

**3 CREDITS**

**MONDAY | 10:40AM–12:35PM | COMM–024**

# U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

## **RICHARD TOVAR M.S.**

Instructional Assistant Professor  
College of Public Health and Health Professions

HPNP, Room 4162 (4<sup>th</sup> Floor)  
richard.tovar@phhp.ufl.edu  
(352) 273-7833

### **OFFICE HOURS**

In-person or via Zoom  
(Wednesday 1p–3p or by appointment)  
To schedule a meeting go to:  
<https://calendly.com/richard-tovar/25min>

**WEBSITE** | [lss.at.ufl.edu](https://lss.at.ufl.edu) (Canvas)

**DELIVERY** | In-Person | COMM–024

Canvas message is the preferred method of communication. Emails received on weekdays can expect a response within 24 hrs. Emails received during the weekend or after 5pm on Friday will be answered by 2pm on the following Monday.



### **PRE-REQUISITES**

BSC 2007 or BSC 2005 or BSC 2010 and PSY 2012 and STA 2023. Health Science or Communication Sciences and Disorders or Public Health majors. Also, Health Science or Public Health minors.



### **TEXTBOOK**

This course will not require a traditional textbook. Instead, we will be utilizing Open Educational Resources (OER), which are freely accessible online materials. By using OER, students will have the opportunity to access up-to-date and cost-effective resources that support diverse learning styles and foster greater academic collaboration.



### **COURSE OVERVIEW**

This course introduces essential topics surrounding the delivery of health care in the United States and internationally. The initial focus will be on the evolution of the US health care system and the system's historical foundations. From there, models and concepts about the determinants of health will be introduced. These tools will provide a framework to understand and critically assess the health care delivery system and the challenges faced by the present structure. Finally, the US Government's involvement (i.e., state, and federal) and the role of health care providers will be examined in relation to health care reform and the future of the US health care system.



