

Human Biology 129P - Stanford University Fall 2010

## **International Health Policy: Advanced Health Care Systems**

(How did other affluent countries attain universal health care and manage challenges of technology, recessions, and rising chronicity?)

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Course meets Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:00-10:30 am in Bldg 160- 325 3 units

Office hours: T 10:30-12:00, Wed 1:00-2:00, by appointment  
Building 20, Room 22N [dwlight@stanford.edu](mailto:dwlight@stanford.edu)

*Course Summary: (with distinguished expert guests)*

- Sept 21-28 Comparative perspectives and frameworks
- Sept 30-Oct 5 Germany – universalizing sickness funds and containing costs equitably
- Oct 7-14 England – the Beveridge vision of a single-payer public service, now being transformed to commissioned services
- Oct 19-21 Sweden – high quality socialism? Devolving and contracting services.
- Oct 26 Mid-term
- Oct 28-Nov 2 France – Universal, free choice, the best in the world?
- Nov 4-11 The Netherlands – Adapting the German model and now redesigning it
- Nov 16-18 Canada – quasi single-payer, holding together provincial diversity
- Thanksgiving
- Nov 30 Review & Reflections I: Comparative assessments
- Dec 2 Review & Reflections II: A Conversation with Victor Fuchs
- Take-home final essays

## Course overview

Learning about the history, politics, and institution-building in other countries as they developed universal health care systems could not be more timely as the U.S. reforms fill the air. Passions run high. Solid knowledge is slim, and distorted characterizations of other systems are widely broadcast. One can always find horror stories and heroic ones; the question is how well do they reflect systemic patterns or flaws?

This course will provide you with a solid grounding for thinking about or participating in health care by immersing us into the history, values, moral views, and dilemmas of six other advanced, capitalist countries as they developed ways to make access to health care universal and equitable. How have they coped with new technology, increased chronicity, and recessions equitably?

The readings are not technical but historical, political, and sociological. They have been selected to provide you with an authoritative set of resources. Many are by leading authorities. We will go for the big picture, with enough detail to anchor it. Yet each system becomes more complex the closer one looks, just as health care does in the U.S., or California. One of the enduring challenges is how to measure the quality, or "efficiency," or fairness of a system. Answers then face the question of what data is gathered and how comparable it is.

I have been involved in health care reforms for years, studied different systems, and worked with some of them. I will guide you through the readings and the issues, sharing what I know about how things work.

One goal we might pursue would be to develop together a set of lessons and dilemmas that any system faces. For example, the more a country decentralizes, the more services will reflect differences in states or provinces, in resources, culture, prejudices and so forth. But centralizing raises other problems. Which design is better, for example, centralized Medicare or decentralized Medicaid? If senior care were funded and organized like Medicaid, how would it be different? Analogous dilemmas are faced in Canada.

The Class – Attendance and participation are vital. Students are expected to read as many of the assigned readings before class as possible and discuss them in class. Your grade will depend in part on it. I will center lectures and discussion around the readings and call on students to ask what they think about a given reading. We will focus on key concepts, dilemmas, and puzzles.

It is best to have no electronic devices on or in use during the 90 minutes we are together, but we will discuss that.

Course Workload: Readings plus class activities and presentations. Mid-term and final examination.

Readings: The readings have been selected from many for their brevity, enduring value, and interesting perspectives. In the recommended readings will be found some longer, excellent readings.

Because the scope of the course is wide and we cover many countries, there are many readings. Even then, you will get only a first view of a given topic, and other topics are not covered at all.

A rude awakening came when I learned how much publishers wanted to charge for us to copy an article or chapter for you to read -- \$323.88 just in copyright charges for the

course reader in 2009! Many hours of research has led to finding good articles accessible on the web, with exceptions. They are on Reserve. The time and cost of this approach is considerably less than a course reader.

I will be giving structured presentations, centered on the readings, and make my outlines available to you. Each reading is there for a purpose, and I will guide you through them, telling you also about the authors and their importance in comparative health care policy.

Grading:

Participation in class and related activities	20%
Mid-term examination	40%
Final examination	40%

The class grade will depend on students' ability to answer questions about the readings, explicate them, and discuss them. It will depend on other contributions brought to the class, perhaps including research on your paper, and on the quality of presentations (below).

Mid-term exam:

October 26 in class. Open book. You can bring a 1-page "cheat-sheet," but no use of the web or computer. Write by hand in exam books. Will be essays with a choice of questions to answer. Grades will depend on organization, use of the readings, quality of analysis, and supporting detail. I will give a set of questions out in advance from which I will select ones for the exam.

Final exam:

Take-home choice of questions similar to the mid-term and evaluated the same way. Questions will be distributed on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. Exams are not due until the end of the examination period, but given the need to prepare for other exams, students might want to turn theirs in earlier. A word limit will be set for each answer. If there are questions or concerns, let me know.

Required Books at bookstore:

T.R. Reid, *The Healing of America*. Penguin 2009 \$16  
ISBN 978-1-59420-234-6

Michael Harrison, *Implementing Change in Health Systems*. Sage 2004 \$52  
ISBN 0 7619 6176 3

## CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS

### Sept 21: U.S. Health Care in Comparative Perspective

#### Required Readings:

T.R. Reid, *The Healing of America* COURSE BOOK Ch 1-3

“Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: How the Performance of the U.S. Health Care System Compares Internationally” Commonwealth Fund 2010 .  
[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2010/Jun/1400\\_Davis\\_Mirror\\_Mirror\\_on\\_the\\_wall\\_2010.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2010/Jun/1400_Davis_Mirror_Mirror_on_the_wall_2010.pdf)

#### Recommended:

Nolte, E and McKee, “Measuring the health of nations: updating an earlier analysis.” *Health Affairs* (Jan 2008) (through eJournals, or see  
<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/In-the-Literature/2008/Jan/Measuring-the-Health-of-Nations--Updating-an-Earlier-Analysis.aspx>

**Due for Sept 23:** Please write one paragraph on the following and bring it in to class:  
 When Americans use the term, “socialized medicine,” what do they mean? Is there a part of American health care that represents “socialized medicine?”

