

August 31, 2007

HPAA 660  
COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS  
FALL 2007

SYLLABUS

**Faculty**

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**Meeting Time**

Monday 3:00 – 5:50 pm  
1304 McGavran-Greenberg

***Key Dates at a Glance:***

September 17	Assignment 1 <i>Presentations: Sri Lanka, Uganda</i>	Health System Performance Indicators
October 8	Assignment 2 <i>Presentation: Madagascar</i>	Internal Health System Influences
October 15	Assignment 3 <i>Presentations: Brazil, United Kingdom</i>	Health System Organization and Infrastructure
October 29	Assignment 4 <i>Presentations: Thailand, Sweden</i>	Health System Financing and Payment
November 5	Assignment 5 <i>Presentations: Tanzania, Ireland</i>	Critical Issues in the Health System Workforce
November 12	Assignment 6 <i>Presentations: France, Philippines</i>	Health System Regulation and Regulatory Reform
November 19	Paper Executive Summaries Due	
November 26	Papers Due	
November 26 & December 3	Paper Presentations	

## **1. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

### **1.1 PRIMARY TEACHING OBJECTIVE**

To enable students entering or working within a health care system to describe the parts of systems and their interactions, the environment in which the systems exist, and the internal and external controls, forces, and points of leverage that create opportunities for change.

### **1.2 TEACHING SUB-OBJECTIVES**

- Define and characterize the differences between, and expected outcomes of, health systems and health care systems.
- Identify worldwide trends in health care reform and the rationales for these trends.
- Provide and explain a conceptual framework to examine the anatomy of health care system performance assessment and health care system design.
- Apply theories, concepts, study findings, and case study experience to examining influences that affect health care system performance assessment and health care system design.
- Identify and apply tools and methods for improving performance assessment and health care system design.
- Identify health care system issues and service delivery problems and their root causes, and compare and contrast approaches to resolving or ameliorating them.
- Provide students with a variety of teaching methods to explore, examine, and apply systems thinking and the course's conceptual framework to a country, selected by the student.

### **1.3 LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- Sharpen analytical skills through examination of issues affecting health care reform efforts that arise from presentations, class discussions, case studies, and group projects.
- Understand the legal, ethical, and regulatory factors associated with health care system reform efforts.
- Acquire proficiency in analyzing health systems, taking into account performance expectations, internal and external influences, health care system goals, objectives, functions and activities, reform needs, stakeholders' interests, financial and payment methods, health workforce issues, and regulatory issues.
- Acquire and strengthen knowledge, theory, and methodological skills that can be applied to international health care systems planning and implementation.
- Gain and demonstrate an appreciation of the points of view and influence of stakeholders in performance assessment and health care system design.
- Gain proficiency in applying tools that generate planning and evaluation information about performance assessment perspectives and indicators, and health care system design elements.

## **4. TEACHING and LEARNING METHODS**

- Instructor presentations, guest lectures, and student presentations
- Class discussion and simulations
- Directed readings and case studies
- Written assignments
- Preparation of a team health system reform paper

## 5. DELIVERABLES and EXPECTATIONS

- Preparation for class sessions through reading and directed assignments
- Written assignments
- Class presentations
- Equity of participation during team work
- Final Team Project (Written proposal and oral presentation)

## 6. GRADING: STUDENT PERFORMANCE

- Attendance, participation, and class presentations: 25%
- 6 written team class assignments (on time and as directed): 50%
- Final Team Project , including executive summary and presentation: 25%

## 7. TOPICS

- Systems theory as applied to health care systems
- Health sector reform
- Health systems and health care systems
- Role of public health in health care systems
- Performance assessment
- Performance and objectives indicators: efficiency, effectiveness, quality, equity, sustainability, access
- Financing options
- Payment options
- Governance
- Stewardship, leadership
- Fairness
- Social values
- Political influences
- Internal influences on performance assessment and health care systems design
- Change theories (diffusion of innovation and tipping points)
- Health systems reconstruction in conflict and post-conflict situations
- Human resources, health workforce issues
- Decentralization
- Assessment, monitoring and evaluation
- Planning tools
- Goals, objectives, and functions of health care systems
- Stakeholder perspectives/lenses
- Donor and other external influences and priorities in health sector reform
- Regulation

## 8. READING MATERIALS

See Attachment 1 for a complete list of required and recommended readings for the course. Two course texts are required, and one is available free of charge online.

Roberts, Marc J, William Hsiao, Peter Berman and Michael R. Reich. *Getting Health Reform Right; A Guide to Improving Performance and Equity*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2004.

