HCM310: Introduction to the U.S. Healthcare System

Credit Hours: 3

Contact Hours: This is a 3-credit course, offered in accelerated format. This means that 16 weeks of material is covered in 8 weeks. The exact number of hours per week that you can expect to spend on each course will vary based upon the weekly coursework, as well as your study style and preferences. You should plan to spend 14-20 hours per week in each course reading material, interacting on the discussion boards, writing papers, completing projects, and doing research.

Course Description and Outcomes

Course Description:
In this course, students are introduced to an overview of the U.S. healthcare system. The historical background of the shift from an acute care hospital-based system to a chronic/preventive care ambulatory focus and influence of current trends such as the Affordable Care Act and the aging population are addressed. Students will examine differences between non-profit and for-profit healthcare organizations, and how quality, safety, and competition within the healthcare industry impact patient care. Assignments and discussions provide opportunities to compare and contrast the U.S. healthcare system to other nations’ healthcare systems.

Course Overview:
This course provides an overview of the United States Healthcare Delivery System. Students explore the historical evolution of this system including the role of hospitals and ambulatory care, healthcare providers and professionals and effect of external factors on the healthcare delivery structure. The effect of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), emerging trends in health system acquisitions and the impact in the market place and workforce are also explored. Class discussions and assignments provide opportunities to gain a better understanding of the major issues facing the system, including considerations for future careers in healthcare settings, comparisons to global healthcare systems and consideration of alternative approaches for improvement.
Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Explain how the political influence in the U.S. healthcare system impacts healthcare delivery to communities.
2. Compare and contrast the U.S. healthcare system to other nations’ healthcare systems.
3. Describe how quality, safety, and competition within the healthcare industry impact patient care.
4. Assess the differences between non-profit and for-profit healthcare organizations.

Participation & Attendance

Prompt and consistent attendance in your online courses is essential for your success at CSU-Global Campus. Failure to verify your attendance within the first 7 days of this course may result in your withdrawal. If for some reason you would like to drop a course, please contact your advisor.

Online classes have deadlines, assignments, and participation requirements just like on-campus classes. Budget your time carefully and keep an open line of communication with your instructor. If you are having technical problems, problems with your assignments, or other problems that are impeding your progress, let your instructor know as soon as possible.

Course Materials

Textbook Information is located in the CSU-Global Booklist on the Student Portal.

Course Schedule

Due Dates
The Academic Week at CSU-Global begins on Monday and ends the following Sunday.

- Discussion Boards: The original post must be completed by Thursday at 11:59 p.m. MT and Peer Responses posted by Sunday 11:59 p.m. MT. Late posts may not be awarded points.
- Opening Exercises: Take the opening exercise before reading each week’s content to see which areas you will need to focus on. You may take these exercises as many times as you need. The opening exercises will not affect your final grade.
- Mastery Exercises: Students may access and retake mastery exercises through the last day of class until they achieve the scores they desire.
- Critical Thinking: Assignments are due Sunday at 11:59 p.m. MT.
- Live Classroom: Although participation is not required, a Live Classroom session will be held during Week 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
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| 1      | - Chapters 1 & 2 in *Health Care USA*  
| 2  | Chapters 4 in *Health Care USA*  
| 3  | Chapter 5 in *Health Care USA*  
| 4  | Chapters 6 & 7 in *Health Care USA*  

- Opening Exercise (0 points)  
- Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
- Critical Thinking (85 points)  
- Discussion (25 points)  
- Opening Exercise (0 points)  
- Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
- Critical Thinking (85 points)  
- Discussion (25 points)  
- Opening Exercise (0 points)  
- Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
- Critical Thinking (85 points)  
- Discussion (25 points)  
- Opening Exercise (0 points)  
- Mastery Exercise (10 points)  
- Critical Thinking (85 points)

5
• Chapters 9 & 10 in *Health Care USA*

6

7
• Chapter 11 in *Health Care USA*

8
Assignment Details

This course includes the following assignments/projects:

Module 1

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (85 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Assignment Option 1: Influence of Cost, Quality or Access on the U.S. Healthcare System Paper

Cost, quality and access to care have been identified as significant contributing factors to the U.S. healthcare system overall. Choose one of these factors and write a two to three page paper addressing the following:

- Describe the historical background and influence on healthcare delivery including benchmark events.
- Examine the impact of current healthcare reform, such as the Affordable Care Act, on this factor.