### Sept 23: Socio-Economic Causes of Ill Health - poverty & inequality

#### Required readings:

Smeeding, T M “Public policy, economic inequality, and poverty: the United States in Comparative Perspective.” *Social Science Quarterly* 2005; 86 (suppl): 955-78  
 (Before taxes & supports, inequalities similar but much greater after them) (Through eJournals)

Banks, J et al, “Disease and disadvantage in the United States and in England,” *JAMA* 2006;295: 2037-45. (They persist even after controlling for age, minority status, education, income, health behaviors and genetics.)  
<http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/295/17/2037.pdf>

Thorpe KE et al. “Differences in disease prevalence as a source of the US-European health care spending gap.” *Health Affairs-web exclusive* 2 Oct 2007: w678-86.  
 (Through eJournals) <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/26/6/w678> (Go to Health Affairs/2007. Click on ALL web exclusives and scroll down to 2 Oct)

Mackenbach JP & K Stronks, “A strategy for tackling health inequalities in the Netherlands.” *BMJ* 2002;325:1029-32. (Reducing “health disparities” misses the real causes.) <http://www.bmj.com/content/325/7371/1029.1.full.pdf>

Recommended:

Raphael, D & T Bryant, "The state's role in promoting population health: Public health concerns in Canada, USA, UK, and Sweden." *Health Policy* 2006; 78: 39-55.  
[http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/cdis/promote\\_population\\_health.pdf](http://www.atkinson.yorku.ca/cdis/promote_population_health.pdf)

Coburn, David. "Beyond the income inequality hypothesis: class, neo-liberalism, and health inequalities." *SS&Med* 2004; 58:41-56. (Through EJournals)

Mackenbach JP et al, "Widening socioeconomic inequalities in mortality in six Western European countries." *Intl J of Epi* 2003;32:830-37. (Why are gains less in working classes?)

Massey, D. "Globalization and inequality: explaining American exceptionalism. *European Sociological Review* 2009; 25:9-23. (Through eJournals) (an excellent historical account)  
<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=3&hid=112&sid=90b93357-e2b2-43bf-8c69-8b49a66f3315%40sessionmgr104>

Navarro, Vicente, ed. *Neoliberalism, Globalization and Inequalities*. (Baywood, 2007).  
 (Strong collection of highly critical essays on global inequalities due to exploitation of capitalism.)

Satel, S. "Does inequality make you sick?" a brief comment  
<http://www.sallysatelmd.com/html/a-ws1.html>

Short review of A. Sen, *Inequality Reexamined*. @ <http://www.ou.edu/cas/psc/booksen3.htm>

(Note: I find that copying a link and pasting it into a search engine works more often than clicking directly on the link. I also find that doing this on campus more often works, while off-campus it leads to scramble or a page asking for \$30 to download the article.)

**Sept 28: Frameworks for thinking about health care systems**Required Readings for Discussion:

Murray, CJL & J Frenk, "A framework for assessing the performance of health systems." *Bul WHO* 2000; 78:717-28. (Wise, thoughtful overview in ten pages.)  
[http://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/78\(6\)717.pdf](http://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/78(6)717.pdf)

Saltman RB and Ferroussier-Davis, O. "The concept of stewardship in health policy." *Bul WHO* 2000; 78: 732-36. [http://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/78\(6\)732.pdf](http://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/78(6)732.pdf)

Daniels N, Bryant J, et al. "Benchmarks of fairness for health care reform: a policy tool for developing countries." *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2000; 78:740-48.  
[http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/benchmark/pdf/WHO\\_Bulletin\\_Article.pdf](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/benchmark/pdf/WHO_Bulletin_Article.pdf)  
 (What does "fair choice" or "fair access" mean? Choice is fair only in a fair system. In an unfair system, choice amplifies the advantages of the privileged.)

Light, D. W. "State, Profession, and Political Values." Pp 1-21 in Light & Schuller, eds. *Political Values and Health Care: the German Experience*. MIT Press, 1986. On Reserve & from Prof Light.

Recommended:

Mossialos, E and Dixon, A. "Funding health care: an introduction." Pp 1-26 in Mossialos, Elisa, Dixon, Figueras, Kutzin, eds., *Funding Health Care: Options for Europe* London: Open University Press 2002. <http://mcgraw-hill.co.uk/openup/chapters/0335209246.pdf>  
(Good overview frame r.e. funding options for a country.)

Nolte, E et al. Managing Chronic Conditions: Experience in eight countries. Eur Observatory 2008. [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/98414/E92058.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/98414/E92058.pdf)

Busse, R et al. Tackling Chronic Disease in Europe: Strategies, Interventions and Challenges. Eur Observatory 2010.  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/96632/E93736.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/96632/E93736.pdf)

Fernandez, J-L et al. How Can European states design efficient, equitable and sustainable funding systems for long-term care for older people? Eur. Observatory – Health Evidence Network 2010.  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/64955/E92561.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/64955/E92561.pdf)

Singh, D. How Can Chronic Disease Management Programs Operate Across Care Settings and Providers? Eur Opbervatory 2008.  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/75474/E93416.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/75474/E93416.pdf)

**Sept 30 Germany –Bismarck universalizes mutual-aid sickness funds**

*Audio Talks, NPR Richard Knox*

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91971406>

Required      *Origins, history, the first 100 years*

Rosenberg, Peter "The origin and the development of compulsory health insurance in Germany." Pp105-126 in Light & Schuller, eds. *Political Values and Health Care: the German Experience*. MIT Press, 1986. (fr Prof Light)

Rosenberg, Peter & M.E. Ruban, "Social security and health-care systems." Pp. 257-87 in Light & Schuller, eds. *Political Values and Health Care: the German Experience*. MIT Press, 1986. (Fr Prof Light)

Light D, Leibfried S, Tennstedt F. "Social Medicine vs. Professional Dominance: The German Experience." *American Journal of Public Health*, 1986;76: 78-83.  
<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/cgi/reprint/76/1/78>

*Short summaries*

European Observatory *Germany HiT Summary* (Busse, 2004) 10pp

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/home/projects/observatory/publications/health-system-profiles-hits/hit-summaries>

Germany summary by Busse for the Commonwealth Fund 3pp  
<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Resources/2008/Mar/Health-Care-System-Profiles.aspx>

