The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University
Master of Science in Global Health Policy and Management

HS 236a. International Health Systems and Development
Fall 2017

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University Notices
1. If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

2. You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. The University policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty are subject to possible judicial action. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the University. If you have any questions about my expectations, please ask.

Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person – be it a world-class philosopher or your roommate – without proper acknowledgement of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, you must ask for clarification.

Course Requirements
1. Attendance at all sessions; prompt arrival.
2. Preparation of all readings.
3. Participation in class discussions and any small group work.
4. Timely submission/presentation of assignments.
5. Completion of bi-weekly writing assignments (to be assigned).
6. Participation in class discussion.
7. Contribution to requirements and objectives of group work.
8. Being helpful and considerate to other students.
This is a full semester course and is a core requirement of the MS/GHPM program. This course is also open to other PhD students interested in global health issues.

This syllabus is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the instructors. When in doubt, please ask the instructors.

Course Description
This class uses several frameworks for health system strengthening to understand health systems and how we can improve health systems to improve overall levels of health and development. There are many definitions and frameworks on health systems. Some define health systems as the collections of institutions, laws, regulations, social objectives and behaviors that are responsible for getting health resources (professional services, drugs, various technologies, etc.) to where they are needed. In recent years many low and middle-income countries have initiated efforts to strengthen their health systems through health reform initiatives, often financed by donors. This course provides a framework within which health systems in low and middle-income countries can be analyzed and better understood. The course examines different health system frameworks, how to use these frameworks to ask health system questions, different aspects of health systems, how national health systems differ, and what measures are being implemented in different countries to improve their health system performance and eventually health outcomes.

Course Objective
The objective of this course is to provide students with a framework to understand how health systems are organized and to understand what affects their performance. Students also will be able to better describe key features of health systems; how health system performance is measured; and how lessons from other countries can be applied to their own countries. The course will introduce students to several of the main theories and frameworks that help us understand how systems are organized and how this impacts development. Students also will be able to better describe and apply specific theories to country contexts. Students will be required to read, understand, and write about a large body of readings during this course, and will be required to complete a final exam and several group projects.

Recommended Prerequisites
Non-MS/GHPM students planning on taking this course should either have taken a course in economics or have experience working in the health sector.

Readings and Materials
Determined in each class.

Other Important Web Based Resources
http://www.sciencedirect.com/resources.library.brandeis.edu/science/journal/01406736?sdc=1 Lancet
https://www.hfgproject.org/resources/publications/  USAID’s HFG publications, including Health Systems 20/20 Project Resources
http://www.euro.who.int/observatory  European Observatory publications are available
http://www.cgdev.org/section/publications  Center for Global Development are available

Other important readings are specified under the various lecture topics. Reading extensively from the professional literature on health system performance is very important for this course. Students are expected to do these readings, and to be able to summarize what they have read when called upon to do so in class.

**Student Evaluation**
- Written Assignments/Cases (Belize/HRH)  15%
- Policy Brief (Individual)  15%
- Speech/OpEd (Individual)  15%
- Final Presentation (Group)  15%
- Final Exam  20%
- Final Paper (Group)  20%

Final Presentation/Paper (ea.11% joint fate, 4% peer evaluation):
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 September 2017</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introductions, Overview of the Class, Overview of Health System Players and Health Systems</td>
<td>No Assignment Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 September 2017</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Review of health system frameworks: Health System Game, Health Systems how to describe them and compare them, How to do a health system assessment?</td>
<td>Health System Piece due</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 September 2017</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>How to measure the performance of a health system: health status, financial risk protection and user satisfaction; where do we get the data?</td>
<td>Health Outcome Measure assignment due</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 October 2017</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>How to measure intermediate indicators (Access, Quality, Efficiency, Equity)</td>
<td>No Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 October 2017</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Analyzing health systems: what have we learned (review of data and analysis)</td>
<td>Policy Brief 1 due: performance assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 October 2017</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Overview of US Health Care System Insurance Market Failures (group exercise)</td>
<td>No Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 October 2017</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Demand/Supply Side-Financing Incentives</td>
<td>Measurement Exercise due</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 October 2017</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pay for Performance: Does it work? Belize Case Study</td>
<td>OpEd or Speech on an intermediate indicator</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 November 2017</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Human Resources for Health: Supply, Demand, Financing and Task Shifting (short financing exercise)</td>
<td>Belize case due</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 November 2017</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>New innovative programs to enhance health systems: Universal Health Coverage and mhealth, cardiovascular disease, mental health</td>
<td>No Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 November 2017</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Organizing Health Service Delivery and Removing Barriers: Decentralization and Integration</td>
<td>HRH Financing Assignment due</td>
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<td>27 November 2017</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Site Visit: Codman Community Health Center</td>
<td>No Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 December 2017</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Presentations Final Exam Review</td>
<td>Control Knob Group Presentations</td>
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<td>11 December 2017</td>
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<td>In class Exam</td>
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In class exam that will cover all topics reviewed in this course. You may be using your laptops with limited access to the internet for writing your exam. Duration 2.5 hours.

