NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service
Comparative Health Systems
HPAM-GP 2852 and GPH-GU 2352

Wednesdays 6.45-8.25
4 September – 14 December
Building 25W4 room c-13
Professor Richard Alderslade
ra78@nyu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Heath systems around the world are grappling with problems of improvements in public health, the cost, access, equity and quality of care, and the inevitable trade-offs between these objectives. Economic and political reforms designed to promote markets, manage competition, organize systems for public contracting, improve management, and change financial incentives in the health sector have been debated in most countries, and in many cases implemented, with at best mixed results.

Whilst health system reform has generally received more attention than public health, there has also been increasing attention to what has been called the “new public health”, which considers the political, economic, social, environmental and institutional contexts within which health is created.

In this course we will apply some tools and perspectives of public policy analysis and draw on international comparisons of health systems to analyze efforts at health system and public health reform. The readings, lectures and class discussions should make students more knowledgeable about policy options and policy changes in different countries.

The course will start with a discussion of the impact of globalization on public health and health system reform. Next it focuses on ideas, concepts and theories of health care reform. The OECD database on health systems will be reviewed, and cases of health care reform in Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Canada and France and the United States will be studied.
Students are encouraged to select any country of their choice and become “experts” about the goals, the process, the attempts to implement, and the obstacles encountered, in their own examination of public health and health system reform.

Prerequisites

The course assumes that students will be familiar with policy analysis and with the current system of health care organization and financing in the United States.

Course requirements

During the course students will be asked to write a position paper, based on the readings and the course content, on a chosen topic and country. This paper will be presented as a case study at the end of the course. In addition students should prepare a short final paper (8-10 pages, single and a half spaced) on some aspect of health care reform in a country (or a comparative paper on two countries) of their choice.

Teaching Method and Grading

Classes will consist of short lectures and questions aimed to provoke discussion about the readings and the issues they raise. The position papers will count for 30% of the grade. The final paper will count for 70% of the grade. The grade may be raised or lowered by up to one half a letter based on class contributions.

Required books


Outline of course topics and readings

1 Introduction to Seminar 5 September 2012

1. Health21, The Health for All Policy Framework for the WHO European Region, European Health for All Series, No 5, Copenhagen, WHO


Ideas concepts and theories of health care reform

2. Globalization, Public Health and Health System Reform 12 September 2012


2. White, Chapters 1 and 6


3. Managed Competition, Public Competition and Managed Care 19 September 2012


2. White, Chapters 7 and 8


4 Health Data and Information 26 September 2012


Case studies of health care reform

5. Britain: Evolution of Reform 3 October 2012

1. Light, D. “Policy Lessons From the British Health Care System,” Ch. 13 in Powell and Wessen.

2. Raffel, pp. 227-262

3. Payer, 101-123

4. Enthoven, A. “In Pursuit of an Improving National Health Service,” Health Affairs


4. Powell and Wessen, Chapters 14 and 15


1. Payer, pp.74-100

2. Raffel, pp.77-

3. Powell and Wessen, Chapters 4-6

4. Brown, L and Amelung, V. “Manacled Competition’: Market Reforms in

5. German Health Care,” Health Affairs (18) 3, May/June 1999,

8. Japan: Low Costs, Good Health and Problems, Nevertheless 24 October

1. Raffel, pp.105-134


10 Canada: Evolution of Reform Efforts 31 October 2012

1. White, Chapter 4
2. Powell and Wessen, Chapters 7, 8

3. Raffel, pp.1-28


5. Powell and Wessen, Chapters 9

11. France: Evolution of Reform Efforts and contemporary debates 7 November

1. Payer, pp.35-73

2. Raffel, pp.

3. White, Chapter 5


12. The United States Present situation of reform 14 and 21 November

13 and 14 Comparative Analysis: Case Presentations 28 November and 5 December 2012

Short Bibliography on Health Care Reform


13. Health Affairs, Pursuit of Health Systems Reform (Special Issue), 10, Fall 1991.


http://www.euro.who.int/document/e81384.pdf

Websites

- OECD in Figures http://www.oecd.org/publications/figures/Index.htm
- International Clearinghouse of Health System Reform Initiatives (ICHSRI) http://www.insp.mx/ichsri/
- European Clearing House on Health Systems Reform http://www.leeds.ac.uk/nuffield/infoservices/ECHHSR/home.html
• Clearinghouse on Health Sector Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean http://www.americas.health-sector-reform-org
• Publications of the International Health Systems Group (IHSG) http://hsph.harvard.edu/ihsg/publications.html
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov
• WHO/OMS: World Health Organization: http://www.who.int
• World bank development data http://www.worldbank.org/data/
• World Bank Health Reform Online http://worldbank.org/healthreform/