Busse, R. "The health system in Germany." *Eurohealth* 2008:14 (1): 5-6  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14\\_1.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14_1.pdf) Then scroll down to each country profile

Civitas – Health care in Germany. <http://www.civitas.org.uk/pubs/bb3Germany.php>

Kaiser FF – profile @ [http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics\\_im\\_ihs.asp?imID=2&parentID=61](http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics_im_ihs.asp?imID=2&parentID=61)

### Recommended:

Busse, Reinhard & A. Riesberg, *Health Care Systems in Transition: GERMANY*. (WHO European Observatory 2004): 1-28 – Historical Background  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/80703/E85472.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/80703/E85472.pdf)

Selections from Richard Knox, *Germany: One Nation United, With Health Care for All*. New York: Faulkner & Gray, 1993. (Well-written chapters also on the development of funding, hospitals, physician services, drugs, and unification of the two Germanys.)

Flora, P. *Growth to Limits: The Western European Welfare States Since World War II*. Vol. 1, 2. See Germany , 1945 through the great recession, to 1980s. Walter de Gruyter 1986.

## **Oct 5 Germany – dilemmas of containing costs with equity**

Distinguished Guest: Ansgar Gerhaudus, PhD, MD, MPH Harkness Fellow from Hannover Medical School and Univ of Bielefeld.

Video from SickAroundtheWorld:

T.R. Reid visits Germany <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/view/>

### Required Readings:

Reid – *The Healing of America* – Chapter 5

Gaimeo, S & P Manow, "Institutions and ideas into politics: health care reform in Britain and Germany." Pp 175-198 in *Health Policy Reform, National Variations and Globalization* Altenstetter & Bjorkman, eds. St Martin's Press, 1997.  
 (An insightful transition to Britain.) **On Reserve**

Altenstetter, Christa, "Insights from health care in Germany" *Am J Pub Hlth* 2003; 93:38-44. <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/cgi/reprint/93/1/38.pdf>

Campbell, John C, et al. "Lessons from public long-term care insurance in Germany and Japan. Long term care in Ger & Japan." *Health Affairs* 2010; 29:87-95.  
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/29/1/87?maxtoshow=&hits=25&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=Germany&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&sortspec=date&resourcetype=HWCIT>

Cheng, T-M and UE Reinhardt. "Shepherding major health system reforms: a conversation with German health minister Ulla Schmidt." *Health Affairs-web exclusive* 8 April 2008: w204-213. (Go to Health Affairs/2008. Click on ALL web exclusives and scroll down to 8 April)

Recommended:

McKinsey Quarterly, "How Germany is reining in health care costs: an interview with Franz Knieps." Feb 2010. <http://yourcompanyabroad.com/blog/how-germany-is-reining-in-health-care-costs-an-interview-with-franz-knieps>

Busse, Reinhard & A. Riesberg, *Health Care Systems in Transition: GERMANY*. (WHO European Observatory 2004): Excellent descriptions of structure, finance, policy.  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/80703/E85472.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/80703/E85472.pdf)

Busse, Reinhard. "Disease management programs in Germany's statutory health insurance system." *Health Affairs* 2004;23:56-66.  
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/23/3/56?maxtoshow=&hits=25&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=Busse%2C+R&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCIT>

AARP Consumer Directed Home Care in the Netherlands, England and Germany – brief  
[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/health/inb77\\_eu\\_cd.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/health/inb77_eu_cd.pdf)

AARP Quality Assurance in long-term care: England, Australia, Germany and Japan.  
[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/inb136\\_ltc.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/inb136_ltc.pdf)

AARP Comparing long-term care in Germany and the United States.

AARP Quality Assurance in long-term care: England, Australia, Germany and Japan.  
[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/inb136\\_ltc.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/inb136_ltc.pdf)

## **Oct 7 England – Origins of the "single payer" model and a health service**

### *Origins and Development*

#### Required Readings:

Carrier & Kendall. *Health and the National Health Service*. London: Athlone 1998.  
Selections from Ch 1-3. **On Reserve**

Godber, Sir George G. "Health Services, past, present and future." *The Lancet* 1958 (5 July): 1-6.  
[http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?\\_ob=ArticleURL&\\_udi=B6T1B-4968J04-JD&\\_user=1082852&\\_coverDate=07%2F05%2F1958&\\_rdoc=1&\\_fmt=high&\\_orig=search&\\_origin=search&\\_sort=d&\\_docanchor=&\\_view=c&\\_acct=C000051401&\\_version=1&\\_urlVersion=0&\\_userid=1082852&\\_md5=f4f74a0b0dc9c1c8addad78677a3b09f&\\_searchtype=a](http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6T1B-4968J04-JD&_user=1082852&_coverDate=07%2F05%2F1958&_rdoc=1&_fmt=high&_orig=search&_origin=search&_sort=d&_docanchor=&_view=c&_acct=C000051401&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=1082852&_md5=f4f74a0b0dc9c1c8addad78677a3b09f&_searchtype=a) Click on PDF

Oliver, Adam. "The English National Health Service: 1979-2005." *Health Economics* 2005;14: S75-S99.  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hec.1029/pdf>

*Short overviews*

Light DW. "Universal health care: lessons from the British experience." *Am J Pub Hlth* 2003;93 (1):25-30. (Short, enthusiastic overview.) <http://www.ajph.org/cgi/reprint/93/1/25>

Boyle S. "The health system in England." *Eurohealth* 2008;14 (1):1-2.  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14\\_1.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14_1.pdf) Then scroll down to each country profile

European Observatory HiT summary – UK

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/home/projects/observatory/publications/health-system-profiles-hits/hit-summaries>

The UK summary for the Commonwealth Fund, at

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Resources/2008/Mar/Health-Care-System-Profiles.aspx>

Kaiser brief profile of English system. (2004) 2pp

[http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics\\_im\\_ihs.asp?imID=2&parentID=61](http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics_im_ihs.asp?imID=2&parentID=61)