World Health Organization. *The World Health Report 2000: Health Systems; Improving Performance*. Geneva, 2000. May be downloaded free of charge:

[http://www.who.int/whr/2000/en/whr00\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/whr/2000/en/whr00_en.pdf)

**HPAA 660**  
**COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS**  
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**COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

<b>Session 1: August 27, 2007</b> <b>Course organization and conceptual framework</b>
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**Readings for August 27**

1. Roberts, et al. *Getting Health Reform Right*. Introduction
2. World Health Report 2000, review Statistical Annex materials

**Topics**

1. Introduction of the teaching faculty and students, expectations
2. Course organization
  - Teaching objectives
  - Skill set objectives
  - Course topics, structure, and methods
  - Country selection for analysis
  - Final project
  - Grading
  - Texts and readings: required and recommended
3. Comparing health systems and conceptual framework for the course
4. Activity: Health system values and goals

<b>Session 2: September 10, 2007</b> <b>Health system performance</b>
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**Readings for September 10**

1. Murray, Christopher J.L. and Julio Frenk. "A Framework for Assessing the Performance of Health Systems." *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2000, 78 (6): 717-731. (Course Documents)
2. Roberts, et al. Chapters 2 and 3
3. WHO. *World Health Report 2000*. Chapter 2. (Under Course Documents)
4. Mavalankar, Dileep and Bharti Sharma., "The Quality of Care in Sterilization Camps: Evidence from Gujarat." (Course Documents)

Recommended:

1. Daniels, et al. "Benchmarks of Fairness for Health Care Reform: A Policy Tool for Developing Countries." Online.

**Topics**

1. Goals of health systems, performance, outcomes, performance assessment
2. Activity: The Gujarat sterilization case

**Session 3:       September 17, 2007**  
**Generations of health system reform**

**Readings for September 17**

1. Roberts et al. Chapters 4 and 5
2. World Health Report 2000, Chapter 1
3. Benatar, Solomon R. "Health Care Reform and the Crisis of HIV and AIDS in South Africa." *New England Journal of Medicine*, 351:1, July 1, 2004, pp. 81-92. (Course Documents)

**Recommended**

1. Regional Consultation of the Americas on Health Systems Performance – An Assessment, May 8-10, 2001. "Critical Issues in Health System Performance Assessment." Online.
2. IRIN PlusNews, August 9, 2005. "South Africa: HIV/AIDS to take heavy toll of health workers." Online.

**Topics**

1. Evolution of health system reform
2. Example: Health system reform in South Africa
3. Team presentations

**Assignment 1: "Health System Performance Indicators"** Select a country whose health system you will be analyzing during subsequent class sessions and for your final project. Look at the performance information for your country in the WHO Report tables. Decide what is missing that is important to you regarding that country's performance and your performance expectations of that country's health care system. Take each of the 6 performance indicators (access, quality, equity, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability) and determine whether the information in the tables is sufficient for you to construct indicators. If not, seek other sources of information. Be prepared to present your indicators, and identify the sources you used to construct them. **Submit two hard copies and one electronic copy of your assignment: 3-4 pages.**

**Session 4:       September 24, 2007**  
**External funding and microfinancing**

**Readings for September 24**

1. Easterly, William. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*, New York: Penguin, 2006. Chapter 1 (Under Course Documents)
2. Sachs, J. (to be announced)
3. Bruck, "Millions for millions." *The New Yorker*, October 30, 2006. (Course Documents)

Recommended:

1. Schiffman, Jeremy, and Yonghong Wu. "Norms in Tension; Democracy and Efficiency in Bangladesh Health and Population Sector Reform." Online.
2. Moore, Spencer. "Aid Coordination in the Health Sector; Examining Country Participation in Sector-Wide Approaches." Online.

### **Topics**

1. The role of foreign assistance
2. Debt, development, and healthcare reform
3. Microfinancing
4. Sheila Leatherman, Guest Presentation

<b>Session 5:      October 1, 2007</b> <b>Governance, Corruption, and other Internal Influences</b>
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### **Readings for October 1**

1. Roberts, et al. Chapter 7
2. Menon-Johansson, Anatole S., "Good Governance and Good Health: The Role of Societal Structures in the Human Immunodeficiency Virus Pandemic." *BMC International Health and Human Rights*, 2005, 5:4. (Course Documents)
3. World Health Report, Chapter 6

Recommended:

1. Saltman, Richard B. and Odile Ferroussier-Davis. "The Concept of Stewardship in Health Policy." Online.

### **Topics**

1. Health system goals and root cause analysis
2. Governance and corruption as elements in health system reform

<b>Session 6:      October 8, 2007</b> <b>Health system organization and infrastructure</b>
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### **Readings for October 8**

1. WHO Report. Chapters 3 and 4
2. Berman, Peter A. "Organization of Ambulatory Care Provision; A Critical Determinant of Health System Performance in Developing Countries." *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, 2000, 78, 6, pp. 791-802. (Course Documents)

Recommended:

1. Mills E, et al. "The challenges of involving traditional healers in HIV/AIDS care." *International Journal of STD & AIDS*: 17: 36-363, 2006.
2. McKee, Martin and Judith Healy. "The Role of the Hospital in a Changing Environment." On-line.

