# Healthcare and insurance in comparative systems

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The main course objectives are:

1. To provide a way of thinking about health care insurance

2. Understand the different health systems designs

3. A clear analytical way of examining health care reforms and health systems, according to a economic and a public health perspective

4. To understand the policy challenges of insurance, ageing, innovation, and inequality in the health sector.

At the end of the course the student:

1. Will know the main theoretical models that explain the organizations, governance and management of healthcare systems;
2. Will be able to define the main domains of functioning in healthcare systems;
3. Will be able to build a dashboard of indicators to measure the performance of an healthcare systems;
4. Given a public health issue (eg: vaccination, non communicable diseases,…) will be able to compare the main functions, organization of services (ie, health promotion and prevention, diagnostics, treatment, follow up and rehabilitation), healthcare and non healthcare interventions and policies among a panel of OECD countries.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will first outline the approaches to analyze the organization, financing and delivery of health services among different health care models: Focus on analysis of the main health systems in the world.

We will classify and describe the main institutional framework for health policy and the process, content and implementation of this policy.

After classifying the models, we proceed by looking at the main dimensions of the health systems performance and how to compare performance in primary, secondary and tertiary care across the several health models.

Attention will also be paid to specific topics like health insurance, long term care funding, decentralisation, and health inequalities.

***READING LIST***

Main readings:

Irene Papanicolas, Dheepa Rajan, Marina Karanikolos, Agnes Soucat, Josep Figueras. Health system performance assessment: a framework for policy analysis. Health Policy Series. World Health Organization 2022. ISBN 978-92-4-004247-6.

de Belvis AG, Meregaglia M, Morsella A, Adduci A, Perilli A, Cascini F, Solipaca A, Fattore G, Ricciardi W, Maresso A, Scarpetti G. Italy: Health system review. Health Systems in Transition, 2022; 24(4): pp.i–203.

Other readings:

Waitzberg R, […] de Belvis AG, […]. Early health system responses to the COVID-19 pandemic in Mediterranean countries: A tale of successes and challenges. Health Policy. 2021 Oct 12:S0168-8510(21)00255-4. doi: 10.1016/j.healthpol.2021.10.007. PMID: 34711444.

Polin K, […] de Belvis AG, […]. “Top-Three” health reforms in 31 high-income countries in 2018 and 2019: an expert informed overview, Health Policy. 2021. ISSN 0168-8510, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthpol.2021.04.005.

Fattore G, de Belvis AG, Ricciardi W, Morsella A et al. Covid 19 Health Systems Response Monitor. Available at:

<https://www.covid19healthsystem.org/countries/italy/countrypage.aspx>.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The format of this course is a combination of lectures, case discussions, and readings. We will employ the following teaching methods:

(a) Readings from textbooks: To provide basic structure, concepts and techniques.

(b) Readings from journals: To augment the textbooks and provide more rigorous intellectual foundation.

(c) Lectures/Classes/Discussions: To create a coherent framework of studying the source material; to give students a chance to ask questions and clarify their understanding.

(d) Case studies: To apply what has been learnt to real life situations.

Active student participation is essential in the classes. In the classes, the lecturer will introduce the topic/case/experiment/exercise and lead the discussion. Students are encouraged to present pre-assigned material and lead part of the discussion in the class group. Pre-assigned reading of cases and exercises is essential.

Practicals

* Evaluation of health care systems; Performance indicators; The Sustainable Development Goals and the Donoughts approach in several countries in the World.

***ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA***

There are no prerequisites for participation in the Course.

The exam is composed of written questions regarding all modules.

The evaluation is based on two elements:

1. Group work on the organizations, health needs assessment, governance, allocation and health and non health policies and activities on a public health issue in a given OECD country

2. Final written test on the second part of the program.

All the elements of evaluation (group work and final examination) are expressed in 30/30.

All the other details concerning the exam procedures will be given out by the Lecturer at the beginning of the course.

***PREREQUISITES***

There are no specific prerequisites for this course.

*OFFICE HOURS*

For both the lecturers the reception continues to be carried out, upon agreement, in presence or remotely, using tools of connection that allow the best possible interaction between teacher and student.

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