## **Oct 12 England's American Reforms: From an Administered Public Service to Competitive Contracts ("Commissioning")**

Distinguished Guest: Martin Connor, senior NHS manager & Harkness Fellow

### Required Readings:

Reid – *The Healing of America* – Chapter 7

Harrison, Michael *Implementing Change in Health Systems* England – Ch 3 & 4 (50 pp)

### Recommended:

Lister, John *The NHS after 60: For patients or profits?* Middlesex University Press, 2008. (A well-written 3-chapter history and an 8-chapter account of "back to the market" by a leader of "Keep Our NHS Public." Scottish model a better option. )

AARP Consumer Directed Home Care in the Netherlands, England and Germany – brief  
[http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/health/inb77\\_eu\\_cd.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/health/inb77_eu_cd.pdf)

AARP Quality Assurance in long-term care: England, Australia, Germany and Japan. [http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/inb136\\_ltc.pdf](http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/il/inb136_ltc.pdf)

## **Oct 14 Thematic Issues of England's Reforms**

Video SickAroundtheWorld T.R. Reid visits England

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/view/> Intro 2:00. Eng 4:00-12:00.

SICKO – England. Beyond Michael Moore, what cues do you see of health care in England?

Required Readings:

*Competition and Markets in Medicine- 10 years of trying*

Light, DW. "Cost containment and the backdraft of competition policies." *J Hlth Services* 2001;31: 681-708. (Through eJournals)

Light, D.W., "Is NHS purchasing serious? An American perspective." *BMJ* 1998; 316: 217- <http://www.bmj.com/content/316/7126/217.full>

Klein, Rudolf. "The Troubled transformation of Britain's National Health Service." *NEJM* 2006; 355: 409-15. <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/355/4/409.pdf>

Ham C. "Competition and integration in the English National Health Service." *BMJ* 2008; 336:805-7. (Competition is not going to get where we want...)  
<http://www.bmj.com/cgi/reprint/336/7648/805?maxtoshow=&HITS=10&hits=10&RESULTFORMAT=&fulltext=competition+english+ham&searchid=1&FIRSTINDEX=0&resourcetype=HWCIT>

Nuffield Trust. Briefing: The coalition government's NHS reforms: an assessment of the White Paper. August 2010.  
<http://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/publications/detail.aspx?id=145&prID=720>

*Side Effects of Competition: Inequality, Increased Costs, Dysfunctional Privatization*

Saltman, R. "Regulating incentives: the part and present role of the state in health care systems." *Social Science & Medicine* 2002; 54:1677-84. (through eJournals)

Pollock, Allyson et al. "The market in primary care," *BMJ* 2007;335:475-77.  
<http://www.bmj.com/content/335/7618/475.full.pdf>

Pollock, AM & Kirkwood, G. Goddan, "Independent sector treatment centres; the evidence so far," *BMJ* 2009; 336:421-3.  
<http://www.bmj.com/content/336/7641/421.full.pdf>

Recommended:

Light, DW. "The radical experiment: transforming Britain's national health system into interlocking markets." *Journal of Public Health Policy* 1992;13: 146-55.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3342808.pdf?acceptTC=true>

Liebe, M and Pollock, AM. (Report on PFI) 2009 Four Lessons for Western Australia...  
[http://wapolicyforum.org.au/files/papers/WAPF\\_PPP\\_PFI\\_Briefing\\_09\\_Aug\\_09.pdf](http://wapolicyforum.org.au/files/papers/WAPF_PPP_PFI_Briefing_09_Aug_09.pdf)

## Oct 19 Sweden – high quality socialism?

### Required readings:

#### *Origins and Development*

Lundberg, U & K Amark, "Social rights and social security: the Swedish welfare state, 1900-2000." *Scandinavian Journal of History* 2001; 26 (3): 157-176.

<http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=3&hid=112&sid=a3b1e205-074e-46a9-ab10-f42de9995c5f%40sessionmgr113>

WHO *Health Systems in Transition – Sweden 2005*. Ch 1, 2, and 4.

[http://www.sgw.hs-magdeburg.de/eumahp/Eumahp\\_Modul/html/pdfs/Sweden.pdf](http://www.sgw.hs-magdeburg.de/eumahp/Eumahp_Modul/html/pdfs/Sweden.pdf)

#### *Short Overviews*

"Sweden" Finn Diderichsen 4 pp. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 2000: 25:931-35.  
(Through eJournals)

Observatory *Sweden* HiT Summary

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/home/projects/observatory/publications/health-system-profiles-hits/hit-summaries>

Full report <http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E88669.pdf> 145 pp

Anell A. "The health system in Sweden." *Eurohealth* 2008:14 (1):1. 10-11

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14\\_1.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14_1.pdf) Then scroll down to each country profile

Commonwealth Fund country profile at

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Resources/2008/Mar/Health-Care-System-Profiles.aspx>

Sweden's ambulatory services, in European Observatory. *Health Care Outside Hospital – eight countries*. 2006 <http://www.mentalhealthpromotion.net/resources/health-care-outside-hospitals.pdf>

Kaiser FF – profile @ [http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics\\_im\\_ihs.asp?imID=2&parentID=61](http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics_im_ihs.asp?imID=2&parentID=61)

### Recommended:

Tepe, F. "An introduction to the Swedish welfare state." 13 pp. (a readable summary of Lundberg & others) <http://www.iticu.edu.tr/kutuphane/dergi/s7/M00094.pdf>

Ito, H. "Health insurance and medical services in Sweden and Denmark 1850-1950." Pp 44-67 in *The Shaping of the Swedish Health System*. AJ Heidenheimer & N Elvander, eds., St. Martin's Press, 1980. (Keen observations.) On Reserve

Serner, U. "Swedish health legislation: milestones in reorganization since 1945." Pp. 99-116 in *The Shaping of the Swedish Health System*. AJ Heidenheimer & N Elvander, eds., St. Martin's Press, 1980. On Reserve

Flora, P. *Growth to Limits: The Western European Welfare States Since World War II*. Vol. 1, 2. See Sweden, 1945 through the great recession, to 1980s. Walter de Gruyter 1986. On reserve

Immergut, Ellen M. Ch 5 in *Health Politics: Interests and Institutions in Western Europe*. Cambridge, 1992. (A classic – figured out the whole story. Origins and development in France and Sweden.) On reserve at Green.

