Course Description
Examines the development of health care policy in the U.S. and the influences of societal, political, and economic environments on the health care industry. Explores the interaction of government and other regulatory agencies within the health care industries.

This is a fully online, eight-week course. We will not meet face-to-face at any time.

Course Prerequisites
None

Course Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the relationship between the political environment and government regulation.
- Identify the goals of a health care delivery system in terms of quality, access, and cost.
- Identify the costs of government regulation and the dangers of government failure.
- Understand the importance of factors other than medical care in determining health status.
- Explain the employer-based insurance system that dominates the U.S. health care delivery system.
- Summarize the historical development of managed care.
- Understand the central role of physicians in controlling cost in medical care.
- Summarize the development of the hospital industry in the U.S. and the key institutional features affecting hospital care.
- Understand and explain the role of pharmaceutical research in medical care.
- Gain insight on the challenges facing the countries of the developed world in the delivery of health care.
- Explain the development of the government's role in medical care by improving access to certain segments of the population.
- Explain the market approaches to controlling costs and spending.
- Explain the similarities and differences among the medical care systems of the major developed countries around the world.
- Summarize the goals of health care reform.
- Analyze the economic lessons relating to health care delivery and finance.

Required Text
Course Assignment Descriptions and Schedule At-A-Glance

You will have several opportunities to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the principles taught in this course. The primary means of evaluating your work will be through practical application of the material. In the event that you have difficulty completing any of the assignments for this course, please contact your instructor immediately. Please refer to the Weekly Materials section of the cyberclassroom for complete details regarding the activities and assignments for this course. The following is merely a summary.

Discussion contributions (160 points)
(six postings per week @ 20 points per week)

Initial Substantive Posts: Submit an initial response to each of the prompts provided each week by your instructor. Your initial post should be substantive (approximately ½ of a page in length) and must be posted by midnight, Central Time by Wednesday of each week. In your substantive post you are encouraged to use references (you may use your textbook); show evidence of critical thinking as it applies to the concepts or prompt and/or use examples of the application of the concepts to work and life. Proper punctuation, grammar and correct spelling are expected. Please use the spell-check function.

Required Replies: You must reply to at least two different peers per prompt. Your replies should build on the concept discussed, offer a question to consider, or add a differing perspective, etc. Rather than responding with, "Good post," explain why the post is "good" (why it is important, useful, insightful, etc.). Or, if you disagree, respectfully share your alternative perspective. Just saying "I agree" or "Good idea" is not sufficient for the posts you would like graded.

Posting Guidelines: Overall, postings must be submitted on at least two separate days of the week. It is strongly recommended you visit the discussion forum throughout the week to read and respond to your peers’ postings. You are encouraged to post more than the required number of replies.

(Please review the Policies section of Blackboard for further details.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Readings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Chapter 1: U.S. Medical Care: Crisis or Conundrum</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Chapter 2: Using Economics to Study Health Issues</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>• At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assignment(s)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Article Review</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Using the Meyers Library, locate a current (within the last two years) scholarly article on a local or national health care policy and/or regulation problem. Compose a two-page summary reviewing the article. Include the following:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• An overview highlighting the key points of the topic- the big picture or main idea of the article</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The health care policy/ regulation problem addressed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The role of the author in the article- was there any bias?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• How does the author support his/her opinion in the article?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Your opinion of the problem.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Your opinion of the articles stance on the problem.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
- 1-2 other sources that negate or support the article's content and/or your opinion.

Compose your assignment in APA format with a title page, introduction, conclusion and references cited in text and in the reference section. Review the rubric for grading criteria.

To submit your assignment, click on the assignments tab on the course menu.

**Due: Sunday, midnight CT**

**Points Possible: 25**

### Week 2

| Readings     | - Chapter 3: Analyzing Medical Care Markets  
|              | - Chapter 4: Economic Evaluation in Health Care |
| Discussion   | - Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday  
|              | - At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday |
| Assignment(s)Essay-Public Option |

Policymakers are divided on whether or not a "public option" should be included in the overall reform plan. Proponents argue that insurance companies do not really compete with each other and a government-run plan is the only way to ensure competitive markets. Using the Meyers Library and your text, answer the following questions in a two-page summary.

