



HCM500: THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Contact Hours:** This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

**Faculty Information:** Faculty contact information and office hours can be found on the faculty profile page.

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## **COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES**

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### **Course Description:**

This course provides an in-depth overview of the United States Healthcare System from both a micro and macro level with a special emphasis on the integration of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed in 2010. An introduction to the definitions, concepts about the system, as well as current and future trends in healthcare delivery are considered. Topic areas include history, the organization of the system, operational characteristics, funding mechanisms, and current regulatory activities.

### **Course Overview:**

The U.S. healthcare system is considered by many to be the best in the world. Yet, despite providing access to the latest technology and well-trained professionals, our outcomes and results are often considered below-average. The current delivery system has been described as fragmented, or even broken.

In this course, students will examine a broad overview of the U.S. healthcare system, with the intent for students to gain a basic understanding of the issues, problems, and challenges in delivering a vast array of healthcare services to a large population. We review the historical evolution of healthcare in the United States, with emphasis placed on specific factors that facilitated change. We also consider the roles, responsibilities, and obligations of both individuals and the government in creating and managing personal and population health status and the need for healthcare services. Because so much money is spent on healthcare, we examine how care is paid for, the factors that have increased national expenditures, and methods that have been created to manage utilization and cost.

The delivery of healthcare services is a complex undertaking and many professionals are involved—directly and indirectly—thus, we review how various professionals are trained and educated, and the roles that they play. Similarly, there are many different types of organizations that deliver the care, so we will examine the different types of organizations. The delivery of healthcare has, and continues to evolve. We examine that evolution and the various components and features of managed care and integrated healthcare delivery organizations.

As the course progresses, we explore future trends and challenges in health insurance and service delivery. A close examination of the Medicare system illustrates these trends and challenges. In the final module, we re-

examine complex issues, often debated by politicians, to gain a better understanding of the hard decisions that need to be made.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

1. Identify basic features of the healthcare system and history of healthcare systems including both the public and private sectors.
2. Examine the functions of delivery, financing, insurance, and payment from a healthcare systems framework.
3. Analyze the key constructs related to our understanding of the concept of health, determinants of health, and the provision of health services.
4. Analyze the variables of cost, access, and quality along with the underlying political and economic assumptions of the healthcare system.
5. Research health services for special populations.
6. Examine how the U.S. healthcare system compares to systems in other developed countries and the global marketplace.
7. Anticipate the future of healthcare services and delivery.

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## **PARTICIPATION & ATTENDANCE**

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Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

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## **COURSE MATERIALS**

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### **Required:**

Shi, L., & Singh, D. A. (2019). *Delivering healthcare in America: A systems approach* (7th ed.). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. ISBN 9781284124491

**NOTE:** All non-textbook required readings and materials necessary to complete assignments, discussions, and/or supplemental or required exercises are provided within the course itself. Please read through each course module carefully.

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## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

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### **Due Dates**

The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- **Discussion Boards:** The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and peer responses posted by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- **Critical Thinking:** Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.

- **Live Classroom:** Although participation is not required, Live Classroom sessions are held during Week 2 and Weeks 5. There are two total sessions.

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## WEEKLY READING AND ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

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### Module 1

#### Readings

- Chapters 1, 2, & 3 in *Delivering Healthcare in America: A Systems Approach*
- Charters, T. J., Harper, S., Strumpf, E. C., Subramanian, S. V., Arcaya, M., & Nandi, A. (2016). The effect of metropolitan-area mortgage delinquency on health behaviors, access to health services, and self-rated health in the United States, 2003–2010. *Social Science & Medicine*, 161, 74-82.
- Zhang, A., Padilla, Y. C., & Kim, Y. (2017). How early do social determinants of health begin to operate? Results from the fragile families and child wellbeing study. *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, 37, 42-50.

#### Discussion (25 points)

#### Critical Thinking (50 points)

##### **Option #1: U.S. Healthcare System vs. Other Countries**

Provide an evidence-based comparison of the U.S. healthcare system with a healthcare system in another industrialized country. Compare the following elements between the two countries:

- Type of healthcare system in place (national health insurance, national health system, socialized health insurance, or other);
- Means by which the system is financed;
- Costs of healthcare services; and
- Comparative strengths and weaknesses of the two healthcare systems.

