

COMPARATIVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS Syllabus

Program Co-Directors

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All course documents are posted on our Canvas site:

<https://classes.emory.edu/>

SOC 390 Comparative Healthcare Systems

Objectives

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand the organization and delivery of health care services in the United States and Great Britain.
- Identify various issues and problems facing the US and UK systems as they evolve to meet the growing needs of their populations; particularly understanding the interrelation between cost, access, and quality.
- Explore British citizens' attitudes towards the NHS through an original survey research project.
- Apply the experiential learning that occurs in field trips to the theoretical and policy issues in the everyday world of health care delivery.

The Academic Program

Spring Preparation – Pre-departure

Students will complete readings about health care delivery in the U.S., prior to arrival in London. It is important for you to have a basic understanding of the U.S. system before you are immersed in studying the U.K. healthcare system. This pre-departure material will be particularly useful for students who have not taken a course in medical sociology or health policy. A take-home exam on the readings is due two weeks prior to departure for London, Friday, June 9. The take-home exam can be sent by email to eidler@emory.edu, with cc to khegtve@emory.edu

London: The First Week

Arrival Day: On Sunday, June 25, in the late afternoon, we will meet for a short orientation to London, followed by a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Dr. Idler and the Program Assistant will be available to help students with questions and concerns on the arrival day.

Lecture/Seminar Sessions: During the first week, we will meet **each day**, usually from **10am-4pm** for lecture/seminar sessions on the British National Health Service (NHS), the larger political-economic systems, and comparable observations about the U.S. health system. There will be one field trip covering the history of medicine and public health in London. Class sessions will be held at University College London. Professor John Carrier of the London School of Economics will provide an introduction to the NHS. Prof. Idler will lecture on the development of the U.S. healthcare

system, and the Affordable Care Act. At the end of the week we will distribute and discuss the survey to be used for data collection, and students will begin doing surveys on Friday afternoon.

London: Weeks 2-4

Lecture/Seminar Sessions: *Three or four days per week* we will meet half-days or full-days (10am-4pm) to focus on different aspects of health services in Britain. In these sessions, guest lecturers will speak on the U.K. context of the aging of the population; disparities in health delivery; primary care; end-of-life care, consumer satisfaction with the NHS, etc. Professors Idler and Hegtvedt will also lead some of these sessions. Students will have an opportunity to hear and exchange ideas with a variety of highly regarded scholars and health professionals.

Comparative Health Systems presentation: In the second and third week of class students will work in small groups to compare the models of health care systems in other developed countries such as France, Germany, Canada, Japan, or Switzerland. On Wednesday of the third week each group will present an overview of the development of one of these countries' health care systems, and compare and contrast it with the U.K. and U.S. systems.

Survey Research Project: *One or two other days per week* are reserved for the Survey Research Project. This research project focuses on British citizens' attitudes towards and experiences with the National Health System.

- The Program Directors and Program Assistant will instruct and train students about sociological research, generally, and about this particular project, specifically.
- Beginning in the first week of the program students will implement the research directly. Working in groups of two, students will conduct face-to-face surveys in locations around London and enter the data on computers. Based on their search of the current research literature, students will develop particular research questions from the survey topics, and then will analyze the data using SPSS. The research project will culminate in: 1) a presentation during the last week of the program (in pairs) and 2) a final research paper (individual).

Field Trips: *One or two days per week* the whole group will visit health-related settings or other cultural sites. Several of the field trips will involve a tour or visit to a health care setting, often with an opportunity to discuss with personnel the setting or service and how it fits into the National Health Service. In the past, the program has visited sites such as: an accident and emergency department; a general practice clinic; a hospice, etc. The other two field trips will be to Oxford and Cambridge, with walking tours, and then time to explore these historic cities on your own.

The second and third Fridays will be free for students during these middle weeks.

London: The Last Week

Students return to daily seminar sessions during the fifth week. Aspects of health and health services not already discussed are considered. Students will be asked to reflect upon their experiences and to comparatively assess the British and U.S. systems. The last two days will focus on student presentations of their survey research and discussions. Professor Hegtvedt will coordinate these sessions.

Course Requirements

1. Lecture/Seminar Sessions. We expect students to attend all sessions and to participate actively in discussions. (General schedule of sessions described above; detailed schedule provided early June.)

- We also require students to participate in all of the field trips. Participation involves being punctual, attention to tour guides, asking questions, etc.

2. Readings. One textbook and a set of book chapters and journal articles are posted on Canvas. Pre-Departure Readings will provide a common background for learning in London. This work will substitute for additional assignments that might otherwise have been made in London so that students may have more time abroad to explore other interests.