18 December 2017 Final Papers Due

**Written Assignments/In class presentation/Cases 15%**

**Written Assignments** pages, 12 font, 1.5 spacing). The topic for these papers is shown on the schedule. The purpose of these papers is to summarize your thoughts on a topic that is central to the assigned readings for that class or the previous class. Students are expected to broaden and deepen their understanding of health systems through the assigned readings. This bi-weekly written assignment is intended to help sharpen student thinking about the assigned readings and the assigned topic and to promote broader class discussion. During the first session we will discuss the expectations for this assignment.

**Cases: Belize Case and Health Extension Worker Financing Case**

There will be two short cases in the class that will be started in class and then must be finished as homework. Cases can be worked on together as a group in class, but each individual must turn in their own final write up. This is a case on the Belize health care reform and their pay for performance. The case will be introduced in the session on P4P and the case will be carried out in the following session. The case on Human Resources will examine a financing scheme for community health workers. You will need your computers for both sessions.

**Policy Brief (15%)**

There will be one policy brief that will take the student through the process of writing up a health system performance assessment. The brief should be 4-5 pages, 12 font, 1.5 spacing.

**Speech/OpEd (15%)**

There will be one policy brief that will take the student through the process of writing up a health system performance assessment. The brief should be 4-5 pages, 12 font, 1.5 spacing.

**Presentation: Control Knob Analysis/Plan (15%)**

For the final presentation you will come together as a group to analyze to review the performance assessments of your team members and their speeches/OpEds to develop a plan for a program to implement that will address a particular health system problem. The program/solution must incorporate changing at least one control knob (financing, payment, regulation, organization, behavior).

**Final Exam (20%)**

In class exam

**Final Health System Paper (Group) (15%)**
The final paper will be a summary of the control knob assessment/plan that you developed with your group for your final presentation combined with an introduction justifying the program that you present and how this will impact both intermediate indicators and population health.

**You will receive feedback on your performance**
At the end of the first month of class I will assess your progress and performance. The TA or myself will contact you if we need to discuss your progress.
Class Schedule and Topics
(Preliminary and subject to change)

11 September 2017
Class 1: Introduction to the class and Overview of Health System Players and Health Systems

Class 1, Topic 1: Introductions and Overview
Objective: To explain the goals of the course, the content that will be covered to achieve the goals and the teaching approaches to be employed. Participants should leave this session fully understanding how the course will work over the succeeding fourteen weeks, especially regarding their responsibilities (including readings and exercises). They should also become acquainted with the professor, TA, and each other during this session and begin to feel comfortable expressing themselves in the classroom.

Class 1, Topic 2: What is a health system? How did we get where we are today: players and key reports/papers
Objective: To review the main players that work in our health systems. To begin to understand some key terms for talking about health systems and examining data in graphical format.

Required:

Recommended:
18 September 2017

Class 2: Review of health system frameworks: how to describe them and compare them; How to do a health system assessment?

Writing assignment (due at the beginning of class on Latte): Research the piece of the health system you were given at the end of class 1? How would you define this part of a health system? How would you measure this part of the health system? Give us an example of this part of a health system using a country of your choice using data where possible.

Class 2, Topic 1: Review of health system frameworks; how to describe and compare them
Class 2, Topic 2: How do you do a health system assessment?
Class 2, Topic 3: What is a policy brief?

