

## **POLS 4365.002 Comparative Health Systems**

**Spring 2009**

**Tuesday 6 pm**

Instructor: Prof. Larry Carter

Office hours TWTH 8:30-9:30 am T-Th 1-2 pm and by appointment

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### **Course Objectives**

This course offers an overview of social health insurance systems in Western Europe. Students will learn to identify the characteristics of a social health insurance system, how success is measured in such a system and these systems are responding to current fiscal pressures. The seven systems studied here offer a comparative view with the American health system and the possible influence on health policy officials in the United States.

### **Learning Outcomes**

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- familiarity with basic terminology used in health care policy
- basic knowledge of the historical evolution and development of health systems
- an understanding of major social health systems in Europe.
- an ability to critically examine both negative and positive reviews of these systems
- a comparative knowledge of national healthcare systems

### **Blackboard**

All students are required to sign up on the Blackboard site for this course. All class announcements, assignments and grades will be posted here. If you have any problems signing on to BlackBoard please go to the Computer Lab on the first floor of the Business Building.

### **Course Grading**

There will be two exams (a midterm and a final) given over the course of the semester each worth 100 points. These exams will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. On-line quizzes and in-class writing assignments will constitute participation. A paper (the contents of which will be discussed in class) makes up the final grade component.

Two exams 100 pts each	200 points
Quizzes/Participation	200 points
6-8 page paper	100 points
Total points	500 points

Scale	A	450-500 points
	B	400-449 points
	C	350-399 points
	D	300-349 points
	F	299 and below

### **Attendance**

Regular attendance is expected and roll will be taken during each class. It is the responsibility of an absent student to get notes from fellow students. Students who miss more than 3 classes (unexcused) will have 20 points deducted from their total points. Make-up exams are subject to the approval of the instructor.

### **Grade Replacement**

if you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to file an intent to use grade forgiveness will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. A student will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three (undergraduate student) or two (graduate student) course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler. (2006-08 Catalog, p. 35)

### **Disability Statement**

If you have a disability, including learning disability, for which you request an accommodation, please contact Ida MacDonald in the Disability Support services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, students requesting accommodation must provide documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center Room 282. Phone number 903 566-7079.

### **Social Security Statement**

It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer program so that all students have an identification number.

### **Student Absence Due to Religious Observance**

Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor by the second class meeting of such absences.

### **Required Text Available in UT Tyler Bookstore**

Social Health Insurance Systems in Western Europe. Ed. Richard B. Saltman, et al. Open University Press. 2004. European Observatory on Health Systems Policy Series

### **Exam Schedule**

Midterm Monday October 13 and Wednesday October 15  
Final (comprehensive) Weds Dec. 17 8 am

### **Course Outline**

#### **Week of**

<i>Jan 13</i>	<i>Course Introduction.</i>
<i>Jan 20</i>	<i>Part 1</i>
<i>Jan 27</i>	<i>Part 2</i>
<i>Feb 3</i>	<i>Part 3</i>
<i>Feb 4</i>	<i>Part 4</i>
<i>Feb 17</i>	<i>Part 5</i>
<i>Feb 24</i>	<i>Part 6</i>
<i>Mar 3</i>	<b><u>Midterm exam</u></b>
<i>Mar 10</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
<i>Mar 17</i>	<i>Part 7</i>
<i>Mar 24</i>	<i>Part 8</i>
<i>Mar 31</i>	<i>Part 9</i>
<i>April 7</i>	<i>Part 10</i>
<i>April 14</i>	<i>Part 11 Paper due.</i>
<i>April 21</i>	<i>Part 12</i>
<i>April 28</i>	<i>Part 13</i>
<i>May 4</i>	<b><u>Final Exam 4 Tuesday May 5</u></b>