## **Oct 21 Sweden – Cost Control and Devolution**

### Required reading:

Harrison, Michael *Implementing Change in Health Systems* Sweden – Ch 4-5 (46 pp)

Ahgren, B. “Competition and integration in Swedish health care.” *Health Policy* 2010: 96: 91-97. (Through eJournals)

### Recommended:

Saltman R B. “Evolving roles of the national and regional governments in the Swedish health care system.” Pp 243-254 in *Health Care Systems in Transition*. FD Powell & AF Wessen, eds. Sage, 1999. On reserve

Von Otter, C. “Cost control in the Swedish health sector.” Pp 255-75 in *Health Care Systems in Transition*. F D Powell & A Wessen, eds., Sage, 1999. On reserve

J Ovreveit. “Creeping privatization in Swedish health care.” Pp 135-152 in *Privatisation in European health care: a comparative analysis of eight countries*. Hans Maarse, ed., Elsevier, 2004. On reserve

Saltman, R B & S-E Berman, “Renovating the commons: Swedish health care reforms in perspective,” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 2005; 30: 253-75.  
<http://jhppl.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/30/1-2/253.pdf> or ejournals

Saltman, R B & V Bandauskaite. “Conceptualizing decentralization in European health systems,” *Health Economics, Policy and Law* 2006; 1: 127-47.  
<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&fid=416398&jid=HEP&volumeld=1&issuelid=02&aid=416397>

## **Oct 26 MID-TERM EXAMINATION - in class**

## **Oct 28 France – Best in the world? Design features and flaws**

Video: SICKO – France. Beyond Michael Moore, what cues do you see of health care in France?

### Required readings:

*History -*

Immergut, Ellen M. “Institutions, veto points, and policy results: a comparative analysis of health care.” *J Public Policy* 1990;10: 391-416. (Through eJournals. use JSTOR)

Wilsford, D. "Path dependency, or why history makes it difficult but not impossible to reform health care systems in a big way." *J of Pub Policy* 1994; 14: 251-83. (Classic. Illustrates with DE, FR, USA.) (Through eJournals – use JSTOR)

Sandier S, et al. *Health Care Systems in Transition – France*. WHO 2004. Pp 5-35.  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/80694/E83126.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/80694/E83126.pdf)

### Short summaries

European Observatory *France* HiT Summary 10pp

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/home/projects/observatory/publications/health-system-profiles-hits/hit-summaries>

Durand-Zaleski, I. "The health system in France." *Eurohealth* 2008;14 (1): 3-4.

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14\\_1.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14_1.pdf) Then scroll down to each country profile

Commonwealth Fund country profile at

<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Resources/2008/Mar/Health-Care-System-Profiles.aspx>

Kaiser brief profile: France [http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics\\_im\\_ihs.asp?imID=4&parentID=61](http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics_im_ihs.asp?imID=4&parentID=61)

Civitas – Healthcare in France. <http://www.civitas.org.uk/pubs/bb2France.php>

- Why the NHS Should Look to France <http://www.civitas.org.uk/wordpress/2009/08/20/why-the-nhs-should-look-to-france/>

French Embassy summary: <http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article625>

## **Nov 2 France - Privatization and cost sharing**

### *Audio - Video*

NPR 2008 Health Care Lessons from France

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92419273>

NPR 2008 France's Model Health Care for New Mothers

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92116914>

### Required Reading:

Reid – *The Healing of America* – Chapter 4

Godt, PJ "Confrontation, consent, and corporatism: state strategies and the medical profession in France, Great Britain, and West Germany," *J Hlt Politics, Policy and Law* 1987;12: 459-80. <http://jhpl.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/12/3/459>

Rochaix L and L Hartmann, "State autonomy, policy paralysis: Paradoxes of institutions and culture in the French health care system," *J Hlth Policy, Politics and Law* 2005; 30: 97-119. <http://jhpl.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/30/1-2/97>

Reforms chapter in WHO *Health Care Systems in Transition – France* 2004: 115-132.

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/80694/E83126.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/80694/E83126.pdf)

Recommended:

Rodwin, Victor & Sandier, "Health care under French national Health Insurance," *Health Affairs* 1993: 111-131. <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/12/3/111>

WHO Health Care Systems in Transition – France 2004. Gd description of organization, finance, regulations [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/80694/E83126.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/80694/E83126.pdf)

Degos L et al. "Can France keep its patients happy?" *BMJ* 2008; 336:254-57. <http://www.bmj.com/cgi/reprint/336/7638/254>

Ham, Chris. Book Review of *Universal Health Insurance in France. How Sustainable?* Pp841-44 @ <http://jhpl.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/33/4/841>

*Cost Sharing for Health Care: France, Germany and Switzerland.* Kaiser Family Foundation 2009. 20pp. (Janet Lundy & Benjamin Finder) <http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/7852.pdf>

#### **Nov 4 Dutch Health Care – Adapting the German system**

Audio – All Things Considered NPR Jul 17, 2008: Netherlands' Health Care Reflects National Values 8 min <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92641635>

*Origins and Development 1880s – 1980s*

Required reading:

WHO. *Health Systems in Transition – The Netherlands* 2010. Pp 13-23. <http://www.nivel.nl/pdf/HIT-rapport-Netherland.pdf>

Light, DW. (first half of) "Two forms of public-private health insurance partnership." Ch 6 in Keen, J, Light D, Mays N. *Public-Private Relations in Health Care.* (London: The King's Fund, 2005). (Fr Prof Light

Shut, F.T. & Van de Ven, W., Rationing and competition in the Dutch health-care system. *Health Economics* 2005;14: S59-74. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hec.1036/pdf>

Short summaries:

European Observatory – HiT summary – The Netherlands <http://www.euro.who.int/en/home/projects/observatory/publications/health-system-profiles-hits/summary>

Eurohealth summary 2008 [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14\\_1.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/80451/Eurohealth14_1.pdf) Then scroll down to each country profile

Commonwealth Fund country profile, at <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Resources/2008/Mar/Health-Care-System-Profiles.aspx>

AARP Consumer Directed Home Care in the Netherlands, England and Germany – brief  
<http://www.aarp.org/research/001/source:ppi|source:survey/q/Consumer%20directed%20home%20care/>