- What are proponents of the public option hoping that competition will accomplish?
- What are the essential factors that must exist for a new rival to increase competition in any market? Do these factors exist in this case?
- Name several examples of markets where the government competes directly with private firms.
- Do you think a government option increase competition in the insurance market? Explain.

Compose your assignment in APA format with a title page, introduction, conclusion and references cited in text and in the reference section. Review the rubric for grading criteria.

To submit your assignment, click on the assignments tab on the course menu.

**Due: Sunday, midnight CT**

**Points Possible: 25**

### Week 3

| Readings     | - Chapter 5: Demand for Health and Medical Care  
|              | - Chapter 6: The Market for Health Insurance |
| Discussion   | - Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday  
|              | - At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday |
| Assignment(s)Essay-Insurance and Medical Care |

Choose ONE of the following scenarios. In a 2-page essay, answer the questions that correspond with each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Question</th>
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<tr>
<td>A &quot;qualified health plan&quot; under the Affordable Care Act may not include pre-existing condition exclusions. People with chronic conditions may not be denied coverage because of their illnesses and insurance companies may not cancel a policy should a person become ill.</td>
<td>1. What is guaranteed issue? Barry met with his company’s benefit manager to sign up for the health insurance provided through his employer. He had worked for the firm for over 2 years, but was one of many who chose not to take the offer to participate in the plan, because he considered his share of the premiums too expensive. In the intervening interview the subject</td>
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</table>
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Guaranteed renewability?

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charges $132.23 for the same office visit. The first doctor also charges $41.89 for a chest X-ray taken from two angles, while the latter's price is $34.34.

In a two page essay, answer the following questions:
1. Why do prices vary from doctor to doctor?
2. How will health care markets improve if patients know what doctors are charging for services?
3. What other issues are important in determining your choice of doctor? Is price all that matters?
4. Do you think that it is possible to get the right information to consumers when they need it? Why or why not

Compose your assignment in APA format with a title page, introduction, conclusion and references cited in text and in the reference section. Review the rubric for grading criteria.

Due: Sunday, midnight CT
Points Possible: 25

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Week 5

**Readings**
- Read Chapter 9: The Hospital Services Market
- Read Chapter 10: The Market for Pharmaceuticals
- Read Chapter 11: Confounding Factors

**Discussion**
- Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday
- At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday

**Assignment(s)**

**Position Paper**
Write a 3-4 page position paper on President Obama's health care reform policy. Take a stand either for or against it. The Affordable Care Act was signed into law in March of 2010. Do you believe it has been and will continue to be successfully implemented? Defend your position in detail. Thoroughly discuss how this has impacted the health care industry and society as a whole and will in the future as it is implemented more completely. Your opinion either for or against this topic will not be what is graded, but the clarity of and the well-reasoned level of your argument are what will be graded. Visit the following websites for more information: [http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform](http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform) and [http://www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) The guidelines for the paper are as follows:
- Provide a brief summary of Obama's health care reform policy.
- State your position either for or against it and discuss the following:
  - Has his policy been and will continue to be successfully implemented?
  - How has this impacted the health care industry? How will it impact the industry in the future?
  - How has this impacted society? How will it impact society in the future?
- Please include a minimum of 2 outside scholarly/professional references to back up your opinion. Scholarly references include those that are intended for the professional audience and are generally from professional journals.

Compose your assignment in APA format with a title page, introduction, conclusion and references cited in text and in the reference section. Review the rubric for grading criteria.

Due: Sunday, midnight CT
Points Possible: 100

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Week 6

**Readings**
- Chapter 12: Policies that Enhance Access
- Chapter 13: Policies to Contain Costs

**Discussion**
- Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday
At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday

Week 7

Readings
- Chapter 14: Medical Care Systems Worldwide
- Chapter 15: Medical Care Reform in the United States

Discussion
- Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday
- At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Sunday

Week 8

Readings
- Chapter 16: Lessons for Public Policy

Discussion
- Initial post to each prompt due by midnight, CT on Wednesday
- At least two replies to peers for each prompt due by midnight, CT on Saturday

Assignments

Final Exam
This week, complete the final exam, which consists of 75 multiple choice questions from chapters 9-16. You will have the entire week to complete the exam and may stop and start the exam at any time. However, you must complete the exam in its entirety by Saturday, midnight CT. Each question is worth 1 point.