- Thomas Bodenheimer & Kevin Grumbach. **2016.** *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach* (Lange). McGraw-Hill Medical; **7th edition.** (This book is available online, free to all Emory students at this web site:
<http://accessmedicine.mhmedical.com.proxy.library.emory.edu/book.aspx?bookid=1790>)
- *Book chapters and journal articles* on the NHS and other relevant topics posted on Canvas.
- Chapters from Bruce J. Fried and Laura Gaydos. 2012. *World Health Systems Challenges and Perspectives*, 2nd Edition. Chicago: Health Administration Press.

Note: Exams and the research presentations and paper will call on your knowledge of the reading content. Read for the bigger picture and go back to the details when you need reference material. Plan to set aside more time for reading in the first week in London. Because you will have already completed background reading prior to departure for London, the overall reading load in London is less than what you would expect for two undergraduate courses.

3. Exams. There are five exams for the course: a pre-departure exam, and weekly exams in the first, second, fourth, and fifth weeks. All exams are to be submitted electronically. All exams are take-home, open-book essays. Questions for the exam will be provided each week of the program. Students should work on the weekly essays throughout the five weeks. Due dates are as follows:

Pre-departure Exam: Friday, June 9

London Exams: June 30, July 7, July 21, July 28

4. Comparative Health Systems Presentation: As described above, you will work in groups of 4-5 during the second and third weeks of the program to understand the health care system of a third country in addition to Britain and the U.S. Materials for a number of countries will be provided on Canvas to get you started, and from there you can find additional sources online. Each group will prepare a Powerpoint presentation and present what they learned to the group. No paper is required -- the Powerpoint presentation will serve as the product. Prof. Hegtvedt and Prof. Idler will both be in class for the presentations.

5. Survey Project and Presentation. As described above, you will participate in the hands-on Survey Research Project during all five weeks of the program. We will provide detailed instructions and training for the project.

- You will work in pairs and conduct the survey among British people in public places. You will also work on entering these data into a computer program and doing some brief analysis of the data (again, in pairs or groups of three if necessary).
- At the end of the program, your group will make a presentation about the aspect of the survey that you have analyzed. The Survey Presentations will take place on the last two days of class.

6. Final Research Paper. You will write a final research paper (on your own) about your particular survey research question. You will bolster your arguments by investigating previous studies. Detailed information about the required structure and content of the paper will be provided.

Final Paper due: Friday, August 4

Grading

Your course grade stems from evaluation of the following activities:

Pre-Departure Exam (due June 9)	15%
Class Participation	10%
Comparative Health Systems Presentation	15%
Survey Project & Presentation	15%
Weekly Exams (due June 30, July 7, July 21, July 28)	20%
Final Research Paper (due August 4)	25%

Academic Credit

Grades and credits earned overseas are granted on the same basis as those earned on campus. Credits are awarded in semester hours. Emory undergraduates register for Sociology 390, Comparative Healthcare Systems, for **8 semester hours of credit** (the equivalent of two undergraduate courses).

- These credits count as **2 electives for the Sociology major or minor**.
- The program also counts as **1 elective** (only!) for the Global Health, Society, and Culture Minor, or for the Predictive Health Minor.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Pre-Departure

To be read in May/June as resources for taking the Pre-Departure Exam

Overview of the American Health Care System

Bodenheimer & Grumbach, *Understanding Health Policy*: Chapters 1-6, 8-10, 15

Gaydos, Christopher. "United States of America." Pp. 693-715 in Bruce J. Fried and Laura Gaydos, Eds. 2012. *World Health Systems Challenges and Perspectives*, 2nd Edition. Chicago: Health Administration Press.

Paul Starr. 1982. *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. New York: Basic Books.
Book II, Chapter 3, section on "Redistribution without Reorganization, 1961-1969", pp. 363-378

Paul Starr. 2011. *Remedy and Reaction: The Peculiar American Struggle over Health Care Reform*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
Introduction: An Uneasy Victory, pp.1-24.
Chapter 7: Breaking Through, 2009-2010, pp.194-238.
Chapter 8: The Affordable Care Act as Public Philosophy, pp.239-266.

Curtis McLaughlin and Craig McLaughlin. 2015. *Health Policy Analysis: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, 2nd Ed. Jones & Bartlett Learning. Pp.143-151, "Key Features of the Affordable Care Act, by Year (Abridged from HealthCare.gov)

T. R. Reid. 2010. *The Healing of America*. New York: Penguin.
Pp. 244-251, "An Afterword: 'Obamacare' Explained."

Overview of the British National Health Service

Mays, Nicholas. 1997. "Origins and Development of the National Health Service." In *Sociology as Applied to Medicine*, edited by Graham Scambler. London: W.B. Saunders.