Recommended:

Schut, F.T. "Health care systems in transition: the Netherlands. Part I: ...miracle or mirage?" *J of Pub Hlth Med* 1996;18(3): 278-84.  
<http://jpubhealth.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/18/3/278.pdf>

Van Doorslaer, E & Schut, F.T., "Belgium and the Netherlands revisited" *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 2000; 25:875-87.  
[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_health\\_politics\\_policy\\_and\\_law/v025/25.5doorslaer.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_politics_policy_and_law/v025/25.5doorslaer.html) (Click "Access in PDF" in upper left)

Van de Ven, W., et al. "Health-adjusted premium subsidies in The Netherlands." *Health Affairs* 2004;23: 45-55.  
<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/23/3/45>

Civitas – Health care in The Netherlands <http://www.civitas.org.uk/nhs/download/netherlands.pdf>

**Nov 9 Dutch Health Care – Slouching Towards Managed Competition in a Universal, Equitable System 1980-2005**

Distinguished Guest: Prof Antoinette de Bont (Health Policy, Univ of Rotterdam)

Audio –NPR all things considered in the U.S. and Holland, diabetes looks different 9 min  
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=92102835>

Required Readings:

Harrison, Michael *Implementing Change in Health Systems* The Netherlands – Ch 6

Grol, R. "Quality development in health care in the Netherlands." The Commonwealth Fund, 2006.  
[http://thecommonwealthfund.net/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2006/Mar/Quality%20Development%20in%20Health%20Care%20in%20the%20Netherlands/Grol\\_qualityNetherlands\\_910%20pdf.pdf](http://thecommonwealthfund.net/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2006/Mar/Quality%20Development%20in%20Health%20Care%20in%20the%20Netherlands/Grol_qualityNetherlands_910%20pdf.pdf)

van de Ven, W et al. "Risk adjustment and risk selection in Europe: 6 years later." *Health Policy* 2007;83: 162-79.  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/B6V8X-4MY6MXR-1/2/59dc1a54921a63327cc6f5fa6c3e5529> Click on PDF, upper left

Recommended

Bartholomee, Y & Maarse, H, "Empowering the chronically? Patient collectives in the new Dutch health insurance system." *Health Policy* 2007;84: 162-69. (Through library)

Van de Ven, WPMM, "From regulated cartel to regulated competition in the Dutch health care system" *Health Economics* 1990 34:632-45.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/hec.1036/pdf>

## **Nov 11 Dutch Health Care – Eureka! Equitable Managed Competition at last!**

Distinguished Guest: Alain Enthoven (the progenitor of managed competition)

### Required Readings:

WHO. *Health Systems in Transition – The Netherlands*. 2010. Pp 79-95, 167-184.

<http://www.nivel.nl/pdf/HIT-rapport-Netherland.pdf>

Rosenau, P.W. & C J Lako, "An experiment with regulated competition in individual mandates for universal health care: the new Dutch health insurance system." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 2008;33; 1032-55.

<http://jhpl.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/33/6/1031>

Okma, K.G.H. "Learning and mislearning across borders: what can we (not) learn from the 2006 health care reform in the Netherlands?" *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 2008;33; 1057-71.

<http://jhpl.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/33/6/1057.pdf>

Enthoven, AE & WPMM Van de Ven, "Going Dutch: Managed competition health insurance in the Netherlands. *NEJM* 2007; 357: 2421-23.

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMp078199>

Enthoven, A, "A living model of managed competition: a conversation with Dutch Health Minister Ab Klink," *Health Affairs-Web Exclusive* 2008 (8 April): w196-w203.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/hlthaff.27.3.w196v1>

### Recommended:

Shorto, R. "Going Dutch: How I learned to love the European welfare state." *New York Times Magazine* 2009 (Apr 29): 42-47.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/03/magazine/03european-t.html?\\_r=1&pagewanted=print](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/03/magazine/03european-t.html?_r=1&pagewanted=print)

Van de Ven, W & F T Schut, "Universal mandatory health insurance in The Netherlands: a model for the United States?" *Health Affairs* 2008;27: 771-81.

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/27/3/771>

Leu R E et al. "The Swiss and Dutch Health Insurance Systems." Commonwealth Fund report, 2009.

[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2009/Jan/The%20Swiss%20and%20Dutch%20Health%20Insurance%20Systems%20%20Universal%20Coverage%20and%20Regulated%20Competitive%20Insurance/Leu\\_swissdutchhltinsystems\\_1220%20pdf.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2009/Jan/The%20Swiss%20and%20Dutch%20Health%20Insurance%20Systems%20%20Universal%20Coverage%20and%20Regulated%20Competitive%20Insurance/Leu_swissdutchhltinsystems_1220%20pdf.pdf)

Westert, G P et al, "The Netherlands: regulated competition behind the dykes? *BMJ* 2009; 339: b3397

<http://www.bmj.com/content/339/bmj.b3397.full>

Dutch health care performance report 2010 Executive Summary  
[http://www.gezondheidszorgbalans.nl/object\\_binary/o9931\\_Dutch\\_Health\\_Care\\_Performance\\_Report\\_2010\\_ES.pdf](http://www.gezondheidszorgbalans.nl/object_binary/o9931_Dutch_Health_Care_Performance_Report_2010_ES.pdf)

Neizen et al, "Conditional reimbursement with the Dutch drug policy." Health Policy 2007: 83:39-50.  
[http://www.healthpolicyjrn.com/article/S0168-8510\(06\)00261-2/abstract](http://www.healthpolicyjrn.com/article/S0168-8510(06)00261-2/abstract) Then click PDF on right.

## **Nov 16 Canada – A decentralizing federation holding together a vast country**

(Video: Uwe Reinhardt on Canadian system. Jan 08.

<http://worldfocus.org/blog/2009/01/28/how-the-us-measures-up-to-canadas-health-care-system/3783/>

SICKO – Canada. Beyond Michael Moore, what cues do you see of health care in Canada?

### Required Reading:

#### *Origins and Development*

WHO Health Systems in Transition - *Canada*, Ch 2-3.