Due: Saturday, midnight CT
Points Possible: 75

Research Paper
In week 8, submit a 3-4 page research paper selecting two regulatory challenges that hospitals would face and research them. Provide possible suggestions for how the hospitals might manage these challenges. Please include a minimum of 4 outside scholarly/professional references to back up your opinion. Scholarly references include those that are intended for the professional audience and are generally from professional journals. Compose your assignment in APA format with a title page, introduction, conclusion and references cited in text and in the reference section. Review the rubric for grading criteria.

Due: Saturday, midnight CT
Points Possible: 100

* All online weeks run from Monday to Sunday, except the last week, which ends on Saturday.
** All assignments are due at midnight Central Time. (All submissions to the Blackboard system are date/time stamped in Central Time).

Assignments At-A-Glance

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment/Activity</th>
<th>Qty.</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 1-8: Discussion*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>20 per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 1: Article Review</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2: Public Option</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3: Insurance and Medical Care</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4: Health Care Costs</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4: Midterm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5: Position Paper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8: Final Exam</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 8: Research paper</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>595</strong></td>
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*Please refer to the Policies menu for more information about requirements for Discussions.
Grading Scale

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 to 100%</td>
<td>535-595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80 to 89%</td>
<td>474-534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70 to 79%</td>
<td>413-473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 to 69%</td>
<td>352-412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60%</td>
<td>&lt; 351</td>
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To access your scores, click on Grades in the Student Tools area in Blackboard.

**Important Policies**

All course-specific policies for this course are spelled out here in this syllabus. However, additional university policies are located in the Policies section of Blackboard. You are responsible for reading and understanding all of these policies. All of them are important. Failure to understand or abide by them could have negative consequences for your experience in this course.

**Editorial Format for Written Papers**

All written assignments are to follow the APA writing style guidelines for grammar, spelling, and punctuation. This online course includes information regarding the APA style under “Writing and Research Resources” in the Resource Room on the course menu in Blackboard.

**Ottawa Online Late Policy**

With instructor approval, assignments may be accepted for up to one week after the due date, but a minimum automatic deduction of 10% of the points will be assessed. The instructor also has the option of increasing this deduction percentage up to a maximum of 20%. Extenuating circumstances may be determined on rare occasions and an extension allowed without a deduction, but only at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Discussion board postings will not be accepted for credit when posted after the close of the discussion week. There are no exceptions to this rule; however, solely at the discretion of the instructor, the student may be allowed to submit an alternative assignment to make up for the points under extenuating circumstances. If granted, this should be an exception to the rule.

No assignments will be accepted after the last day of the course (end of term) unless arrangements have been made and “approved” by the instructor at least one week in advance.

**Saving Work**

It is recommended that you save all of your work from this course on your own computer or flash drive. The capstone course you take at the end of your program may require you to have access to this work for culminating assignments and/or reflections.

**Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated at any level on any assignment. The reality of cyberspace has made academic dishonesty even more tempting for some, but be advised that technology can and will be used to help uncover those engaging in deception. If you ever have a question about the legitimacy of a source or a procedure you are considering using, ask your instructor. As the University Academic Council approved on May 29, 2003, “The penalty for plagiarism or any other form of academic
dishonesty will be failure in the course in which the academic dishonesty occurred. Students who commit academic dishonesty can be dismissed from the university by the provost/director."

Please refer to Academic Honesty in the Policies section of the online course menu for important information about Ottawa University’s policies regarding plagiarism and cheating, including examples and explanations of these issues.

Student Handbook
Please refer to your student handbook for all university regulations. The Resource Room on the course menu in Blackboard contains information about where to find the student handbook online for your campus.

Please see Policies in Blackboard for additional university policies.

Blackboard Technical Support
The Resource Room in Blackboard contains links to student tutorials for learning to use Blackboard as well as information about whom to contact for technical support. Ottawa University offers technical support from 8 a.m. to midnight Central Time for all students, staff, and faculty at no cost. See www.ottawa.edu/ouhelp for contact information.

Ottawa University Mission Statement
The mission of Ottawa University is to provide the highest quality liberal arts and professional education in a caring, Christ-centered community of grace, which integrates faith, learning and life. The University serves students of traditional age, adult learners and organizations through undergraduate and graduate programs.