CIEE Berlin, Germany

Course title: Comparative Health Care Systems
Course code: (GI) PUBH 3003 BRGE
Programs offering course: Global Architecture and Design, Berlin Open Campus Block
Open Campus Track: Global and Community Health
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall Block III 2020

Course Description

This course explores the impact of demographics, infrastructure, political and public will, global economic conditions, and geopolitical circumstances on health care systems. Evidence-based health policy research points to the need to carefully assess health care delivery systems in individual countries in order to identify initiatives, patterns, and mechanisms that have most likely contributed to successful reforms and sustainable financing arrangements. Comparisons will be made among the different regional actors with special reference to the host environment and USA healthcare systems. Different countries commonly have different goals and motivations for introducing certain health care policies and interventions. Students will learn about, assess, and understand these unique interests, needs, and historical experiences that shape current health care at the national level.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Gather, analyse and synthesize specific data
- Critically assess the quality of data
- Combine qualitative and quantitative approaches and triangulate data
- Work in an interdisciplinary team
- Understand the unique interests, needs and historical experiences that shape current health care in a country
- Articulate correlation, causality and scientific approaches used in differentiating factors
- Critically compare health systems
- Speak thoughtfully to make recommendations for health system changes

Course Prerequisites

Student should have completed one course in public health.

Methods of Instruction

Among other techniques, the methodology used throughout this course includes fields visits to private and public health institutions, debates with econometricians on the advantages and limits of quantitative analysis, introductory lessons and classroom discussions, collaborative peer-work, and the incorporation of class discussions, meetings with experts, and independent work into written analysis.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Individual Presentation 20%
2. Critical Review 15%
3. Group Project 20%
4. Final Discussion Paper 25%
5. Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Individual Presentation

The individual presentation will be on a "Topical issue in Healthcare". The student is free to choose a topic of their choice but this is subject to approval by the course lecturer(s). This in class presentation must be 10 minutes long and must include PowerPoint slides (or equivalent). The presentation can include video material but this must take up no more than 3 minutes of the allocated time. The presentation will be judged using 5 criteria: Structure; Research content; Delivery; Powerpoint/Visual aids; Conclusions.

Critical Review

Critical reviewing and its importance for healthcare research will be discussed in class during Week 2. You will be provided with information how to conduct a critical review and we will practice this skill in class to prepare you for the assignment. The assignment should be no more than a 1000-words.

Group Project

The class will be divided into groups of 3 students. This project will involve comparing the healthcare systems of two different countries (excluding the host country or The US as these will be discussed in class). Further details on study group allocation and the assignment will be provided in class. All students need to participate, contribute and present.

Final Discussion Paper

A 2000-word paper analyzing the healthcare system of a country of choice. The paper must utilize the six domains of health care quality as a tool to discuss the healthcare system.

Participation

Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared in advance of each class session and to have regular attendance. Students must clearly demonstrate they have engaged with the materials as directed, for example, through classroom discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for Open Campus and Short Term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent.

Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to any required field placement. Students may not miss placement/work hours at an internship or service learning site unless approved in advance by the Academic Director and placement supervisor. All students must complete all of the requisite 100 minimum work hours on site at the internship or service learning placement to be eligible for academic credit.

Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences for classes will lead to the following penalties:
**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: 1.1 Orientation Week / Introduction to Class

This session will form the introduction to the class; we will outline the course requirements and formal aspects of participation and engagement in class. This will be followed by the introduction to comparative health, providing basic facts and concepts, and defining health care systems.


**Week 2**

Class: 2.1 Basics of Research Designs

This session will outline the basics of research designs, by specifically focusing on approaches that measure quantitative and qualitative empirical evidence.

**Reading:** Morgan, D. (2014). *Integrating Qualitative and Quantitative Methods: A Pragmatic Approach*. California, USA: SAGE Publications.

Class: 2.2 Data Assessment & Causality

Students will learn about different data assessment methods and approaches to analyse data, such as regression, correlation and question causality in data. Students will gain practical experience using a data set and published reports.


Class: 2.3 Survival Data in Health Assessment

Students will learn how longitudinal designs can aid in providing more robust information and pathways of health data such as incidence of disease states. The session will outline the use and benefit of survival data and teach how to critically consider covariates and confounding factors in health assessments.


**Due Date for Submission of Individual Presentations**

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**Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed** | **Minimum Penalty**
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Up to 10% | Participation graded as per class requirements
10 – 20% | Participation graded as per class requirements, 3% grade penalty & written warning
More than 20% | Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.
This session will outline the basics of public health and epidemiology and demonstrate how epidemiological studies have provided baseline work for health assessments. The social determinants of health will be explored and brought into context with health inequalities. Health indicators will be introduced that are the building blocks for comparative assessments of quality of healthcare.


**Global Treatment of Mental Health**

Students will learn about the stigma of mental health and the disparities in knowledge, acceptance, diagnoses and treatment of mental health worldwide.


**Public Health Interventions**

Students will learn about public health interventions and effectiveness that has been developed and implemented to improve healthcare systems and performance.


**The U.S. & Germany Healthcare Systems**

This session provides the overview of the USA and the Germany healthcare systems and evaluates evidence-based policy and evaluations.

**Reading:**

**Healthcare Systems: Frameworks for Comparing Systems**

This session outlines the principles of comparative healthcare systems by evaluating analyses of health status, expenditure and resources. Different analytical frameworks will be explored, such as the 6 pillars of comparative healthcare assessment.

**Reading:**

**Healthcare Scandals & Guidelines**

Students will learn about healthcare scandals and politics and compare guidelines, such as nutritional guidelines.


**Patient Outcomes**

This session focuses on patient outcomes as a metric of healthcare success.

Week 6

Class: 6.1 Economic Evaluation & Decision-Making

This session will focus on the economic evaluation and decision-making in health systems. Students will learn about quality-adjusted life years and critically evaluate decisions based on these measures.


Class: 6.2 Cost-Benefit & Cost-Effectiveness Analyses

Students will learn about cost–benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses as used in health care systems and understand how these concepts relate to efficiency and policy settings. Site visit: Menzies Centre for Health Policy


**Due Date for Submission of the Final Paper**

**Course Materials**

**Readings**


**Online Resources**

http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/partners/observatory/health-systems-in-transition-