## NYU Wagner logo

**HPAM-GP 2852**

**Comparative Analysis of Health Systems**

**January, 2022**

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Class Sessions meet from Jan 3-6: 10:00 AM-5:00PM

Prof. Victor G. Rodwin, [victor.rodwin@nyu.edu](file:///Users/Chris/Downloads/victor.rodwin@nyu.edu), (212) 998-7459

Teaching Assistant: Alexa DeAngeles, and8871@nyu.edu

Admin. Assistant: Christopher Harris, [christopher.harris@nyu.edu](file:///Users/Chris/Downloads/christopher.harris@nyu.edu)

## Course Description

We tend to be ethnocentric in our views of health care organization and policy. A look abroad, however, can provide insights about problems at home. In spite of differences in the organization and financing of their health care systems, most countries share a number of common problems with the United States. First, is the question of deciding - or not explicitly deciding - what proportion of GNP should be devoted to health and welfare. Second, is the problem of agreeing on appropriate criteria to allocate health and social service expenditures. Third, is the problem of how to implement established policies: through regulation, promotion of competition, budgeting, or reimbursement incentives directed at health care providers.

This intensive 4 day J-Term class will attempt to cover most of the material in the full semester-long class but the approach will be different, of course. The instructor will present much of the material covered in readings by presenting short lectures and powerpoints and films followed by class discussions. We will focus on the organization, financing and performance of health systems in wealthy nations. We begin with a discussion of conventional health system models around the world and alternative perspectives for studying them and evaluating their performance. We will discuss how so much of the literature draws on selective evidence to evaluate health care systems in the U.S. and abroad. Finally, we will study a range of different approaches to the empirical analysis of health system performance in selected nations, and examine the extent to which the available evidence supports or refutes widely shared views of different health care systems.

Since this version of the class attempts to condense what is normally covered during a full semester, I have tried to keep readings short. However, there is one exception. I urge all of you to read as much as you can of the Dutton book over the winter break preceding the class.

## Recommended Books

1. Britnell, M. (2015) *In Search of the Perfect Health System*. Palgrove.
2. Dutton, P. (2021) *Beyond Medicine: Why European Social Democracies Enjoy Better Health Outcomes than the United States.* Ithaca,Cornell U. Press.
3. Emanuel, E. (2020) *Which Country Has the World’s Best Health Care?* New York, Public Affairs.
4. Rice, T. (2021) *Health Insurance Systems: An International Comparison*, Cambridge. MA. Elsevier.
5. T.R. Reid (2010) The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and Fairer Health Care. Penguin.

## Course Learning Objectives

* Analyze conceptual and methodological issues in the study of health systems
* Identify common problems and differences among diverse health systems
* Highlight key features of health systems in OECD nations and other countries.
* Assess the impact of globalization on health system development
* Analyze the U.S. health system from a comparative perspective
* Examine the uses of comparative analysis in learning from abroad
* Present an argument, based on relevant concepts and evidence

## Class Calendar

**Introduction**

| Date | Class | Topic |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Jan. 3  Monday  Morning | 1 | **Overview of the Field: The Case for and Against Comparative Analysis**  **Of Health Systems**  **Overview of Class: Requirements and Short Individual Study**  Readings:  L. Brown. Comparing health systems in four countries: Lessons for the United States. (2003). American J. of Public Health 93(1), 52-56.  Okma, KG. & Marmor, TR. (2013). Comparative studies and health care policy: Learning and mislearning across borders. Clinical Medicine 13(5), 487-491  Optional Reading:  T.R. Reid, The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper and Fairer Health Care. Penguin, 2010. Chapters 1-8.  Optional Film:  Film:  - Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44ZDpYjKVAU5> |
| Jan. 3  Afternoon | 2 | **The Quest for Better, Cheaper, Fairer, even Perfect Health Systems**  Readings:  Papanicolas, I. Woskie, L. Jha, A. Health care spending in the United States and other high-income countries. JAMA 319 (10), 2018.  Dutton, P. Introduction: Relative decline is decline all the same.  Emanuel, E. Which Country has the World’s Best Health Care? Read selections on systems that interest you |
| Jan. 4  Tuesday  Morning | 3 | **Health System Performance Metrics** **(I):** **The World Health Organization and its Critics: Discrete components of performance vs. composite scores/rankings**  Readings:  Frenk, J and Murray, C. (2000). A Framework for Assessing the Performance of Health Systems. Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 78(6), 717-31.  P. Musgrove. (2003). Judging Health Systems: Reflections on WHO’s Methods. Lancet 361(9371), 1817-1820.  Coyne, J. and Hilsenrath, P. (2002). “The World Health Report 2000: Can Health Care Systems Be Compared Using a Single Measure of Performance?” American Journal of Public Health 92(1), 30.  Navarro, Vicente. (2002). “The World Health Report 2000: Can Health Care Systems Be Compared Using a Single Measure of Performance?” American Journal of Public Health 92(1), 31. |