Your paper should meet the following requirements:

- Be two to three pages in length, not including the cover or reference pages
- Be formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements
- A minimum of four references with associated in-text citations. Two of these sources may be from the class readings, textbook, or lectures, but two must be external. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.
- Use headings to organize the content in your work.

Assignment Option 2: Influence of Cost, Quality or Access on the U.S. Healthcare System – Letter to a Provider

- Opening Exercise (0 points)
- Mastery Exercise (10 points)
- Portfolio (350 points)

References:


http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/57368/1/bu0585.pdf?ua=1
As a member of the public, you are a stakeholder in the effectiveness of the U.S. healthcare system. In a letter to your provider, draft a well thought out argument suggesting some proactive steps they can implement to improve cost, quality or access to healthcare in your community. Reflect on needs that have not been met in your experience and how they might be addressed. Do not use specific personal accounts but include hypothetical detailed analogies or scenarios that include viable solutions.

Your paper should meet the following requirements:

- Be two to three pages in length, not including the cover or reference pages
- Be formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements
- Be formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements
- A minimum of four references with associated in-text citations. Two of these sources may be from the class readings, textbook, or lectures, but two must be external. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.
- Use headings to organize the content in your work.

Module 2

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (85 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Assignment Option 1: Past and Present Influences on U.S. Hospital System: Paper

For this assignment, you will write a two to three page paper addressing the following:

Over the course of history, key events have helped to shape the hospital system in the United States. Evaluate the impact of one of the following—the development of the modern health insurance industry, Medicare and Medicaid, or the Hill-Burton Act of 1946—on the development of the hospital system. How might our hospital system be different today had history been different? What influence did recent healthcare reform efforts (Affordable Care Act) have on the current U.S. healthcare system?

Your paper should meet the following requirements:

- Be two to three pages in length, not including the cover or reference pages.
- Be formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
- A minimum of four references with associated in-text citations. Two of these sources may be from the class readings, textbook, or lectures, but two must be external. Each reference must be cited at least once in the paper. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.
- Use headings to organize the content in your work.

Assignment Option 2: Past and Present Influences on U.S. Hospital System: Infographic

For this assignment, you will create a detailed infographic addressing the following:

Over the course of history, key events have helped to shape the hospital system in the United States. Evaluate the impact of one of the following—the development of the modern health insurance industry, Medicare and Medicaid, the Hill-Burton Act of 1946—on the development of the hospital system. How might our hospital system be different today had history been different? What influence did recent healthcare reform efforts (Affordable Care Act) have on the current U.S. healthcare system?

Your infographic presentation should meet the following requirements:

- Be one or two pages in length, not including the cover or reference pages.
• Include graphics, photos, diagrams and other graphic or content to present your discussion and explain the points made.
• Embedded audio links can also be used to enhance your infographic presentation.
• This infographic should clearly identify your observations and evaluation of these influences on the U.S. hospital system and be suitable for presentation on a website or for framing as a poster. Creativity is encouraged, so express yourself visually as well as in writing.
• Be sure that your statements are complete sentences and are free from grammatical and spelling errors according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements.
• A minimum of four references with associated in-text citations. Two of these sources may be from the class readings, textbook, or lectures, but two must be external. Each reference must be cited at least once in your infographic. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.
• Headings to organize the content in your work.

Support the infographic with a short written document (or presentation notes). This document can be single-spaced but must not exceed one page.

Note: See the assignment in the Module 2 folder for links and information on how to create an infographic.

**Module 5**

**CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (100 points)**

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

**Assignment Option 1: Long-term Care Analysis**

For this assignment you will write a three to four page paper addressing the following:

Older Americans are the fastest growing population in our society. Medical advances have increased our life expectancy. Although we are living longer, the quality of life is often diminished by chronic disease and physical limitations. Over the years, the long-term care industry has received negative publicity and been the target of several federal investigations. Consider the impact of ACA on the Long-Term care industry.

Your paper should meet the following requirements:

• Be three to four pages in length, not including the cover or reference pages
• Be formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements
• A minimum of four references with associated in-text citations. Two of these sources may be from the class readings, textbook, or lectures, but two must be external. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.
• Use headings to organize the content in your work.

