



**HPM 753.967**

**Health Care in the United States:**

**Structure and Policy**

**(Credit Hours: 4)**

***Department of Health Policy and Management***

**Gillings School of Global Public Health**

**Fall 2018**

**Syllabus, Reading, and Assignment Schedule**

**In class:**

**August 15, 16 and December 8, 9**

**Online: Wednesday 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm August 22-December 5**

Faculty: **Susan Helm-Murtagh, MM, DrPH**

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Office Hours: By phone, on request

This core course is designed to provide students with an overview of the structure, systems, and policies of health care delivery in the United States. The goal is to increase students’ knowledge and abilities to analyze and address health care issues from both management and policy perspectives. The major structural/system issues include Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance. Other system topics include the uninsured, hospitals, long-term care, mental health, oral health, safety net systems of care, the Veterans Administration Health System, and public health. The course applies learning techniques that are highly interactive, encourages discussion and debate, and prompts learners to seek out their own answers to complex problems in our health care system.

**Learning Objectives and HPM Competencies**

	<i>Course Learning Objective</i>	<i>Competencies</i>
1	Distinguish among various health care payers, providers, organizations and functions	Analytical Thinking
2	Understand past, current, and emerging key issues in health care financing, insurance, delivery, organization, policy, administration, access, and quality in the United States	Analytical Thinking
3	Explore and analyze important health policy issues and recommend realistic approaches to addressing the issues	Analytical Thinking Information Seeking Political Savvy

		Innovative Thinking Communication Skills
4	Achieve Objective #3 by working effectively in a team of fellow students	Accountability Team Dynamics
5	Cogently discuss and debate complex, current and future public health and health services issues	Communication Skills

### Requirements and Expectations

*Hardware requirements:* This is a partially online class. Requirements are a computer with speakers and a microphone or a headset, and a strong internet connection. You will not be able to call in to the class by telephone.

*Level of Effort:* It is expected that you will attend all online classes. Because we meet only once a week, missing a class means missing a significant portion of the material. In addition to class, you will devote two to five hours per week to the reading, exercises and watching any required videos.

*Team Exercises:* Throughout the semester you will have team projects and discussions during scheduled class sessions, as well as a final team project. Teams will be assigned at the beginning of the semester.

*Grade Components:* The grade for this course will be assigned on the basis of the following:

Component	% of Grade
Quizzes (3) (Individual)	35%
Short Assignments (2) [Individual]	7%
Short Assignments (3) [Team]	12%
Class participation (Individual)	5%
Peer evaluation of contribution to group work	8%
Briefing Paper (Individual)	18%
Final Group Presentation (Team)	15%
TOTAL	100%

### Grading Scale

Students will earn their final course grades based on the following grading scale (see <http://handbook.unc.edu/grading.html> for more information about UNC Graduate School grading):

92 or above	H	(High Pass – Clear Excellence)
75 to 91.9	P	(Pass – Entirely Satisfactory Graduate Work)
60 to 74.9	L	(Low Pass – Inadequate Graduate Work)
Below 60	F	(Fail)

### PLEASE NOTE:

1. In order to receive a P or H in the course, your grades on your individual work must average at least 75%. In other words, your team cannot pull you up from a grade of L or F. You must demonstrate sufficient mastery of the material yourself.
2. No questions regarding any grades will be addressed more than one week after the graded assignments have been returned.
3. Your individual peer evaluation grade will be based on the average of the evaluations you receive on your performance from other members of your team. However, if you fail to turn in a peer evaluation of yourself and your team members, your grade for the peer evaluation will be a zero. Your colleagues deserve feedback from you, just as you deserve feedback from them.

**Final grades earned by students are not rounded up (e.g., a 91.9 is a P).**

*Note: The graduate school does not record plusses or minuses.*

### Late Activity Policy

**Assignments and quizzes received after the due date and time will have 10% of the grade deducted for each day (or portion thereof) that the assignment is late.** Please be aware that Sakai will not allow you to upload deliverables after the due date and time noted on the assignment. **All times are Eastern.** Please note that the submission time for all assessments and activities is determined by Sakai's internal clock rather than the clock on the student's computer. For this reason, it is highly recommended that students submit all materials early in order to avoid missing the cutoff. Also, at times Sakai can be slow, so please do not wait until the very last minute to upload assignments. If you are having problems uploading an assignment before the due date and time, email both instructors immediately, and attach the assignment. Students in need of extensions due to a true emergency should contact the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the due date.

### Recognizing, Valuing and Encouraging Diversity

The importance of diversity is recognized in the mission statement of HPM. In the classroom diversity strengthens the products, enriches the learning, and broadens the perspectives of all in the class. Diversity requires an atmosphere of inclusion and tolerance, which oftentimes challenges our own closely-held ideas, as well as our personal comfort zones. The results, however, create a sense of community and promote excellence in the learning environments. This class will follow principles of inclusion, respect, tolerance, and acceptance that support the values of diversity.

Diversity includes consideration of: (1) life experiences, including type, variety, uniqueness, duration, personal values, political viewpoints, and intensity; and (2) factors related to "diversity of presence" including, among others, age, economic circumstances, ethnic identification, family educational attainment, disability, gender, geographic origin, maturity, race, religion, sexual orientation, social position, and veteran status.