Your paper should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- 3-4 pages in length,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least two references from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

##### **Option #2: Foreign Born Health Professionals**

Interview a health professional who was born and educated in a foreign country. Prepare questions for them to learn about the differences between their native healthcare system and the U.S. healthcare system. Provide a 3-4-page paper based on what you learned from the interview.

Your paper should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- Written in third-person narrative,
- Include an appendix of the prepared questions,
- 3-4 pages in length,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least two references from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

## **Module 2**

### **Readings**

- Chapter 6 in *Delivering Healthcare in America: A Systems Approach*
- Johar, M., Soewondo, P., Pujisubekti, R., Satrio, H. K., & Adji, A. (2018). Inequality in access to health care, health insurance and the role of supply factors. *Social Science & Medicine*, 213, 134–145.
- McWilliams, J. M., Hatfield, L. A., Landon, B. E., Hamed, P., & Chernew, M. E. (2018). Medicare spending after 3 years of the Medicare Shared Savings Program. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 379(12), 1139–1149.
- Zallman, L., Wilson, F., Stimpson, A., Bearse, J., Arsenault, P., Dube, A., . . . & Woolhandler, B. (2016). Unauthorized immigrants prolong the life of Medicare's Trust Fund. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 31(1), 122–127.

### **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Critical Thinking (90 points)**

#### **Option #1: Medicare Solvency**

Submit a paper that examines the Medicare Trust Fund and its projected solvency. Some key questions to consider:

- What is the Medicare Trust Fund?
- What is the current state of the fund?
- What are the future challenges faced by the fund? Discuss the factors that have created these challenges.

Your paper should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- 3-4 pages in length,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least two references from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

#### **Option #2: Cost Shifting**

Submit a PowerPoint presentation that evaluates the relationship between reimbursement reductions and cost shifting and how have hospitals in different markets have responded to the reductions.

Your analysis should be thoughtful and thorough, well-written, and should include:

- A minimum of 10-15 slides (not including the title and reference slides);
- Speaker's notes containing 50-100 words per content discussion slide to elaborate on the visual/text content on the slide;
- Appropriate graphics, multi-media, and other visual elements to enhance the presentation delivery;
- In-text citations on the slides;
- References page;
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least three references from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.

### **Module 3**

#### **Readings**

- Chapters 4 & 5 in *Delivering Healthcare in America: A Systems Approach*
- Petrucci, C., La Cerra, C., Aloisio, F., Montanari, P., & Lancia, L. (2016). Empathy in health professional students: A comparative cross-sectional study. *Nurse Education Today*, 41(C), 1–5.

#### **Discussion (25 points)**

#### **Critical Thinking (90 points)**

##### **Option #1: Imbalance in Care**

Create a concept map that represents the relationship and factors creating the imbalance/mal-distribution between primary and specialty physician care in the United States healthcare system.

Please include a brief 1-2 page summary of your diagram to explain its contents; this can be viewed as what you would say in a presentation of your diagram. Your paper should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least one reference from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

##### **Option #2: Distribution of Healthcare**

Create a poster presentation that explores the factors creating a geographic mal-distribution of the physician labor force. Be sure to include the following:

- Specific measures that have been employed to address the problems.
- How effective these measures have been?

Your poster should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- 2 pages of the poster,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least one reference from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

## **Module 4**

### **Readings**

- Chapter 7 in *Delivering Healthcare in America: A Systems Approach*
- Beans, B. E. (2016). Experts foresee a major shift from inpatient to ambulatory care. *P&T: A Peer-Reviewed Journal for Formulary Management*, 41(4), 231–7. Retrieved from <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4811253/>
- Murante, A. M., Seghieri, C., Vainieri, M., & Schäfer, W. (2017). Patient-perceived responsiveness of primary care systems across Europe and the relationship with the health expenditure and remuneration systems of primary care doctors. *Social Science & Medicine*, 186, 139–147.
- Weinhold, I., & Gurtner, S. (2018). Rural - urban differences in determinants of patient satisfaction with primary care. *Social Science & Medicine*, 212, 76–85.