**Assignment Option 2: Behavioral Health PowerPoint Presentation**

For this assignment you will create an eight to ten slide PowerPoint presentation addressing the following:

Older Americans are the fastest growing population in our society and medical advances have increased our life expectancy. Many of these individuals also have mental or behavioral health needs.

Although we are living longer, the quality of life is often diminished by chronic disease, physical limitations, and exacerbation of mental or behavioral health issues such as Alzheimer’s disease, depression, dementia, and drug dependence.
Over the years, the mental and behavioral health industry as well as long-term care facilities that serve the aging population have received negative publicity and been the target of multiple investigations. Consider the impact of ACA on the mental and behavioral health industry, specifically those who provide services to the aging population.

Your PowerPoint presentation should meet the following requirements:

- Be eight to ten slides in length
- Include presentation notes for each slide to support the slide content. These may be a part of the PowerPoint or in a separate Word document. [Note: If you submit this assignment as a pdf, the presentation notes are not visible to the instructor.]
- Be formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements
- A minimum of four references with associated in-text citations. Two of these sources may be from the class readings, textbook, or lectures, but two must be external. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.
- A sample PowerPoint presentation cited in APA is located on the “Library” tab under Undergraduate APA Resources.

Module 6

CRITICAL THINKING ASSIGNMENT (100 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Assignment Option 1: Critical Analysis of Three Articles on Healthcare Reform

For this assignment you will write a three to four page paper addressing the following:

Using the CSU-Global Library, locate a minimum of three articles on healthcare reform and how it has impacted quality, economics, and patient safety on healthcare services in the U.S. Describe the influence of each of these factors on the U.S. healthcare system and how healthcare is delivered to communities. Compare and contrast your findings to this week’s readings and lecture. What is the same and what is different?

Your paper should meet the following requirements:

- Be three to four pages in length, not including the cover or reference pages
- Be formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements
- A minimum of four references with associated in-text citations. Two of these sources may be from the class readings, textbook, or lectures, but two must be external. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.
- Use headings to organize the content in your work.

Assignment Option 2: Critical Analysis of Three Articles on Healthcare Reform – Presentation to the Class

For this assignment you will create three to four slides or a three to four page graphic presentation that you could present to the class addressing the following:

Using the CSU-Global Library, locate a minimum of three articles on healthcare reform and how it has impacted quality, economics, and patient safety on healthcare services in the U.S. Describe the influence of each of these factors on the U.S. healthcare system and how healthcare is delivered to communities. Compare and contrast your findings to this week’s readings and lecture. What is the same and what is different?
Module 8

PORTFOLIO PROJECT: (350 points)

Choose one of the following two assignments to complete this week. Do not do both assignments. Identify your assignment choice in the title of your submission.

Assignment Option 1: The U.S. Healthcare System: Analysis of a Healthcare Sector

Your portfolio assignment focuses on a specific sector of healthcare and its relation to the current U.S. healthcare system. Choose one of the healthcare sectors listed below for your portfolio assignment:

- Hospitals
- Long-term Care
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Ambulatory Care
- For-Profit/Public Health Care.

Write a ten to twelve page paper where you address the following:

- Describe of the sector’s historical development and current role in healthcare delivery.
- Explain how the political influence in the U.S. healthcare system impacts how this sector provides healthcare to specific communities.
- Evaluate how quality, safety, and competition within this healthcare sector impact patient care.
- Examine what major challenges exist for this sector for the system over the next decade from healthcare reform and other factors. Discuss a minimum of three challenges and offer your recommendations on how healthcare leaders and administrators can manage them.
- Provide a conclusion summary of your findings and of the project experience.

Your paper should meet the following requirements:

- Be ten to twelve pages in length, not including the cover or reference pages
- Be formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements
- Provide support for your statements with in-text citations from a minimum of eight scholarly references - four of these references must be from outside sources and four may be from course readings, lectures, and textbooks. The CSU-Global Library is a good place to find these references.

Utilize the following headings to organize the content in your work.

