

ALHS 4306 - HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEMS
Spring Semester 2026- online format

Instructor Name and Title: William Sorensen, Ph.D. Professor

Office Location & Times: HPC Rm #3095, No set hours since this is online.
One-on-one communications with the instructor will be through UT Tyler email (please not through Canvas email).

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Required Text: Reid, T.R. The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care, Penguin Books (©2009, 2010).
ISBN paperback 978-0-14-311821-3

Classroom Location: Online

Course Dates: Starts January 12th, ends February 28th

Deadline to withdraw without penalty: Feb 12th (double check with advisor)

Catalog Description: Study of the social, political, and economic systems that influence America's unique and diverse approach to systems of health enhancement and care delivery.

Course Objectives: To accomplish the course goal the student will be able to:

1. Critically analyze the U.S. healthcare system in relation to cost, access, quality, and ethics.
2. Critically analyze 2-3 other high-tech countries' healthcare systems in relation to cost, access, and quality.
3. Compare and contrast among the different countries in relation to cost, access, and quality.
4. Reflect, formulate questions and make judgments regarding various aspects of Healthcare.

Letter grade transcription

90-100 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, <60 F

Grading Plan:

100 maximum points:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Exam | 35 points. |
| Table updates | 15 points (3 x 5 each) |
| Journal entries | 30 points (3 x 10 each) |
| Project | 20 points |

In General:

1. Your ability to work independently and retain information, since this is an online class, is necessary. Sounds easy, but it is not so easy if you are new to this format.

2. This course requires your good-will. Let's say 2/3's of your effort in this class is based on your ability to quickly read a non-fiction book. The instructor trusts you to be able to do this (college students should be able to do this).

3. This course is a 7-week course only, so the workload that one puts into a 3-credit hour class normally (during a normal semester) has now doubled.

Therefore:

- Self-discipline and time-management skills become more important in this class.
- It is recommended that you set aside 12-16 hours or so, per week, for this class. It would be very wise to look at the class calendar and mark important dates/times into your personal calendar.
- Each student should have his/her own version of the course book.
- Pay attention to Canvas announcements (you can program to receive announcements to your e-mail account).
- Be consistent in reading the course book; pace yourself.
- The motivation to learn is up to you.

Particular Assignments/Formats:

Every completed assignment is uploaded into Canvas. Sometimes you just open a link (journal, exam) and sometimes you have to upload a file (table revisions, project).

These assignments cannot be late because Canvas turns off the link/upload-capability after the due date/time. If you are late, you receive a zero for that assignment.

Exam: To assess knowledge and memory. It contains multiple choice, short essay, true-false questions. In general, the window for a Canvas exam will be 3-4 days.

Table revisions: These tables are in the book, and the student needs to update them using the most recent data, then submit them into Canvas.

Journal entries: Think about Health Care and the topics addressed that week, or one or two weeks previous. Issues: Write down in stream-of-consciousness writing, what comes to your mind in thinking about a chapter from the book or your own observations (of yourself or others) in certain situations, perhaps always coming back to the questions: What is quality healthcare? Affordable healthcare? Equitable healthcare? Write 3 paragraphs or more at each session.

Project: Projects are assignments that are elaborate and individualized work. Students will have a several weeks to complete a project. Instructions are forthcoming.

Communications: In regards to questions about the “mechanics” of the class, please communicate through the Canvas discussion folder called “Administrative issues”. This allows both questions and responses to questions to be seen by everyone. More generally, please do not send the instructor an e-mail message or a private Canvas-“inbox” message about the mechanics of the course. If you must communicate with the instructor privately, send him an email through regular non-Canvas email.

Zoom session: This is not mandatory meeting with the instructor (if you cannot make a session, you can watch it later as a recording). If you do log into a Zoom meeting, please have your video screen on (at all times). Visuals of faces are a good form of communication.

Reference format: If references are used, use APA format.

AI statement (starting in the fall of 2024, UT Tyler expects every course syllabus to include an AI statement): AI may be used in this course if it is acknowledged as a reference. Caution is needed however: Dr. Sorensen believes that AI is not needed, and in fact may gunk up some of your assignments. He thinks that you should be able to communicate on your own. His experience with AI is that it is a notoriously poor writer; it may write with no spelling errors, but is excessive with jargon and the “thrust” of communication may be missed with AI)

UT Tyler POLICIES

See Canvas module “Getting started” for University policies.