### **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Critical Thinking (40 points)**

### **(CDC) Career Development: Self-Knowledge**

For this assignment, you will evaluate your personal skills in relationship to your chosen degree program. You may use any assessment tools you find in the CSU-Global Career Center or online to help develop your self-evaluation.

Develop a well-written paper that includes the following:

- A self-evaluation of your personal strengths, weaknesses, personality, interests, and values as they relate to your chosen degree field, and
- An assessment of challenges that your unique life situation may present to your ability to complete your degree. You may be as specific or general as you like with this assessment to maintain your personal privacy.

Your paper should meet the following requirements:

- Be 2-3 pages in length,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include support from peer-reviewed sources to connect your strengths and weaknesses to academic research.
- While first-person narrative will be appropriate for portions of this assignment, please be sure to use it judiciously.
- Include any assessment tools you used in the References page.

### **Portfolio Milestone (25 points)**

## **Bibliography**

In Module 7, you will watch the documentary “Mixed Match” that will serve as the basis of your Portfolio Project. For this portfolio milestone, you will identify six to eight sources, with a minimum of four from peer-reviewed sources, that address the topic of race and bone marrow donors that might be appropriate for your final paper. This portfolio milestone will help you begin to understand how disparities can impact health outcomes.

Please format the bibliography per the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.

This submission is worth 25 points of your Portfolio Project, which is due in Module 8.

## **Module 5**

### **Readings**

- Chapter 8 in *Delivering Healthcare in America: A Systems Approach*
- Castellucci, M. (2017). Addressing the entire continuum of care. *Modern Healthcare*, 47(25), 20.
- Chazal, R. A., & Houser, S. (2016). The ACC and AHA: Setting a new standard for hospital accreditation—Together. *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, 68(24), 2708–2709.

### **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Critical Thinking (90 points)**

#### **Option #1: Government Role in Hospital Growth and Decline**

Submit a paper that explains the role of government in the growth, as well as the decline, of hospitals in the United States. Be sure to discuss major legislation and reimbursement factors.

Your paper should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- 3-4 pages in length,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least two references from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

#### **Option #2: Shift to Outpatient Settings**

Prepare a PowerPoint presentation analyzing the main factors that have been responsible for the shift from inpatient care to outpatient settings. Discuss how this has impacted hospitals and what they have had to do to adapt to the changing healthcare environment.

Your analysis should be thoughtful and thorough, well-written, and should include:

- A minimum of 10-15 slides (not including the title and reference slides);
- Speaker’s notes containing 50-100 words per content discussion slide to elaborate on the visual/text content on the slide;

- Appropriate graphics, multi-media, and other visual elements to enhance the presentation delivery;
- In-text citations on the slides;
- References page;
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least three references from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.

## **Module 6**

### **Readings**

- Chapter 9 in *Delivering Healthcare in America: A Systems Approach*
- Kerrissey, M., Clark, J., Friedberg, M., Fryer, A., Wei Jiang, Tietschert, M., ... Singer, S. (2016). Associations between patients' perceptions of care integration and organizational features of medical groups in the United States. *International Journal of Integrated Care (IJIC)*, 16(6), 1–3.
- While, A. (2018). Achieving care integration. *British Journal of Community Nursing*, 23(11), 574.
- McDonnell, D., & Graham, C. (2015). Medicaid beneficiaries in California reported less positive experiences when assigned to a managed care plan. *Health Affairs (Project Hope)*, 34(3), 447–54.

### **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Critical Thinking (90 points)**

#### **Option #1: Managed Care Payment Mechanisms**

Submit a paper that explores the three primary payment mechanisms used by managed care. For each, discuss how risk is spread between the patient, provider, and managed care organization. Be certain to explore the strengths and weaknesses of each payment mechanism.

Your paper should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- 4-5 pages in length,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least three references from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

#### **Option #2: Managed Care – Choosing Wisely**

Assume you are working for a large managed care company and you have been tasked with the role of reducing costs on unnecessary services. Explore the website Choosing Wisely. Identify a medical procedure or service that is either not cost efficient or should potentially not be offered at all. Prepare an Executive Summary to present to your supervisor that answers the following questions:

- A description of the identified service.
- Should it be reserved for only specific populations or completely eliminated?