- Introduction
- Historical Development and Current Role in Healthcare Delivery
- Political Influence
- Quality, Safety, and Competition
- Future Challenges and Issues
- Recommendations
- Conclusion
Assignment Option 2: The U.S. Healthcare System: Analysis of a Healthcare Sector Presentation

Your portfolio assignment focuses on a specific sector of healthcare and its relation to the current U.S. healthcare system. Choose one of the healthcare sectors listed below for your portfolio assignment:

- Hospitals
- Long-term Care
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Ambulatory Care
- For-Profit/Public Healthcare

Create a ten to twelve slide PowerPoint presentation where you address the following:

- Describe the sector’s historical development and current role in healthcare delivery.
- Explain how the political influence in the U.S. healthcare system impacts how this sector provides healthcare to specific communities.
- Evaluate how quality, safety, and competition within this healthcare sector impact patient care.
- Examine what major challenges exist for this sector for the system over the next decade from healthcare reform and other factors? Discuss a minimum of three challenges and offer your recommendations on how healthcare leaders and administrators can manage them.
- Provide a conclusion summary of your findings and of the project experience.

Your presentation should meet the following requirements:

- Be ten to twelve slides in length, not including the title or reference slides
- Be formatted for a formal presentation including headings per slide and major points per slide
- Presentation notes or embedded audio to supplement each slide provided as if you were doing the actual presentation are required
- Be formatted according to the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements
- Cite at least eight scholarly references. Four of these references must be from outside sources and four may be from course readings, lectures and textbooks. Include citations to support the statements made and for each of the references listed on your reference slide(s).

Utilize the following headings to organize the content in your work.

- Introduction
- Historical Development and Current Role in Healthcare Delivery
- Political Influence
- Quality, Safety, and Competition
- Future Challenges and Issues
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

Submit the project as a PowerPoint file or link to presentation if hosted on another site (such as YouTube). A link to the online presentation can be put into a Word document and submitted. Do not submit the presentation as a .pdf file. Your instructor is unable to see the presentation notes when submitted as a .pdf file.

Course Policies
Course Grading

- 20% Discussion Participation
- 0% Opening Exercises
- 0% Live Classroom
- 8% Mastery Exercises
- 37% Critical Thinking Assignments
- 35% Final Portfolio Paper

Grading Scale and Policies

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95.0 – 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0 – 94.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86.7 – 89.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.3 – 86.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0 – 83.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>75.0 – 79.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70.0 – 74.9</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60.0 – 69.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 or below</td>
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In-Classroom Policies

For information on late work and incomplete grade policies, please refer to our In-Classroom Student Policies and Guidelines or the Academic Catalog for comprehensive documentation of CSU-Global institutional policies.

Academic Integrity

Students must assume responsibility for maintaining honesty in all work submitted for credit and in any other work designated by the instructor of the course. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, reusing /re-purposing your own work (see CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements for percentage of repurposed work that can be used in an assignment), unauthorized possession of academic materials, and unauthorized collaboration. The CSU-Global Library provides information on how students can avoid plagiarism by understanding what it is and how to use the Library and Internet resources.

Citing Sources with APA Style

All students are expected to follow the CSU-Global Guide to Writing and APA Requirements when citing in APA (based on the APA Style Manual, 6th edition) for all assignments. For details on CSU-Global APA style, please review the APA resources within the CSU-Global Library under the “APA Guide & Resources” link. A link to this document should also be provided within most assignment descriptions on your course’s Assignments page.

Disability Services Statement

CSU–Global is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Any student with a documented disability requesting academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Coordinator at 720-279-0650 and/or email ada@CSUGlobal.edu for additional information to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Netiquette

Respect the diversity of opinions among the instructor and classmates and engage with them in a courteous, respectful, and professional manner. All posts and classroom communication must be conducted in accordance with the student code of conduct. Think before you push the Send button. Did you say just what you meant? How will the person on the other end read the words?

Maintain an environment free of harassment, stalking, threats, abuse, insults or humiliation toward the instructor and classmates. This includes, but is not limited to, demeaning written or oral comments of an ethnic, religious, age, disability, sexist (or sexual orientation), or racist nature; and the unwanted sexual
advances or intimidations by email, or on discussion boards and other postings within or connected to the online classroom.

If you have concerns about something that has been said, please let your instructor know.