

## **SYLLABUS**

Everyone has become a health policy expert in the era of Covid-19. The healthcare industry accounts for nearly 20% of GDP in the United States, and the pandemic has prompted a full reconsideration of how it will be regulated, financed, and subsidized. This course will explore the links between major public policy events and the financial prospects and implications for various healthcare industry sectors and companies. Lectures will examine how current and potential public policy decisions will impact the bottom line and the behavior of pharmaceutical companies, hospitals, doctors, insurance companies, and others. Students will research, write and present a research paper and project on a live public health care policy or regulatory issue of their choosing. Students will be expected to use their analytic toolkits to evaluate the potential impact of a significant change in a specific government policy.

### **Requirements**

Students are required to attend all meetings ready to discuss the assigned readings and having reviewed the provided data.

### **Research Paper and Presentation**

Each student will work with one other student on their own paper topic and work throughout the semester in partnership with Professor Masia. Full instructions on how to construct the paper and how it will be evaluated will be provided as the semester progresses. All teams will prepare a 10 slide presentation reviewing their findings and 4-5 teams will be chosen to present to the class.

### **Grading**

Grades will be determined as follows: final paper 50%, class presentation 25%, class participation and commitment 25%.

### **Class Topics**

#### **1. Introduction - How Does Our Health System Work? And....Covid-19**

##### **Overview of the US Healthcare System**

##### **Readings:**

##### ***Americans' Values and Beliefs About National Health Insurance Reform***

– Commonwealth Fund/NY Times/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Available at <https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/2019/10/CMWF-NYT-Harvard-Final-Report-Oct2019.pdf> (Links to an external site.)

**“Americans Want the Health Care System to Change. Just Not Their Own Health Care.”** Amelia Thomson-Deveaux, [538.com](https://www.538.com). Available at

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/americans-want-the-health-care-system-to-change-just-not-their-own-health-care/> (Links to an external site.)

**Congressional Budget Office: “Key Design Components and Considerations for Establishing a Single-Payer Health Care System.”** May 2019. <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2019-05/55150-singlepayer.pdf> (Links to an external site.)

Chernew ME, Baicker K, Hsu J. The Specter of Financial Armageddon — Health Care and Federal Debt in the United States. *New Engl J Med* 2010;362(13):1166-8. Available at: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1002873> (Links to an external site.)

## **2. Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA - details**

Garfield et al. “The Uninsured and the ACA: A Primer.” Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/report/the-uninsured-and-the-aca-a-primer-key-facts-about-health-insurance-and-the-uninsured-amidst-changes-to-the-affordable-care-act/> (Links to an external site.)

Huberfeld, Nicole. “The Supreme Court Ruling That Blocked Providers From Seeking Higher Medicaid Payments Also Undercut The Entire Program.” *Health Affairs*, 2015, 34(7), 1156-1161. See <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/34/7/1156.full.html> (Links to an external site.)

## **3. HOSPITALS, HEALTH SYSTEMS, PHYSICIANS, INSURANCE**

**“Assessing Responses to Increased Provider Consolidation in Six Markets: Final Report,”** Sabrian Corlette, Jack Hoadley, Katie Keith and Olivia Hoppe, October 2019.

Pear, Robert. **“Hospitals Must Now Post Prices. But It May Take a Brain Surgeon to Decipher Them.”** *The New York Times*, January 13 2019. See

[https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/13/us/politics/hospital-prices-online.html?emc=edit\\_na\\_20190113&nl=breaking-news&nid=56694310ing-news&ref=cta](https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/13/us/politics/hospital-prices-online.html?emc=edit_na_20190113&nl=breaking-news&nid=56694310ing-news&ref=cta) (Links to an external site.)

**“Analysis of 340B Hospitals’ Outpatient Department Acquisition Cost and Commercial Reimbursement for Physician-Administered Brand Medicines,”** Anna Bunder, Michale Hunter and Carol Kim, December 16 2019, Milliman.

## **4. BIOPHARMACEUTICALS**

Antos, Joseph and James Capretta. “Prescription Drug Pricing: An Overview of the Legal, Regulatory, and Market Environment.” American Enterprise Institute, July 2018. <http://www.aei.org/publication/prescription-drug-pricing-an-overview-of-the-legal-regulatory-and-market-environment/> (Links to an external site.)

MedPAC testimony: “Payment Policy for Prescription Drugs Under Medicare Part B and Part D”, April 30, 2019. [http://www.medpac.gov/docs/default-source/congressional-testimony/04\\_30\\_2019\\_medpac\\_drug\\_testimony\\_for\\_eandc.pdf?sfvrsn=0](http://www.medpac.gov/docs/default-source/congressional-testimony/04_30_2019_medpac_drug_testimony_for_eandc.pdf?sfvrsn=0) (Links to an external site.)

Berndt, Ernst R., Deanna Nass, Michael Kleinrock and Murray Aitken. Decline in Economic Returns from New Drugs Raises Questions About Sustaining Innovations. *Health Affairs* 2015, 34, no.2: 245-252. Available at <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/34/2/245.full.html> (Links to an external site.)

## 5. VALUE MEASUREMENT IN HEALTH POLICY

Katherine Baicker, Amitabh Chandra, and Jonathan S. Skinner. Saving Money or Just Saving Lives? Improving the Productivity of US Health Care Spending Annual Review of Economics, Vol. 4: 33 -56 See <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev-economics-080511-110942> (Links to an external site.)

**“Progress in Cancer Survival, Mortality, and Incidence in Seven High-Income Countries 1995-2014 (ICBP SURVMARK-2): a Population-Based Study.”** Arnold et al. The Lancet Oncology, September 2019 (posted on Canvas)

More readings TBP