

# **PHCY 5245 Medicare, Medicaid, and the Affordable Care Act**

**2 Credit Hours**

**Fall 2018**

**Course Description:** This course examines the structure, coverage, and operation of federal health programs. The course is taught with a focus on health policy as reflected in the programs funded by federal resources. The primary focus on the course is on Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and Trump Administration changes to the ACA, although the Veterans Affairs Health Care System, TRICARE, and the United States Public Health Service are also studied. Primary attention is paid to pharmaceutical benefits under these programs, although all aspects of the programs are studied.

**Place and Time of Class Sessions:** This is a condensed course that will be taught over a four-week period. The course will be taught in a blended fashion, with organized class sessions being combined with heavy reliance on an active discussion board. Learning materials will be posted on WyoCourses and may be accessed at any time. Participation in the discussion board is mandatory. **Successful discussion board participation requires one original post and two responsive posts each week.** There will be four exams that will start at 8am on Saturdays and will end at noon on Sundays.

**Course Instructor: Cynthia Hall**

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**Office Hours: Online**

## **Course Objectives:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Discuss the current climate of health care reforms at the federal level.
- Describe how the creation, administration, and funding of federal health care programs reflects the underlying cultural values and institutions within the United States.
- Discuss the influence of health care institutions, health care professionals, and the pharmaceutical industry on federal health programs.
- Describe the scope and function of the federal Medicare program.
- Describe the relationship between the federal government and the states in the funding and implementation of the federal Medicaid program.
- Discuss the responsibility of the federal government to provide access to health care for residents who are uninsured.
- Describe federal health programs that are provided to military personnel and their dependents, as well as to military veterans.
- Discuss federal policy toward access, cost, and quality of pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical services.
- List factors that impede the implementation of comprehensive federal health care programs.
- Describe federal public health programs.

- Discuss key factors that affect activities intending to promote health care reform at the federal level.

### **Course Learning Resources:**

- Textbook:** Barr, D. Introduction to US Health Policy: The Organization, Financing, and Delivery of Health Care in America. John Hopkins Press. (4<sup>th</sup> ed). (2016).
- Journal articles and other materials (subject to change):**
  - Obama B. United States Health Care Reform: Progress to Date and Next Steps. JAMA. 2016 Aug 2:316(5):525-32.
  - Giberson S, Yoder S, Lee MP. Improving Patient and Health System Outcomes through Advanced Pharmacy Practice. A Report to the U.S. Surgeon General. Office of the Chief Pharmacist. U.S. Public Health Service. December, 2011.
  - Radomski TR et al. Variation in Formulary Management Practices Within the Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care System. J Manag Care Spec Pharm. 2016 Feb;22(2):114-20.
  - Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense. Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS)/TRICARE: TRICARE Pharmacy Benefits Program. Final Rule. Fed Regist. 2015 Jul 27;80(143):44269-74.
  - McRae J et al. A Review of US Drug Costs Relevant to Medicare, Medicaid, and Commercial Insurers Post-Affordable Care Act Enactment, 2010-2016. Pharmacoeconomics. 2016 Oct 31.

### **Course Structure & Outline:**

This course will address the following subjects:

- The politics of health care organization and financing.
- Medicare.
- Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.
- The Affordable Care Act.
- Federal health programs for the military and veterans.
- Federal activities to promote public health.
- Pharmaceuticals as a challenge and as an opportunity in federal health programs.
- Ongoing efforts to achieve federal health care reforms.

### **Course Schedule:**

- August 29, 2018 (no class on 9/2/18)**
  - First live class on Big Blue Button at 6pm Wyoming time.
  - Prior to class, read Chapter 1 from the Barr textbook: The Affordable Care Act and the Politics of Health Care Reform
  - Be prepared to describe in class your perspectives on the present state of the U.S. health care system. The positives and negatives of your personal and professional experiences within the system.
- September 5, 2018**
  - Live class on Big Blue Button at 6pm Wyoming time.

