

PH 116: Introduction to the U.S. Health System

Fall 2023

T/TH 9:40-10:55

Lattimore Room 201

Instructor: Mical Raz, MD, PhD. email: micalraz@rochester.edu

Office Hours: Thursdays 1230 -130, can be on zoom but need to coordinate in advance

<https://rochester.zoom.us/j/94498984911>

Meeting ID: 944 9898 4911

Teaching Assistants:

Head: Kevin Sapere ksapere@UR.Rochester.edu

Undergrad TAs:

Niki Eckert ceckert4@u.rochester.edu

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The TAs are your primary point of contact for questions and concerns. You will each be assigned an undergrad TA who will work with you, grade your essays and answer your questions.

The TAs will also run a question board for discussion on Blackboard, hold regular office hours, and will be available to meet with you. Some will host community viewings of the movies if there is interest in that and will run informal review sessions.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

PH 116 (Intro to the US Health Care System): This course examines the organization, financing and functioning of the United States health care system, utilizing primarily a historical perspective. Among the topics covered are the economics and organization of health systems, racial disparities in access to care and quality of care, historical understandings of social determinants of health, U.S. health policy and politics including the historical struggle for health reform, the passage of the Affordable Care Act, and its transformation under the Trump administration.

The course textbook will be Donald Barr's *Introduction to US Health Policy: The Organization, Financing, and Delivery of Health Care in America*, 4th edition (2016) but will also incorporate investigative journalism articles, primary and secondary historical sources, and videos and documentary films. Paul Starr's book *The Social Transformation*

of American Medicine is also a very valuable resource, now available through our library as an e-book.

The College's credit hour policy on undergraduate courses is to award 4 credit hours for courses that meet for the equivalent of 2 periods of 75 minutes each week. Students enrolled in PH 116 are expected to devote at least one hour each week to identifying the main lines of argument in course readings, working alone or in groups, and to preparing for their assignments and review sessions.

EVALUATION:

Short essay responses to films and their larger context: 5 pts each X 4 =20 pts
Two MCQ Quizzes (in class) 10 pts each X 2 =20 pts
Two in-class exams (in class) 30 pts each X 2 =60 pts
Attendance and engagement may factor in as a way to *increase* final grade.

Grade scale is as follow:

A = 93-100
A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86
B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76
C- = 70-72
D+ =67-69
D = 63-66
D- =60-62

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is important for your success, and my experience with this course shows that students who actively participate in class learn more and earn higher grades. Quizzes and exams should be taken at the scheduled time, barring extreme circumstances that are pre-approved by the instructor. Otherwise, I do not check attendance and there is no need to request excused absences.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will be treated as such. Anyone who engages in such activities will be turned over to the College Board on Academic Honesty for disciplinary action, as outlined at <http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/>. For a helpful discussion of plagiarism (including subtle instances), see the American Historical Association's 'Defining Plagiarism,' <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/plagiarism-curricular-materials-for-history->

[instructors/defining-plagiarism.](#)” If there is any question or concern please contact the instructor for clarification.

Please note that essays should be written by the student without use of AI tools including Chat GPT.

STATEMENT OF ACCOMMODATION:

The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources. The access coordinators in the Office of Disability Resources can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can reach the Office of Disability Resources at: disability@rochester.edu; (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to change topics and assignments on the syllabus at any point in the semester. Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.

IMPORTANT DATES :

Quizzes- in class only September 19 and November 9th

Exam A October 12

Exam B December 12

All reflections due 9am exactly 1 week from the date of the movie.

Schedule of Lectures

PART I Historical Foundations of the US Health Care System:

Thursday, August 31, 2023

Introduction, History of 19th Century Medical Profession, Past as Prologue

Reading: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/health/dec-14-1799-excruciating-final-hours-president-george-washington>

Tuesday, September 5, 2023

Early 20th Century Educational Reform, The Flexner Report, The Rise of the Medical Profession

Read:

Starr, Social Transformation of American Medicine, 112-134

Barr, Chapter 4 81-111

Thursday, September 7, 2023

Hospitals – an Evolution

Paul Starr, “The Reconstitution of the Hospital,” in *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*, p. 145-179

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

September 10 Bacteriological Revolution and the Rise of Public Health

Gawande, *Better*, 13-28; Nancy Tomes, “The Making of a Germ Panic, Then and Now” *AJPH* Feb 2000.

Thursday, September 14, 2023

Asynchronous watch film (at home, online) “The Most Dangerous Woman in America” and submit reflection online by September 20 at 9am.

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

Health, Illness, and the Risk of Disease: A Transformation.

Aronowitz, “The Converged Experience of Risk and Disease,” *Milbank Q.* 2009 Jun; 87(2): 417–442

In class quiz (15 mins for 10 MCQ)

PART II Social Determinants of Health – Historical Understandings

Textbook for entire section Barr, 336-350

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Historical Understandings of SDoH Part 1

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Historical Understandings of SDoH Part 2

Thursday, September 28, 2023

Maternal Health in American Part 1

Read Nothing Protects Black Women from Dying in childbirth :

<https://www.propublica.org/article/nothing-protects-black-women-from-dying-in-pregnancy-and-childbirth>

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

Asynchronous. No class. Instead of this class watch at your convenience at home the movie *United in Anger* and submit reflection online due in exactly one week.

Thursday, October 5, 2023

Kevin Sapere, PhD Student, History of AIDS activism and lessons for the future

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

LGBT inequities, the HIV ongoing crisis, Review for first exam

Thursday, October 12, 2023

Exam A

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 No class Fall Break!

PART III Access to Health Care in the US: Private, Public, and Uninsured

Thursday, October 19, 2023

What is Health Insurance? Intro to ESI

Read: Barr, 112-120

Tuesday, October 24, 2023

What is Managed Care?

Barr, "Health Insurance, HMOs, and the Managed Care Revolution," p. 112-149

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Asynchronous

Watch: *Power to Heal*, reflection due one week later

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Historical Origins of Medicare and Medicaid

Barr, Medicare 150-195

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Medicare and Medicaid cont'd

Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Medicaid Wrap up

Thursday, November 9, 2023

Uninsured, Underinsured, Uninsurable, Rand Experiment, Does Health Insurance even work?

In class quiz (15 mins for 10 MCQ)

Barr, 228-250

PART IV: HEALTH CARE REFORM

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

100 years of Health reform ,What were the Clinton Reforms and What was Learned?

Thursday, November 16, 2023

ACA Political History

Read Excerpt from Obama Memoir

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

Asynchronous

Watch Sicko:

<https://vimeo.com/76646445>

Submit Blackboard reflection due online one week later

Thursday, November 23, 2023 No Class Thanksgiving

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

ACA continued, Medicaid Expansion

Thursday, November 30, 2023

Obamacare After Obama/ What do the American Rescue Plan and the IRA do for the ACA/ Where are we now with the ACA?

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Guest , health policy careers

Thursday, December 7, 2023 Finish any outstanding topics, Review Session

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 **Exam B**