[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/80568/E87954.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/80568/E87954.pdf)

Robinson, S. "Mythbusting Canadian health care – Part I, Part II. 2008 5 pp

<http://www.ourfuture.org/blog-entry/mythbusting-canadian-health-care-part-i>

<http://www.ourfuture.org/blog-entry/mythbusting-canadian-healthcare-part-ii-debunking-free-marketeers>

Lee, Marc "How Sustainable is Medicare? *A Closer Look at Aging, Technology and Other Cost Drivers in Canada's Health Care System*" Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, report, September 2007. (It is.)

[http://www.policyalternatives.ca/documents/National\\_Office\\_Pubs/2007/How\\_Sustainable\\_is\\_Medicare.pdf](http://www.policyalternatives.ca/documents/National_Office_Pubs/2007/How_Sustainable_is_Medicare.pdf) (A fuller analysis by Rbt Evans is at <http://www.chspr.ubc.ca/node/169>) 32 pp

#### *Short Overviews*

Evans RG. [Canada: How the System Works. A Summary.](#) Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law. October 2000;25(5):889-897

<http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/jhp/summary/v025/25.5evans.html> Click on "PDF"

European Observatory *Canada* HiT Summary

<http://www.euro.who.int/Document/E87954sum.pdf> 10pp

Kaiser FF. International health systems – Canada.

[http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics\\_im\\_ihs.asp?imID=3&parentID=61](http://www.kaiseredu.org/topics_im_ihs.asp?imID=3&parentID=61)

Irving, B et al. Background Briefing: the Canadian Health Care System (2005). Civitas.

<http://www.civitas.org.uk/nhs/download/Canada.pdf>

## Nov 18 Canada – the poster child for failed socialism?

Distinguished Guest: Barbara Starfield (world authority on primary care)

### Required:

Reid – *The Healing of America* – Chapter 8

Starfield, B. “Reinventing primary care: lessons from Canada for the United States,”  
*Health Affairs* 2010;29: 1030-36. (near end of Contents)

Hertzman C and A Siddiqi, “Tortoises 1, Hares 0.” *Healthcare Policy* 2008: 4(2): 16-24. (Universal CA health care has steadily pulled ahead of the hot-shot, hustle American system for 30 years.) 2008. 9pp <http://www.longwoods.com/view.php?aid=20269&cat=572>

### Recommended:

(On how US-CA differences matter, see *Differences that Matter: Social Policy and the Working Poor in the United States and Canada* by D. Zuberi. Ithaca: Cornell University Press 2006: Intro, Ch 5-6. 66pp (Excellent field-based description of lives of hotel workers in Seattle vs Vancouver.)

[http://books.google.com/books?id=XapnQs4DNeQC&dq=Differences+that+Matter&printsec=frontcover&source=bl&ots=UvZiMk\\_0ib&sig=TNQ7wO2n8SUUB2ZE\\_GhId-zKADY&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=4&ct=result#PPA6,M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=XapnQs4DNeQC&dq=Differences+that+Matter&printsec=frontcover&source=bl&ots=UvZiMk_0ib&sig=TNQ7wO2n8SUUB2ZE_GhId-zKADY&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=4&ct=result#PPA6,M1) )

Marmor, T & Maioni, A. Health care in crisis: the drive for health reform in Canada and the United States. *One Issue/Two Voices* 2008 (Apr) (Well written, lively exchange)  
[http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/CI\\_OneIssue\\_9.pdf](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/topics/pubs/CI_OneIssue_9.pdf)

Hacker, J.S. “Learning from Canada’s response to winner-take-all inequality.” *Pathways* 2009 (Spr): 24-30. [http://www.stanford.edu/group/scspi/pdfs/pathways/spring\\_2009/Hacker.pdf](http://www.stanford.edu/group/scspi/pdfs/pathways/spring_2009/Hacker.pdf)

Evans, R G. “Extravagant Americans, Healthier Canadians.” 2006  
<http://www.chspr.ubc.ca/files/publications/2006/chspr06-28W.pdf>

## THANKSGIVING BREAK

## Nov 30 Comparative Assessments – Public-Private Mix? Solidarity? Comparative Effectiveness?

### Required readings:

Wendt, C. “Mapping European healthcare systems – financing, service and access” *J Eur Social Policy* 2009; 19: 432-45. <http://rszarf.ips.uw.edu.pl/welfare-state/wendt.pdf>

Maarse, Hans and Aggie Paulus, "Has solidarity survived?" *Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law* 2003;28:585-614.  
[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal\\_of\\_health\\_politics\\_policy\\_and\\_law/summary/v028/28.4maarse.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/journal_of_health_politics_policy_and_law/summary/v028/28.4maarse.html)  
 Then click PDF on right side.

Rothgang, H et al. "The changing public-private mix in OECD health-care systems." Pp 132-146 in *The Welfare State Transformations* M Seeleib-Kaiser, ed. Palgrave 2008.

Recommended:

Sorenson, C. Use of comparative effectiveness research in drug coverage and pricing decisions: a six-country comparison. Commonwealth Fund 2010.  
[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2010/Jul/1420\\_Sorenson\\_Comp\\_Effect\\_intl\\_ib\\_71.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2010/Jul/1420_Sorenson_Comp_Effect_intl_ib_71.pdf)

See country case studies of Ger, UK, FR & Australia @  
<http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Other/2009/Comparative-Effectiveness-Across-Countries.aspx>

Busse, R et al. Tackling chronic disease in Europe. European Observatory 2010.  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/96632/E93736.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/96632/E93736.pdf)

Nolte, E et al., Managing chronic conditions: experience in eight countries. European Observatory 2008. 180 pp. Read the Intro and any 2 of our 6 countries.  
[http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/98414/E92058.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/98414/E92058.pdf)

**Dec 2 Basic Values and Motives for Universal Health Care?  
 Duty? Compassion? Enlightened self-interest? Agape?**

Distinguished Guest – Victor Fuchs (a great economist revered for his wit and wisdom)

Required readings:

Moran, Michael, "Understanding the welfare state: the case of health care," *Br J Politics and Intl Relations* 2000; 2:136-60. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1467-856X.00031/pdf>

Selections from Victor Fuchs, *Health Care Reform* Stanford, 2010.  
[http://www.stanford.edu/group/siepr/cgi-bin/siepr/?q=/system/files/shared/Health\\_care\\_document.pdf](http://www.stanford.edu/group/siepr/cgi-bin/siepr/?q=/system/files/shared/Health_care_document.pdf)  
 A collection of short, insightful essays. Read what you like but I recommend, in the order they appeared,  
 "What are the prospects for enduring comprehensive health care reform?" 2007  
 "The perfect storm of overutilization" 2008  
 "Three 'inconvenient truths' about health care" 2008  
 "Health reform: getting the essentials right" 2009  
 See also the most recent two: "Four health care reforms for 2009" and "Eliminating 'waste' in health care." 2009.