**Comparative Analysis of Health Systems**

| Date | Class | Topic |
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| Jan.4  Tuesday  Afternoon | 4 | **Health System Performance Metrics (II):** **The continuing contributions of the Commonwealth Fund**  Reading:  Schneider, E. (2017). From last to first – Could the U.S. health care system become the best in the world? NEJM 377, 901-904.  Doty, M. et al. (2021). Income-related inequality in affordability and access to primary care in eleven high-income countries. Health Affairs.40(1).  Dutton, P. Chapter 1 (France) or 2 (Germany) or 3 (Sweden)  Optional Reading:  R. Osborn, D. Squires, M. M. Doty, D. O. Sarnak, and E.C. Schneider, “In New Survey of 11 Countries, U.S. Adults Still Struggle with Access to and Affordability of Health Care,” Health Affairs Web First, 2016.  Schneider et al. (2017). Mirror, Mirror: International Comparison Reflects flaws and opportunities for better U.S. health care. New York, the Commonwealth Fund. |
| Jan. 5  Wednesday  Morning | 5 | **Zoom Meetings with Experts on Different Health Systems; Student Presentations**  Reading:  McGlynn, E. (2004). There is no perfect health system. Health Affairs. 23 (3).  Appleby, J. (2011). Which is the best health system in the world? BMJ 343, 722-723. |

| Date | Class | Topic |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Jan 5  Wednesday  Afternoon | 6 | **What’s the Best Health Care System and How Would You Know?**  Readings:  Oliver, A. (2012). The folly of cross-country ranking exercises. JHPEL. 7(1), 15-17.  Wolf and Aron (2013). US Health disadvantage. JAMA.309(8). Emanuel, E. (2020). Which Country has the world's best health care?  Public Affairs. New York. Ch. 12: Who's the Best?  Emanuel, E. (2020). Which Country has the world's best health care?  Public Affairs. New York. Ch. 12: Who's the Best?  -Hsiao, W. (2020). How to fix American health care: What other countries can - and can’t - teach the United States. Foreign Affairs.  -Dutton, P. Conclusion: Beyond Medicine |
| Jan 6  Morning | 7 | **Zoom Meetings with Experts in France and Switzerland; Student Presentations**  Required Readings:  -Marmor, T. (2018). Our lost vocabulary of social insurance.  <https://niskanencenter.org/blog/lost-vocabulary-of-social-insurance/>  -Freeman, R. Frisina, L.(2010). Health Care Systems and the Problem of  Classification. J. of Comparative Policy Analysis. 12 (1-2). |
| Jan 6  Afternoon | 8 | **Student Presentations** |

## Course Assignments

There is neither a mid-term nor a final examination. You will “get out” what you “put in” to this class, as far as what you learn. I ask that you at least glance at the readings I will discuss before we meet. I will also ask students the day before to come to class prepared to respond to one of the questions I will raise about readings for the next day. This assignment is important because it will enhance the quality of our class discussions.

The final assignment involves conducting documentary research on a health system of your choice. This assignment does not call for a term paper. Rather it provides you the opportunity to dig deeper into the recent evolution and performance of a health care system and how it compares to one in another nation. The output for this assignment should be delivered in two parts. The first part is due on the last day of class (Session #8). It is an oral presentation in which you define a few research questions you would like to explore on a specific health system or a comparison of two health systems. You should state why these questions are important to you and explain your approach to answer them. Please post a 1-page written draft version by January 6th (midnight) on Discussion #1 of Brightspace. You may edit or rewrite this and post before Jan. 14th. The second part, due by Friday, January 14th (midnight) involves assembling materials to include in your research dossier (articles, tables, charts) that provide some answers/insights in response to the questions you have posed. Key sections of these materials should be highlighted in yellow. Please post on Discussion #2 of Brightspace. Finally, before January 21st, please write a one to two page summary (<500 words) of what you found and what you learned from the process and post this on Discussion #3 of Brightspace.

## Grading

The first part of the research dossier (posted on Discussion #1) will count for 20% of the grade; the second part (posted on Discussion #2) will count for another 20% of your grade. Your final summary (posted on discussion #3) will count for another 20% of your grade. Class participation will count for 40% of the grade.

Plagiarism Policy: Academic integrity is crucial to the mission of NYU Wagner. Plagiarism of any form will not be tolerated since you have all signed an Academic Oath at NYU/Wagner and are bound by the academic code of the school. Please review the [NYU policy on plagiarism](http://wagner.nyu.edu/students/policies) (posted on Wagner Website) prior to submitting written work.