- Prior to class, read these chapters from the Barr textbook:
  - Chapter 2, Health, HealthCare, and the Market Economy
  - Chapter 3, Health Care as a Reflection of Underlying Cultural Values and Institutions
- **September 8 (8am) to September 9 (noon), 2018 Exam**
- Take Exam I. Multiple Choice. 1 hour to complete once it is started.
- Covers material from August 29, September 5, and discussion board for the week.
- **September 9, 2018**
- Live class on Big Blue Button at 6pm Wyoming time.
- Prior to class, read these chapters from the Barr textbook:
  - Chapter 4, The Health Professions and the Organization of Health Care
  - Chapter 5, Health Insurance, HMOs, and the Managed Care Revolution
- **September 12, 2018**
- Live class on Big Blue Button at 6pm Wyoming time.
- Prior to class, read these chapters from the Barr textbook:
  - Chapter 6, Medicare
  - Chapter 7, Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program
- **September 15 (8am) to September 16 (noon), 2018 Exam**
- Take Exam II. Multiple Choice. 1 hour to complete once it is started.
- Covers material from September 9, 12 and discussion board for the week.
- **September 16, 2018**
- Live class on Big Blue Button at 6pm Wyoming time.
- Prior to class, read these chapters from the Barr textbook:
  - Chapter 8, The Uninsured
  - Chapter 9, The Increasing Role of For-Profit Health Care
- **September 19, 2018**
- Live class on Big Blue Button at 6pm Wyoming time.
- Prior to class, read these chapters from the Barr textbook:
  - Chapter 10, Pharmaceutical Policy and the Rising Cost of Prescription Drugs
  - Chapter 11, Long-Term Care
- **September 22 (8am) to September 23 (noon), 2018 Exam**
- Take Exam III. Multiple Choice. 1 hour to complete once it is started.
- Covers material from September 16, 19, and discussion board for the week.
- **September 23, 2018**
- Live class on Big Blue Button at 6pm Wyoming time.
- Prior to class, read these chapters from the Barr textbook:
  - Chapter 12, Factors Other than Health Insurance that Impede Access
  - Chapter 13, Key Policy Issues Affecting the Direction of Health Care Reform

☐ **September 26, 2018**

- Live class on Big Blue Button at 6pm Wyoming time.
- Prior to class, read Chapter 14 from the Barr textbook: Epilogue/Prologue to Health Care Reform in America

☐ **September 29 (8am) to September 30 (noon), 2018 Exam**

- Take Exam IV. Multiple Choice. 1 hour to complete once it is started.
- Covers material from September 23, 26, and discussion board for the week.

**Evaluation Techniques:**

Class participation (discussion board) 40%

Exams (4) 60%

**Grading:**

A: 90.0 – 100.0

B: 80.0 – 89.9

C: 70.0 – 79.9

D: 60.0 – 69.9

F: <60.0

**Class Attendance Policy:**

Attendance at scheduled online classes through Big Blue Button is mandatory. The course coordinator will excuse students from class based on a valid reason. Classes will be recorded for later viewing (within two weeks) by students who have been excused from attendance. There is a requirement for weekly postings on the course discussion board. All postings must relate to the general course objectives. All students are expected to make weekly posts that are relevant to the course based on material that is being completed that week.

**Exam Policy:**

Inquiries regarding exams should be directed to the course coordinator, preferably prior to the exam, and always within a week following the assessment.

**Make-up Exam Policy:** Students who are excused from an exam will not be required to make up that assessment and their final grade will be calculated without consideration of the missed assessment. Students who are not excused from a missed quiz or exam will receive a grade of zero on that missed assessment. Any student who misses quizzes and/or exams of a sufficient number that indicate the student has not completed enough coursework to achieve the objectives of the course will be given an incomplete (I) grade for the course.

**Policy on Exams:**

At the discretion of the instructor, exams may be posted, with answers, to the course discussion board.

**Academic Dishonesty Statement:**

The University of Wyoming is built upon a strong foundation of integrity, respect and trust. All members of the university community have a responsibility to be honest and the right to expect honesty from others. Any form of academic dishonesty is unacceptable to our community and will not be tolerated. Teachers and students should report suspected violations of standards of academic honesty to the instructor, department head, or dean. Other University regulations can be found at: <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/legal/universityregulations.htm>

**Disability Support Statement:**

The University of Wyoming is an affirmative action/equal opportunity educator and employer. If you have a physical, learning, or psychological disability and require accommodations, please let the instructor know as soon as possible. You will need to register with, and provide documentation of your disability to University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, room 330 Knight Hall. The University Disability Support Services website, which may be found at:

<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/udss/facultyandstaff/tipsforteaching.asp> or you may contact UDSS for more information at (307) 766-6189, TTY: (307) 766-3073