Required:
2. Getting Health Reform Right, Chapter 7. From Diagnosis to Health-Sector Reform

Recommended:

25 September 2017

Class 3: How to measure the performance of a health system: health status, financial risk protection and user satisfaction; where do we get the data?

Writing assignment (due at the beginning of class): In your opinion, what is a good health outcome indicator of the overall population health of a country? How is this indicator measured*? Using the frameworks we discussed in class 2, describe one aspect of a health system that can improve this indicator. Describe one aspect of a health system that can contribute to the worsening of this health indicator.

*Note: Look through the WHO and World Bank databases to understand how data for your indicator is collected and how they are calculated. (i.e. What do the numbers mean?)
Class 3, Topic 1: How to assess health system performance: health outcomes (DALY, life expectancy, IMR, MMR, death rates, Burden of Disease) and financial risk protection, other measurement tricks (population growth, inflation)

Recommended:

Class 3, Topic 2: The Global Burden of Disease and Health Metrics: Generating Evidence, Data Visualization and Guiding Policy

Recommended:

2 October 2017

Class 4: How to measure intermediate indicators (Access, Efficiency, Quality, Equity);

Class 4, Topic 1: How to assess health system performance: access

Required:

Recommended:

Class 4, Topic 2: How to assess health system performance: quality (safety, CQI, checklists)

Class 4, Topic 3: How to assess health system performance: efficiency

Recommended:

Class 4, Topic 4: How to assess health system performance: equity across all

*Recommended:*

Class 4, Topic 5: Introduction to measurement exercise (Equity, life expectancy, health outcomes)

9 October 2017
Class 5: Regroup and Review: Practicing our health system measures

Assignment: Policy Brief 1 due performance assessment

Class 5, Topic 1: Review to measurement exercise (Equity, life expectancy, health outcomes)

Class 5, Topic 2: Health System Assessment: Time to work on Speech/OpEd

16 October 2017
Class 6: Overview of U.S. Healthcare Systems

Class 6, Topic 1: Health System in the United States and how does insurance work?

Required:

Class 6, Topic 2: Why do we need good health systems? Market failures Group Exercise

Required:

23 October 2017
Class 7: Demand/Supply Side-Financing Incentives: Which Work?

Assignment: Measurement Exercise Due (at the beginning of class)

Class 7, Topic 1: Review of Conditional Cash Transfers, Vouchers
Required:

Recommended:

Class 7, Topic 2: Pay for Performance, Payment Mechanisms

30 October 2016
Class 8: Pay for Performance: Does It Work?

Assignment Due: OpEd or Speech on an intermediate indicator

Class 8, Topic 1: Introduction to Health Reforms in Belize

Recommended:

Assignment: Belize Case Due (due at the beginning of class)

Required: Same readings as previous class

6 November 2017
Class 9: Human Resources for Health: Supply, Demand, Financing and Task Shifting (short financing exercise)

Assignment Due: Belize Case Due
Required:

**Recommended:**

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**13 November 2017**

**Class 10: New innovative programs to enhance health systems: Universal Health Coverage and mHealth, cardiovascular disease, mental health**

**Class 10, Topic 1: mHealth and eTreatment**

**Required:**

**Recommended:**
Class 10, Topic 2: How to achieve universal health coverage? Targeting for SDG.

Recommended:

Class 10, Topic 3: Cardiovascular Disease Case: System Strengthening

20 November 2017

Class 11: Organizing Health Service Delivery and Removing Barriers: Decentralization and Integration, Social Capital

Assignment: HRH Financing Exercise (due at the beginning of class)

Class 11, Topic 1: Organizing Health Service Delivery and Removing Barriers: Decentralization and Integration

Required:

Class 11, Topic 2: Social Capital

Recommended:
27 November 2017
Class 12: Site Visit

4 December 2017

Assignment Due: Control Knob Presentations
Presentations and exam review

11 December 2017
In class exam that will cover all topics reviewed in this course. You may be using your laptops with limited access to the internet for writing your exam. Duration 2.5 hours.

18 December 2017

Assignment Due: Final Group Paper Due at 2pm