Perlman, Maris, and Bruce Fried. "United Kingdom." Pp. 605-623 in Bruce J. Fried and Laura Gaydos, Eds. 2012. *World Health Systems Challenges and Perspectives*, 2nd Edition. Chicago: Health Administration Press.

Christopher Ham. 2009. *Health Policy in Britain*, 6th Edition. Palgrave McMillan.
Chapter 1: The Development of Health Services and Health Policy
Chapter 4: Financing Health Services and the Rediscovery of Public Health

Comparative Consumer Views of Health Systems

Deloitte Center for Health Solutions. *2011 Survey of Health Care Consumers Global Report: Key Findings, Strategic Implications*.

May 19: Pre-Departure Exam distributed by email

June 9: Pre-Departure Exam due

London Schedule: Readings and Exam due dates

WEEK 1 (June 26-June 30)

John Carrier & Ian Kendall. 2017. *Health and the National Health Service*, 2nd Ed. London: Routledge

Chapter 16: Conclusions

Christopher Ham. 2009. *Health Policy in Britain*, 6th Edition. Palgrave MacMillan.

Chapter 5: Policy and Priorities in the NHS

Chapter 12: Looking Back and Looking Ahead

Elisabeth Rosenthal. 2017. *American Sickness*. New York, Penguin Press.

Introduction: Complaint: Unaffordable Healthcare

Chapter 1: The Age of Insurance

Chapter 2: The Age of Hospitals

Chapter 3: The Age of Physicians

Chapter 4: The Age of Pharmaceuticals

Chapter 11: The Age of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Weekly exam due: June 30

WEEK 2 (July 3-7)

Sarah E. Boslaugh. 2013. *Health Care Systems Around the World: A Comparative Guide*. Los Angeles: SAGE Reference. (Chapters on selected countries' health care systems.)

Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. 2008. *Closing the Gap: Health Equity through Action on the Social Determinants of Health*. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. Geneva: World Health Organization. Pp. 1-34.

Angus Deaton. 2013. *The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality*. Princeton University Press.

Preface

Introduction

Chapter 1: The Wellbeing of the World

Bruce J. Fried and Laura Gaydos, Eds. 2012. *World Health Systems Challenges and Perspectives*, 2nd Edition. Chicago: Health Administration Press.

Chapter 3: Lydia Ogden, Financing and Organization of National Healthcare Systems (Also chapters on selected countries' health care systems.)

Allan Kellehear, *Compassionate Cities: Public Health and End of Life Care*. Oxfordshire: Routledge: Chapter 1, pp. 1-16.

Fred Stevens. 2010. "The Convergence and Divergence of Modern Health Care Systems." Pp. 434-454 in William Cockerham, Ed. *The New Blackwell Companion to Medical Sociology*. John Wiley & Sons.

Weekly Exam due: July 7

WEEK 3 (July 10-14)

Bodenheimer & Grumbach, *Understanding Health Policy*: Chapter 14

Elizabeth Bradley & Lauren Taylor. 2013. *The American Health Care Paradox*. New York: Public Affairs.

Chapter 1: The Paradox

Chapter 2: Historical Perspectives

Chapter 4: Learning from Abroad

Appendix B: Social Values in Scandinavia and the United States: Similarities and Differences

Karen Davis, Kristof Stremikis, David Squires, Cathy Schoen. *Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: How the Performance of the U. S. Healthcare System Compares Internationally*. 2014. New York: The Commonwealth Fund

July 12: Group presentations on Comparative Health Systems

WEEK 4 (July 17-21)

Banks J, Marmot M, Oldfield Z, Smith JP. 2006 “Disease and Disadvantage in the United States and in England.” *JAMA* 295:2037-2045.

Sacker A, Wiggins RD, Bartley M, McDonough P. 2007. Self-Rated Health Trajectories in the United States and the United Kingdom: A Comparative Study. *American Journal of Public Health* 97:812-818.

****Further Readings TBA**

Weekly Exam due: July 21

WEEK 5 (July 24-28)

Scambler, Graham. 2003. “Health and Illness Behavior.” 2003. Chapter 3 in Graham Scambler, ed., *Sociology as Applied to Medicine*. P. Saunders Ltd.; 5th edition.

****Further Readings TBA**

July 26 & 27: Presentations on Survey Research Project

Weekly Exam due: July 28

Post-Departure

Aug 4: Final Research Paper due