## UNC Honor Code

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The principles of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship govern the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University as they have during the long life of this institution. Your acceptance of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in the Code of Student Conduct and a respect for this most significant Carolina tradition. Your reward is in the practice of these principles.

Your participation in this course comes with the expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work.

**Each student will be expected to review the materials on plagiarism from the UNC Library: <http://guides.lib.unc.edu/c.php?g=9028&p=45251>. Make sure to review all the information contained in all the tabs on the website.** It is an honor code violation to plagiarize materials, which includes (but is not limited to), taking direct quotations from other documents without properly citing it. (For example, it is plagiarism if you include a direct quotation and include the reference, but do not include quotation marks. Anything taken verbatim must include quotation marks—and you should use direct quotations sparingly).

If you have any questions about your responsibility or the responsibility of faculty members under the Honor Code, please consult with someone in either the Office of the Student Attorney General (919-966-4084) or the Office of the Dean of Students (919-966-4042).

Read “The Instrument of Student Judicial Governance” (<http://instrument.unc.edu>).

## Accommodations for People with Disabilities or Certain Medical Conditions

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UNC-CH supports all reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability, or a pregnancy complication resulting in difficulties with accessing learning opportunities.

All accommodations are coordinated through the UNC Office of Accessibility Resources & Services (ARS), <http://accessibility.unc.edu>; phone 919-962-8300. Students must document/register their need for accommodations with ARS before accommodations can be implemented.”

## Course Evaluation

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HPM participates in the UNC-CH’s online course evaluation system. Your responses will be anonymous, with feedback provided in the aggregate. Open-ended comments will be shared with instructors, but not identified with individual students. Your participation in course evaluation is an expectation, since providing constructive feedback is a professional obligation. Feedback is critical, moreover, to improving the quality of our courses, as well as for instructor assessment.

## Resources

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### *Website:*

HPM 754.967 has its own website on Sakai. This syllabus is on the website.

*Articles:* All articles can be accessed via links available on the course web site or will be posted on Sakai.

*Videos:* All mandatory viewings can be accessed by links within the course schedule, which is posted on Sakai.

### *Useful Web Sources:*

- The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation ([www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org))
- Kaiser Foundation State Health Facts ([www.statehealthfacts.org](http://www.statehealthfacts.org))
- Health Affairs “Health Policy Briefs” ([www.healthaffairs.org/healthpolicybriefs](http://www.healthaffairs.org/healthpolicybriefs)) and the Health Affairs Blogs (<http://healthaffairs.org/blog/>)
- The Congressional Budget Office ([www.cbo.gov](http://www.cbo.gov))
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))
- The National Center for Health Statistics ([www.cdc.gov/nchs/](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/))
- The Commonwealth Fund (<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/>)
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (<http://www.rwjf.org/>)
- The National Conference of State Legislatures (<http://www.ncsl.org/>)
- Congressional Research Services (<http://www.loc.gov/crsinfo/>)
- Congressional Web Guides <http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/congress/congress-external.html>
- Congressional News Guides <http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/extgovd.html>

These URLs may be helpful in promoting understanding of healthcare organizations, politics or policy. Please feel free to consult them often, but using them is not required in the course unless specified in the reading list.

## Assignments and Quizzes

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Descriptions of all assignments can be found on the Sakai site. Completed assignments are to be submitted in Sakai. If it is a team assignment, only one member of the team needs to submit the document.

There will be three quizzes over the course of the semester. Each quiz will be available on Sakai for a four day period. The quiz can be taken at the time of your choice within the time frame allowed. However, once you begin the exam, you will **not** be able to stop the timer, so you will not be able to

stop and start again later. We will not be able to accept submissions after your time period is up, so **be sure to upload your answer sheet before the timer expires.**

**All quizzes are open book.** While you may use any books, notes, PPT slides, recordings, or other materials in answering the questions, you may not communicate with any other person while you are taking the exam. The quiz is subject to all provisions of the UNC Honor Code.

Quizzes will likely consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short questions. Quiz 1 will cover material from the beginning of the course through the September 19<sup>th</sup> class. Quiz 2 will cover classes from September 26 through October 31. Quiz 3 will cover November 7 through November 28.

Instructions for accessing a quiz:

1. In Sakai, click on the **Tests and Quizzes** tab in the Sakai Course Tool Bar (left side of screen).
2. Click on the HPM 753 EMP QUIZ (number)
3. You will see some information about the quiz, including a note telling you how much time you have to submit the quiz from when you begin the assessment.
4. Click on the honor pledge and then click on Begin Assessment. The clock begins at this time.
5. When you are finished, click "Submit for Grading".

	Team or Individual	Due date	Percent of grade
What makes us healthy?	Team	August 21, 11pm	5
Impact of regulations	Individual	August 28, 11pm	2
Health plan choice	Team	September 25, 11pm	5
Quiz 1	Individual	September 21, 8am- September 24, 11pm	14
Medicare part D case	Individual	October 15, 11pm	5
Quiz 2	Individual	November 2, 8am- November 5, 11pm	14
Cost drivers	Team	November 13, 11pm	2
Individual brief	Individual	November 25, 11pm	18
Quiz 3	Individual	November 30, 8am- December 3, 11pm	7
Recommendation for improving health	Team	December 6, 5pm	15