Professor Contact Information

John McCracken PhD  
Research Professor of Healthcare Management  
Phone: (972) 883-6252  
E-mail: jfm@utdallas.edu

Blake Waterhouse, MD, MBA  
Adjunct Professor of Healthcare Management  
Email: bewajw@aol.com

Course Description and Learning Objectives

This course is an introduction to the structure, operation and financing of the American healthcare system. It examines how priorities are established; how services are organized, delivered and financed; the factors that influence the cost, quality and availability of care; and opposing positions on the future of healthcare reform. Some of the key issues that will be discussed include:

- Who are the major industry participants and how do they interact?
- How is the healthcare system financed?
- Why does healthcare cost so much?
- How does the cost, quality and availability of care in the US compare to other countries?
- What happens to those who fall through the cracks in the system?
- What is the outlook for healthcare reform?

Class Resources

Purchased Articles. Eleven Harvard Business School articles are assigned for this course. They are bound and available for purchase in the UTD Bookstore. They are marked with a Ø in this syllabus.

Journal Articles. Several current healthcare journal and newspaper articles are also assigned for this course. They are posted on Web CT.

Web CT. WebCT may be accessed at http://webct6.utdallas.edu/webct/logonDisplay.dowebct Go to “The American Healthcare System” to download both the syllabus and the assigned articles.

Other Resources. Several short cases and group exercises will be handed out in class.

Expectations and Grading

Students will be evaluated:

- 40% on class participation. Class participation includes diligent preparation of required readings, active contribution to class discussion and an in-class presentation of a journal article from the syllabus.
- 60% on two written research reports. A list of research topics and their due dates as well as criteria for the in-class presentation will be distributed on the first day of class.

This course is still evolving, and we may spend more time on some topics and less on others. Please stay flexible. I’ll let you know as early as I can if/when we plan to deviate from the schedule below.
Schedule of Assignments

OVERVIEW OF US HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Introduction to the U.S. Healthcare System; An Economic Model of Behavior  January 10
Required Reading
♦ Kao-Ping Chua, Overview of the US Healthcare System,” American Medical Student Association, February, 2006.

System Overview: Characteristics and Values  January 17
Required Reading

Managed Care, Markets and Rationing  January 24
Required Reading
➢ “Note on Managed Care,” Harvard Business School Note, September 1999.

Supplemental Reading

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

The Hospital System  January 31
Required Reading

Supplemental Reading
HMGT 6320
The American Healthcare System
Spring 2007


Physicians and Outpatient Care
Required Reading
♦ R. Berenson, “Hospital-Physician Relations: Cooperation, Competition or Separation?” Health Affairs, December 2006.

Supplemental Reading

HOW HEALTHCARE IS FINANCED

Medicare and Medicaid
Required Reading

Supplemental Reading

Employer Based Insurance
Required Reading
HMGT 6320
The American Healthcare System
Spring 2007


Supplemental Reading

The Underinsured and the Uninsured February 28

Required Reading

Supplemental Reading

HEALTHCARE COST AND QUALITY

Why Does Healthcare Cost So Much March 14

Required Reading

Supplemental Reading

The Quality of US Healthcare March 21


Supplemental Reading
The Role of Competition in Healthcare

Required Reading

Can Innovation and Technology Save the Day?

Required Reading

Supplemental Reading

HEALTHCARE REFORM

The Outlook for Reform: Market Based Solutions

Required Reading

Supplemental Reading

The Outlook for Reform: Single Payer System

Supplemental Reading


Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university’s Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one’s own work or material that is not one’s own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university’s policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details).

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures...
must be followed. It is the student’s responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of “F” in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

**Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university’s Handbook of Operating Procedures.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called “the respondent”). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent’s School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean’s decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the deal will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

**Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester’s end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.