- Explore potential reasons why this specific procedure or service is still being offered despite it being inefficient or unnecessary.
- Why should the specific changes you recommended be made?

The Executive Summary should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- 2-3 pages in length,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least three references from peer-reviewed articles beyond the text or other course materials. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

## **Module 7**

### **Readings**

- Chapters 10 & 11 in *Delivering Healthcare in America: A Systems Approach*
- Iglehart, J. (2016). Future of long-term care and the expanding role of Medicaid managed care. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 374(2), 182–187.
- Rodriguez, J. (2018). Health disparities, politics, and the maintenance of the status quo: A new theory of inequality. *Social Science & Medicine*, 200, 36–43.

### **Discussion (25 points)**

## **Module 8**

### **Readings**

- Chapter 14 in *Delivering Healthcare in America: A Systems Approach*
- Sohn, H. (2017). Medicaid's lasting impressions: Population health and insurance at birth. *Social Science & Medicine*, 177, 205.
- Wiggers, J., McElwaine, K., Freund, M., Campbell, L., Bowman, J., Wye, P., . . . & Bartlem, K. (2017). Increasing the provision of preventive care by community healthcare services: A stepped wedge implementation trial. *Implementation Science*, 12(1), 105.

### **Discussion (25 points)**

### **Portfolio Project (350 points; including 25 from Portfolio Milestone)**

#### **Option#1: Role of Race in Healthcare**

If you have not already, watch the documentary “Mixed Match” in Module 7. While viewing it, consider the complexities race plays in the U.S. healthcare system. Submit a paper that identifies and discusses the specific challenges encountered by the various patients in this documentary.

In writing this paper, you should consider and address the following:

- The role of race in healthcare.
  - Provide specific examples from the documentary to illustrate this. Support these examples with the relevant literature.

- The impact of race on specific individuals in terms of receiving healthcare services. Please address this from a broader context than simply those in the documentary.
- Identify a minimum of three solutions to improve the potential health outcomes for the individuals in the documentary.
  - Critique and analyze each proposed solution.

Your paper should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- 8-10 pages in length,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- Include at least six references from the peer-reviewed articles. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

### **Option #2: Role of Race in Healthcare**

If you have not already, watch the documentary “Mixed Match” in Module 7. While viewing it, consider the complexities race plays in the U.S. healthcare system. Submit a personal reflection paper on your reactions to the documentary.

In writing this personal reflection, you should consider and address the following:

- Your personal reactions to the documentary.
  - Explain any changes in perspective you have on the role of race in healthcare after watching the documentary.
  - Discuss the impact these changes will have on your current and/or future career.
- Identify a minimum of three ways you can improve the potential health outcomes for the individuals in the documentary in your career.
  - Critique and analyze each proposed solution.

Your paper should be well-written and meet the following requirements:

- 8-10 pages in length,
- Formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements, and
- While first-person narrative will be appropriate for portions of this assignment, please be sure to use it judiciously.
- Include at least six references from the peer-reviewed articles. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find peer-reviewed articles.
- Be sure to discuss and reference concepts taken from the assigned textbook reading and relevant research.
- Review the grading rubric to see how you will be graded for this assignment.

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## COURSE POLICIES

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Grading Scale	
A	95.0 – 100
A-	90.0 – 94.9
B+	86.7 – 89.9
B	83.3 – 86.6
B-	80.0 – 83.2
C+	75.0 – 79.9
C	70.0 – 74.9
D	60.0 – 69.9
F	59.9 or below

### Course Grading

20% Discussion Participation  
45% Critical Thinking Assignments  
35% Final Portfolio Project

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## IN-CLASSROOM POLICIES

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For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our [In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines](#) or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /repurposing your own work (see CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and internet resources.

### **Citing Sources with APA Style**

All students are expected to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing & APA when citing in APA (based on the most recent APA style manual) for all assignments. A link to this guide should also be provided within most assignment descriptions in your course.

### **Disability Services Statement**

CSU-Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email [ada@CSUGlobal.edu](mailto:ada@CSUGlobal.edu) for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

### **Netiquette**

Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults, or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom. If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.