## USEFUL WEBSITES \*

**The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies:** In collaboration with a number of European governments and academic institutions, the European branch of the World Health Organization, based in Copenhagen, Denmark, operates a website that features descriptions of the health system of many countries around the globe (as of around 2000-2001), along with current reports on specific policy developments in each country. The home website is: <http://www.euro.who.int/observatory>  
If the link shown above does not work, just Google "European Observatory." The first link appearing will get you there.)

**The World Health Organization (WHO):** WHO is the sponsor of the European Observations and other centers. The WHO's home page is at <http://www.who.int/en/>  
Its statistical material can be found at <http://www3.who.int/whosis/menu.cfm> and its publications at <http://www.who.int/pub/en/>.

**OECD,** the Paris-based Office of Economic Co-operation and Development, is the major source of systematic data on European countries, the US, Canada, sometimes Japan, and other leading nations. It publishes Fact Books, special reports, commissioned studies as well as reports from its several research staff. Most of its work is about economic development. In fact, health is only one section under Society as you will see at

[http://www.oecd.org/maintopic/0,3348,en\\_2649\\_201185\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/maintopic/0,3348,en_2649_201185_1_1_1_1_1,00.html)

Besides its data, look for reports on whatever topic interests you, and look in several divisions. For example, the economics division has its own reports. Worth getting to know.

See staff's overview, in detail, at

<http://oberon.sourceoecd.org/vl=18307811/cl=22/nw=1/rpsv/health2007/index.htm>

**The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation:** This think tank, based in Palo Alto, CA and Washington, DC is devoted to U.S. domestic health policy, but it has international and comparative offerings. Find your way through links on "international" or a specific country. It also offers a global as well as a national news service that edits and selects the most relevant news each day. The site is: <http://cmwf.org>. See also <http://globalhealth.kff.org/>.

**The Commonwealth Fund:** Based in New York, this fund has undertaken unique, systematic studies of a limited number of Commonwealth countries and the United States, especially comparative surveys of how patients experience their systems. It also commissions important comparative studies and writes up other comparative studies. The Commonwealth Fund is the only U.S. think tank consistently featuring cross-national studies in health care and health policy. The site is: <http://cmwf.org>

**Bertelsmann Foundation:** A similar collaboration was recently begun by the German Bertelsmann Foundation. Health policy researchers from about a dozen industrialized countries complete twice a year a common, highly structured questionnaire on recent health-policy developments in each country. These country reports are particularly interesting, because they are analytically structured to track policies from their original conception through various stages, including implementation, if they reached that stage. The website is:

<http://www.health-policy-monitor.org/index.jsp>

This is a very sophisticated and highly structured website that may initially seem daunting, but it is rich in truly up-to-date information on health policies in some 16 countries.

**The World Bank:** The World Bank home page is at ([www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org) and its section on data at [www.worldbank.org/data](http://www.worldbank.org/data). These sites have numerous publications on health care.

**The CIA Factbook:** This website has data on many social, political and economic facets of most countries in the world. Students last year found the site very helpful in preparing their country reports.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html>

**The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO):** The PAHO's website is [www.paho.org](http://www.paho.org). It has material on Latin America, where many efforts at health reform are underway.

There are mainly additional think tanks working in health care, among them the Alliance for Health reform, the American Enterprise Institute, the Brookings Institution, the Cato Institute, the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, the Employee Benefits Research Institute (EBRI) and the Heritage Foundation, all in Washington, D.C. To varying degrees the think tanks exhibit their own ideological bent.

A rich and varied menu of policy studies on U.S. domestic health policy can be found at the websites of the Congressional Budget office (CBO) and the Government Accountability Office (GA). Among the many journals devoted to health policy one stands out, namely, Health Affairs. It is simply the premier such journals in the world. It is available through the University free of charge at

<http://www.healthaffairs.org/>

**VIDEOS/AUDIOS/FILMS** (so far)

**Pharma and UK's NICE**, a effort to determine the value of new medicines:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91996282>

**Comparing the US and others industrialized countries on several indicators;**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/sickaroundtheworld/etc/graphs.html>

German Health System: An overview by T.R. Reid. Basis of his best-seller on lessons from other systems

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/video/flv/generic.html?s=frol02p101&continuous=1>

Germany: National Public Radio special by Richard Knox:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91971170>

*Keeping German Doctors On A Budget Lowers Costs*

July 2, 2008 · Nearly every German has ready access to doctors, cheap drugs, high-tech medicine, dental care, nursing homes and home care. All this — and Germany spends half what the United States does per person. One way the country accomplishes this is by putting doctors on a budget.

History of Tinkering Helps German System Endure

2 others as well

Two Americans talk about health care in Germany <http://theragblog.blogspot.com/2009/08/berlin-look-atrag-health-care-in.html>

England – UK

British Health System: An overview by T.R. Reid. Basis of his best-seller on lessons from other systems <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/video/flv/generic.html?s=frol02p101&continuous=1>

Audio: <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91971293> all 2008

Denied Treatment; U.K. Vet Stands Up for Liberty

MS Patient Falls into American Insurance Gap

Britain Weighs the Social Cost of “Wonder Drugs”

France

**Audio:** <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91970968> all 2008

Health Care Lessons from France

France at Forefront of Free, Innovative Cancer Care

France Model Health Care for New Mothers

Japan’s Health Care System: An overview by T.R. Reid. Basis of his best-seller on lessons from other systems <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/video/flv/generic.html?s=frol02p101&continuous=1>

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