## Topics

1. Health system organization
2. Team presentations

**Assignment 2: Internal Health System Influences.** Using information on the country for your project, identify dominant internal influences on performance and performance expectations. Internal influences may include economic and social conditions, the political environment, culture, diversity, professional associations, workforce capacity, training institutions, and other factors internal to the country that might affect health system performance and current performance expectations for the health system. **Submit two hard copies and one electronic copy of your assignment: 3-4 pages.**

**Session 7:       October 15, 2007**  
**Financing and Generating Funds for Health Systems**

### Readings for October 15

1. Roberts, et al. Chapter 8
2. Social Health Insurance in Centralia: A Case Study. Management Sciences for Health. Online.
3. Gottret P, and Schieber G. "Overview." *Health Financing Revisited*. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank, 2006.

## Topics

1. Alternative financing sources and mechanisms for health systems
2. Centralia case study
3. Team presentations

**Assignment 3: Health System Organization and Infrastructure.** Using information on your country, describe the current design of the system along the following parameters:

- a. Stated goals of health system
- b. Overall organization: Centralization, decentralization, regionalization
- c. Levels of care: primary, secondary, tertiary
- d. System infrastructure – numbers of hospitals, health centers, long-term care facilities, etc
- e. Health facility ownership, public-private mix in facility ownership
- f. Decision-making about resource allocation and system priorities

**Submit two hard copies and one electronic copy, 2-4 pages.**

**Session 8:       October 22, 2007**  
**Paying for Health Services**

### Readings for October 22

1. Roberts, et al. Chapter 9
2. Yip, Winnie, and Eggleston, Karen. "Addressing government and market failures with payment incentives: Hospital reimbursement reform in Hainan, China." *Social Science & Medicine* 58 (2004), 267-277. (Course Documents)
3. Boyle, Sean. "Payment by results in England." *Eurohealth* 13 (1): 12-16, 2007. (Course Documents)



**Session 10: November 5, 2007**  
**Regulation as a tool of health system reform**

**Readings for November 5**

1. Roberts, et al. Chapter 11
2. European Observatory on Health Care Systems. "Policy Brief: Regulating Entrepreneurial Behavior." Online. (Course Documents)
3. Lim, M.K., et al. "Public Perceptions of Private Health Care in Socialist China." Health Affairs, 23, issue 6, Nov/Dec 2004, pp. 222-234. (Course Documents)

**Topics**

1. The role of regulation in health system reform.
2. Team presentations

**Assignment 5: Critical Issues in the Health System Workforce**

For your project country, describe data on the healthcare workforce, broken down by type of practitioner, and if possible, include data on geographic distribution, practitioner/population ratios, and areas of underservice – both geographic and practitioner-specific. The healthcare workforce may be defined broadly to include, for example, lay and traditional practitioners. If available, present data on training of health practitioners, including information on where training takes place, the number of new entrants to the healthcare workforce, the types of training facilities available, and trends in entrants and exits from the healthcare workforce. Summarize the key strategic issues facing the healthcare workforce in the country, and develop tentative recommendations for addressing these challenges. **Submit two hard copies and one electronic copy of your assignment: 4 – 5 pages.**

**Session 11: November 12, 2007**  
**Organizational reform**

**Readings for November 12**

1. Roberts, et al. Chapters 10 and 13

**Topics**

1. Organizational restructuring
2. Privatization and related issues
3. Team presentations

**Assignment 6: Health System Regulation and Regulatory Reform.** In the country whose health system you've been analyzing, assume that you have authority to implement 3 new regulations, or amend 3 existing regulations that will improve the health care system. Specify the 3 regulations. For each of them, state:

- a. The goal that the regulation is designed to achieve and the performance that will be affected by the regulation;
- b. the costs to implement and enforce the regulation, including costs to government agencies and the costs of compliance;
- c. adverse consequences of the regulation, including opportunistic behavior to avoid compliance and any possible unintended effects of the regulation;
- d. reasons the regulation is likely or unlikely to be successful; and,
- e. why you think that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages and, therefore, the regulation should be adopted.

**Submit two hard copies and one electronic copy of your assignment: 3-4 pages.**

**Session 12: November 19, 2007  
Project Preparation**

**Team project executive summaries due**

**Session 13: November 26  
Student Presentations**

**All team projects due.**

**Session 14: December 3:  
Student presentations  
Course evaluation**