health policy on key stakeholders. The course pays close attention to the economic incentives facing institutions and individuals and to the economic context of important health policy issues.  

READINGS  
Required: Paul J. Feldstein, Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective, 6th ed., available at the PENN Bookstore. (The 5th edition has the same chapters. It does not reflect recent changes in the health care system and has older data.)  

Additional readings are posted on the course’s Canvas site: https://canvas.upenn.edu/courses/1347921. If you experience problems accessing Canvas, please contact Tina Horowitz (horowitt@wharton.upenn.edu).  

LECTURES  
Outlines/slides for lectures will be posted on Canvas prior to class. Speakers may expand or cover additional material beyond the slides.  

MIDTERM EXAMS AND WRITING ASSIGNMENT  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1 (February 14, in class)</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2 (March 23, in class)</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3 (April 25, in class)</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing assignment (April 4)</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
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The exams will be non-cumulative and a combination of multiple choice, identification, and short answer questions. Five required and/or bonus points for each exam may cover material from the readings that is not covered in class. *Exams must be taken when scheduled and can only be made up with an excused absence pursuant to University rules.*
Your grade will be based on your total number of points. A+, A, A- range: 315 and above; B+, B, B- range: 280 – 314; C+, C, C- range: 245 – 279; D+, D, range: 210 – 244. Plus and minus cutoffs will depend on class performance and be close to endpoints of the relevant range. *Those cutoffs will not be disclosed.*

**WRITING ASSIGNMENT**

You are required to write a 200-250 word reaction/opinion/analysis of a newspaper article or blog post dealing with health care in the form of a “letter to the editor.” Candidate articles/posts will be posted to Canvas during the semester. **Due date: April 4.**

I will grade the assignment based on substance (what you say) and exposition (how you say it). If you request a regrade, both TAs will read your assignment and refer it to me for further review if they feel an adjustment may be warranted. A regrade can result in an increase, decrease, or no change in points.

**CLASS PROTOCOL**

Attendance is important; participation is encouraged. You should seek to arrive on time and, unless you inform me prior to class or become ill during class, stay throughout. Please remain quiet unless participating and abide by the rules announced in class regarding electronics. Protocol violations may be penalized by point deductions at my discretion.

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

- Stephanie Doupnik, MD, MSHP, Faculty member, Center for Pediatric Clinical Effectiveness; Co-Director, CHOP inpatient Medical Behavioral Unit; Instructor of Pediatrics, School of Medicine
- Samuel Fager, MD, JD, MBA, President, S.S. Fager Consulting
- Said A. Ibrahim, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine; Co-Director, CHERP, HSR&D Center of Innovation
- Jeffrey Silber, PhD, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and Anesthesiology and Health Care Management; Director of the Center for Outcomes Research
- Julie Sochalski, PhD, FAAN, RN, Associate Professor of Nursing, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, School of Nursing
- Kevin Volpp, MD, PhD, Professor of Medicine and Health Care Management; Director, Center for Health Incentives and Behavioral Economics, Leonard Davis Institute

**SCHEDULE**

Jan. 12 & 17: **U.S. health care spending in a global context**

- Feldstein, Chapters 1-2

Jan. 19: **Health, medical care, and the value of medical spending**

- Feldstein, Chapter 3, 5, 21
- The relative contributions of multiple determinants to health outcomes. Health Affairs Health Policy Brief. August 2014.


Jan. 24: Key Concepts in Health Insurance

• Feldstein, Chapter 6


Jan. 26: Health and behavior (Kevin Volpp)


Jan. 31, Feb. 2 & 7: Private health insurance and ACA reforms

• Feldstein, Chapters 7, 19, 36, Appendix

• Uninsurance rates and the ACA. Health Affairs Health Policy Brief. May 23, 2016.


Feb. 9: Medicare – government insurance for the elderly and disabled

• Feldstein, Chapter 8, 10


Feb. 14: EXAM 1

Feb. 16: Medicaid – government insurance for the poor

• Feldstein, Chapter 9


Feb. 21: Poverty, health, and geographic variation in health care costs


Feb. 23: Introduction to the hospital sector

• Feldstein, Chapters 14, 15, 16, 17

Feb. 28: Nursing (Julie Sochalski)
  • Feldstein, Chapter 24

Mar. 2: Hospitals, cont.
  • See Feb. 23 readings

Mar. 14: The evolving role of physicians (Samuel Fager)
  • Feldstein, Chapters 11, 23

Mar. 16: More on physicians

Mar. 21: More on provider reimbursement and payment reforms

Mar. 23: EXAM 2

Mar. 28: Physician academic career paths (Stephanie Doupnik)

Mar. 30 & April 4: Pharmaceuticals / biologics / medtech
  • Feldstein, Chapters 25, 26, 27, 28

April 6: Assessing health outcomes (Jeffrey Silber)

April 11: Improving medical care quality and safety (Samuel Fager)
  • Feldstein, Chapters 4, 12

April 13: Medical malpractice liability, insurance, and medical practice
  • Feldstein, Chapter 13

April 18: Disparities in health care (Said Ibrahim)

April 20: A brief look at health care financing in selected countries
  • Feldstein, Chapter 32

April 25: EXAM 3