



UVA IN VALENCIA PROGRAM

PHS 4186 COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a three credit course that examines health care systems in different countries, focusing on financing, reimbursement and delivery system and their effect on cost, quality, efficiency and equity of the services. Social, ethical, cultural and political issues that affect the delivery of health care services are analyzed. The role of health care providers, consumers of health care services and private/public interests are examined. Health indicators are discussed as a measurement of health care system quality, as well as other factors that affect health and health care, thereby affecting health indicators.

OBJETIVES:

1. Learn about the structure of the Spanish HCS.
2. Analyze health indicators as tools for grading the quality of health care services. Factors that modify health indicators and affect health care services.
3. The influence of cultural, religious and political factors on a health care system.
4. Describe pros and cons of different health care systems as well as their equity, efficiency and quality across European nations (HOPE project).
5. Learn and apply the tools necessary to analyze the many aspects of HCS in non-HOPE countries.
6. Compare and contrast the structure, function, and performance of health care, public health, and regulatory systems across multiple countries and regions.

II. GRADING SCALE AND BREAKDOWN
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GRADING SCALE

A+	100-99	B+	89-87	C+	79-77	D+	69-67
A	98-96	B	86-84	C	76-74	D	66-64
A-	95-90	B-	83-80	C-	73-70	D-	63-60
						F	59-0

1. Final Exam December 15th 30%
 2. Class exercise #1...Types of HCS..... 5%
 3. Class exercise #2 ...Adapting a HCS..... 5%
 4. Country exposition (Midterm) October 27th.....20%
 5. Class Debate.....December 10th.....10%
 6. Attendance and participation 30%
- TOTAL 100%

OTHER DATES TO BE DETERMINED

Final exam. 30%

Show the abilities learned throughout the course by answering a test with multiple choice, true or false, short essay questions or any combination of them.

Class exercises #1 and # 2. 5% (each)

Done during class time, you will have to use skills learned up to the moment and apply them in specific situations.

Country exposition (Midterm) 20%

Working as a team or individually. Write a 12 page paper (each team member) on the health care system of the assigned country and prepare a 10 minute class presentation. Teams will be made and countries assigned on the first day of class. Teams will only be used when the total number of students in class is above 12.

Class debate. 10%

By the end of the course you should have sufficient criteria as to the type of health care system that is better in the public interest, and the strong and weak points in each health care system. Be prepared to defend your option in a class debate and try to reach a consensus.

Attendance and participation. 30%

Attending class and activities is mandatory in this course. Your attendance, interest, enthusiasm and contribution in class will be observed.

III. TEXTS AND CLASS MATERIALS

Spanish National Health System Act.

Degree in Health Care Management Course. University of Barcelona.

Comparative Health Systems. Global perspectives.

Johnson and Stoskopf

Global Health Systems.

Lovett-Scott and Prather

Which Country Has the World's Best Health Care?

Ezekiel J. Emanuel

Handouts and all necessary class material specified by the course instructor should be purchased at the front desk.

IV. COURSE PLANNING AND CALENDAR

1. Introduction to health care systems.
2. Historical background of health care systems. Origins and evolution to modern days.
3. The Spanish Health Care System. Structure. Strong and weak points.
4. Exchange Program for Health Professionals. (HOPE Program) An attempt to harmonize European Health Care Systems.
5. Factors that affect the outcome of a healthcare system, and factors critical to the survival.
6. Burden of disease. Factors that affect and determine the type of burden.
7. Health care system comparison across the world.

MODULES

Module 1: September 8th to 15th.

Module 2: September 17th to September 24th.

Module 3: September 29th to October 22nd.

Midterm project : October 27th.

Module 4: October 29th to November 5th.

Module 5: November 10 to November 17th.

Module 6: November 19th to November 26th.

Module 7: December 1st to December 10th.

Review: December 11th.

Final Exam: December 15th.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1) Use of Spanish at the Center

The use of Spanish at the Center is strongly encouraged. Remember that you have come to Spain to learn Spanish and immerse yourself in its culture, and there is no better way to do so than by using Spanish on as many occasions as possible.

2) Class Attendance and Tardiness

2.1) Attendance and punctuality are essential for the successful completion of the course. Consequently, unexcused absences and lateness will negatively affect the final grade.

2.2) Only one unexcused absence is permitted. Please bear this in mind when planning trips or outings.

2.3) Arriving more than 5 minutes late to class will count as half an absence (1/2). It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of an absence before the class begins.

2.4) Arriving more than 30 minutes late to class will be considered an absence.

2.5) Four (4) unexcused absences will result in the student not receiving credit for the course.

2.6) Only documented absences will be considered excused: a religious holiday, a family emergency, or a medical appointment. Medical absences must be supported by a doctor's note and submitted at reception on the day the student returns to class after the incident has ended.

3) Academic Integrity

3.1) The exchange of information is not only permitted but is also a way of enriching the knowledge acquired during the course. However, all work submitted for each course must be individual and original in every respect. Any sources and direct quotations used must be properly cited.

3.2) Remember that the use of artificial intelligence to complete assignments or examinations is strictly prohibited unless an instructor expressly states otherwise. Such use constitutes a lack of authenticity, and may amount to direct plagiarism, in addition to undermining the development of critical thinking and writing skills, which are among the primary goals of this program. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

3.3) Any work that has received credit for one course will NOT be accepted for credit in another course.

There will be NO exceptions to this rule. Reusing such work will result in immediate failure of the second course. If assignments for two different courses are related in any way and the student has questions about whether the second project is permissible, the matter must be discussed with all instructors involved. This will prevent any possible unintentional violation of this rule.

3.4) As with punctuality, assignments must be submitted on time. Any late submission will result in a reduction of the grade for that assignment.

3.5) Failure to comply with the provisions set out above will result in the loss of the corresponding course credits for the course in which these rules have been violated.

3.6) If you have a documented special need that requires academic accommodations (SDAC), it must be certified by your home institution. Please contact the Head of Studies in Valencia, María Andrés (maria.andres@uvavalencia.org).

4) Activities, Workshops, and Lectures

Throughout the course, various activities, workshops, and lectures are organized. Participation may be voluntary or mandatory if the instructor considers the activity relevant to the course.

5) Classroom Conduct

5.1) It is very important that all students arrive to class on time, prepared, and with the materials needed for the day. During class, students must treat one another and the instructor with respect, demonstrate a positive attitude, and help create a participatory and collaborative environment that supports effective learning. Any violation of these expectations will have direct consequences.

5.2) Electronic devices (laptop, mobile phone, smartwatch) may be used in class only for course-related purposes. If a student uses such technology for personal reasons during class, the student may be penalized with an unexcused absence.

5.3) The use of computer or electronic technology during examinations is prohibited unless the instructor determines otherwise in accordance with the examination format.

6) Course Content

On occasion, and always within the context of the course, certain “sensitive” topics may be addressed both inside and outside the classroom. Therefore, if a student feels offended by such content in a particular class, the student may leave the class, and doing so will not have any negative effect whatsoever on the final grade. Faculty members will always be open to communication and dialogue in order to promote better intercultural understanding.

7) Final Clarification

The instructor may modify or add activities and/or change the dates indicated according to the learning needs of the group. Effective learning requires not only careful planning, but also a certain degree of flexibility.