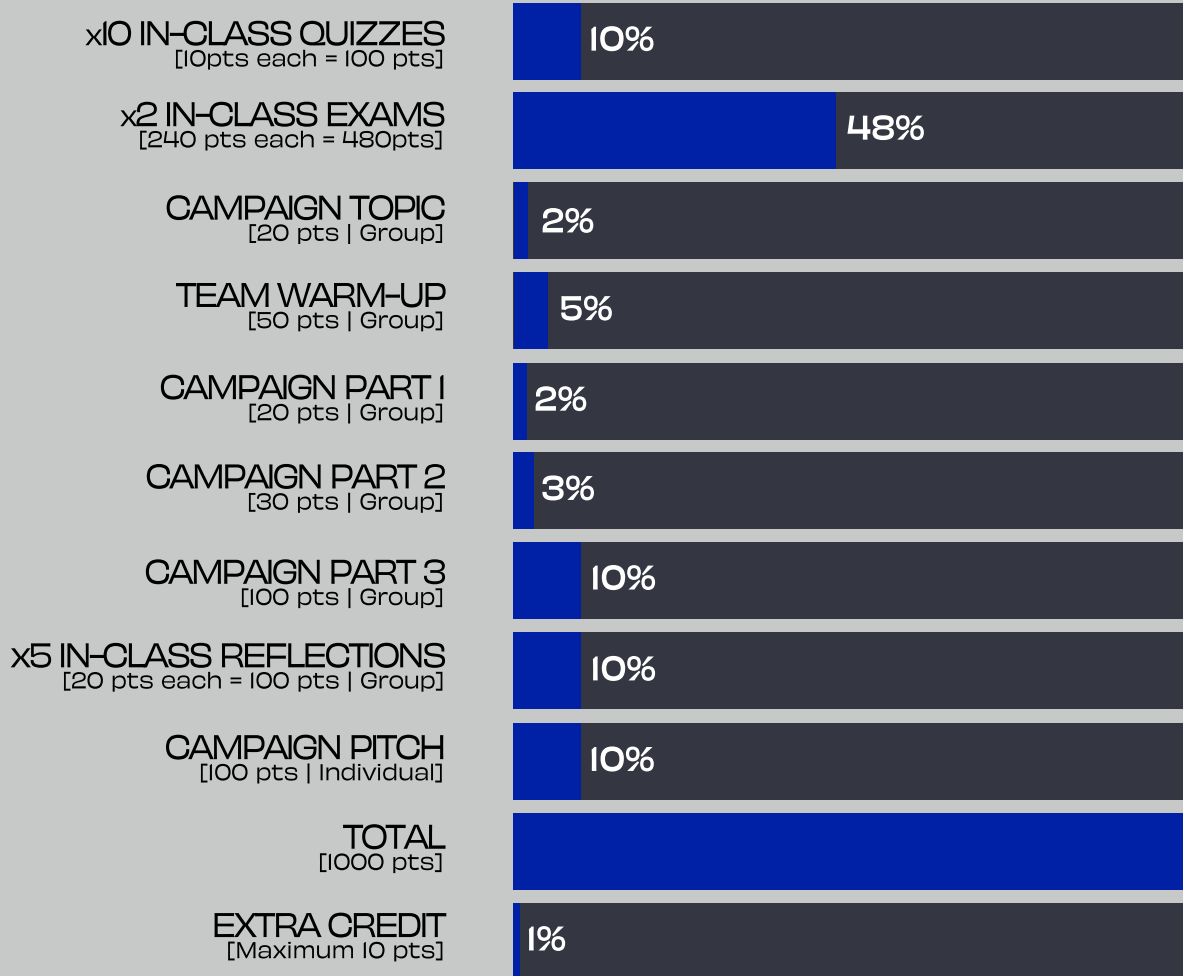
### **TECHNOLOGY**

Required Equipment: Computer with high-speed internet access and use of a supported browser (Google Chrome recommended). To access this course on Canvas, you will use your Gatorlink ID and password to login to the course. For technical support for this class, please contact the UF Help Desk by:

- Calling (352) 392-HELP (option 2),
- Emailing [learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:learning-support@ufl.edu), or
- Going to <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu>

SPRING 2025 | TOVAR

# GRADING



<b>A</b>	A 930-1000 PTS = 4.00	A- 900-929 PTS = 3.67	
<b>B</b>	B+ 870-899 PTS = 3.33	B 830-869 PTS = 3.00	B- 800-829 PTS = 2.67
<b>C</b>	C+ 770-799 PTS = 2.33	C 700-769 PTS = 2.00	C- NOT GIVEN
<b>D</b>	D+ 670-699 PTS = 1.33	D 630-669 PTS = 1.00	D- 600-629 PTS = 1.67
<b>E</b>	< 600 PTS = 0.00		

\*Final grades will be based on the number of points accumulated during the course. **Grades will not be rounded.** There is no C- grade given for this course. For greater detail on letter grades, see the Registrar's Grade Policy: <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/>

# PURPOSE & OUTCOMES

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Identify major historical events affecting the fundamental characteristics of health care in the United States and relate these factors to the current health care system.
- Articulate health care access barriers unique to the U.S. health care system and propose cost-effective solutions to improve access.
- Delineate the difference between hospitals, outpatient facilities, long-term care facilities, ambulatory care providers, mental health providers, and the broader public health system regarding services, organizational structure, and financing mechanisms.
- Describe health care providers' and professionals' roles and responsibilities, including the required education and credentials for each specialty.
- Assess the impact of medical technology as a cost driver, barrier to access, and overall growth of health care expenditures in the United States.
- Describe the health insurance mechanism, the roles of the insurance industry, and the local, state, and federal government's involvement in financing health care.
- Explain the impact of the political process on health care reform, drawing from past and present legislation to illustrate the potential for success or failure of a proposal.
- Develop a proposal for change that addresses critical issues discussed throughout the course based on your current understanding of the US health care system.
- Apply systems thinking to public health issues to be aware of the complexity of stakeholders, risk factors and learn to be prepared for unintended consequences.

## RELATION TO BACHELOR PROGRAM FOUNDATIONAL DOMAINS

Overview of organization, delivery, and financing of health services in the United States. Topics include health professionals, health care facilities, financing of health services, managed care, and current health policy issues.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Class announcements will be sent via the announcement tool in eLearning. Depending on your CANVAS notification settings, you may or may not be notified via email. Therefore, you are responsible for all information in these announcements whether or not you see them in your email.

## WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU?

You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. Your participation fosters a rich course experience for you and your peers that facilitates overall mastery of the course objectives. For every 1 credit hour in which you enroll in an undergraduate course, you will spend approximately two to three hours outside of class studying.

## PROFESSIONALISM

As students pursuing a path in the health professions or public health, it is crucial to demonstrate professional behaviors that reflect integrity and commitment to the health of patients, fellow health professionals, and to populations we serve. To accomplish this, a strong responsibility for the well-being of others must be evident in our decisions, along with accountability for our actions. Professionalism in the health disciplines requires adherence to high standards of conduct that begin long before graduation.

## INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

- **Lectures** are for general orientation. Students are responsible for all the material presented in the course and assigned readings.
- **Readings and Resources:** In addition to the lectures, supplementary readings and resources will be posted in the course. The reading and resource list may be supplemented during the course.
- Students are expected to participate in groups throughout the duration of this course.
- **Assessments:** A variety of assessments will be used in this course, including but not limited to assignments, quizzes, and projects.

# CLASS POLICIES

## REQUIREMENTS

Students are responsible for all course material, including reading all required materials prior to each lecture. The course is conducted in person, however, all assignments, emails and quizzes will be delivered in canvas. Students should also check their email and announcements in the course several times a week. Please note that announcements and emails sent out from the course site will go to your UFL email address (versus your Google, Yahoo, etc.), please check this mail at <http://webmail.ufl.edu> regularly. Students should also reference the calendar in the course to keep up with weekly deadlines.

## QUIZ & EXAM POLICY

This course will be using Lockdown Browser to ensure exam integrity. Instances of cheating or inappropriate behavior will be considered violations of the Student Honor Code and will result in disciplinary action, a zero on the quiz and the reduction of the student's overall grade by 100 pts.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

*“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”*

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

*“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”*

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

Unless otherwise stated by written instructions, the preparation of all coursework should be done individually. If you are unsure about what level of collaboration is appropriate, ask the instructor before beginning an assignment.

Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code: [www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/). Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

## MAKE-UP WORK POLICY

Make-ups may be granted based upon the following circumstances: (a) illness, (b) serious family emergencies, (c) military obligation, (d) religious holidays, (e) participation in official university activities, or (f) court-imposed legal obligations. For circumstances a. and b., students must contact the faculty via email within 48 hours of the missed quiz/assignment, and the faculty may request the student provide medical or other forms of documentation to validate the make-up. For all other circumstances, students must contact the faculty at least 72 hours prior to the anticipated missed day and provide reasonable documentation confirming the obligation/activity.

Failure to submit reaction papers/assignments due to severe weather or poor internet connectivity will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If you are unable to access consistent internet, please email the instructor ahead of time (if possible); otherwise email the instructor at the earliest time possible. If you are unable to meet a deadline in this course for approved reasons and have given prior notification to the instructor when possible, you will be given adequate time to make up any coursework missed. All other missed or late work will receive a grade of zero.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues MUST be accompanied by the UF Computing Help Desk <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/> correspondence. You MUST e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make-up.

## RECORDING POLICY

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

Any work written, developed, created, or inspired by artificial intelligence (AI) is considered plagiarism and will not be tolerated. While the ever-changing (and exciting!) new developments with AI will find their place in our workforces and personal lives, in the realm of education and learning, this kind of technology does not belong. This is because the use of AI robs us all the opportunity to learn from our experiences and from each other, to play with our creative freedoms, to problem-solve, and to contribute our ideas in authentic ways. This is a place for learning, and this class is specifically a space for learning how to improve our writing and professional development skills. AI simply cannot do that learning and skill development for us.

### **POLICY RELATED TO GUESTS ATTENDING CLASS**

Only registered students are permitted to attend class. However, we recognize that students who are caretakers may face occasional unexpected challenges creating attendance barriers. Therefore, by exception, a department chair or his or her designee (e.g., instructors) may grant a student permission to bring a guest(s) for a total of two class sessions per semester. This is two sessions total across all courses. No further extensions will be granted. Students are responsible for course material regardless of attendance. For additional information, please review the Classroom Guests of Students policy: <http://facstaff.php.ufl.edu/services/resourceguide/getstarted.htm>

### **LATE SUBMISSION POLICY**

Late submissions will be accepted for up to 48 hours after the original deadline and graded for a maximum of half credit. Assignments submitted after the 48-hour window will not be accepted (unless excused) and the student will earn a zero. It is your responsibility to check that the correct assignment has been submitted to Canvas on time. If you submit the wrong assignment, Canvas allows you to resubmit the correct assignment before the deadline. Submitting an assignment even 1 minute after the time it is due will be considered late – please do not wait to complete and submit your assignments.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination.

The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: [www.multicultural.ufl.edu](http://www.multicultural.ufl.edu)

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

## COUNSELING AND STUDENT HEALTH

Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.

The **Counseling and Wellness Center** (352-392-1575) offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. Online and in person assistance.

**U Matter We Care** website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.

The **Student Health Care Center** at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu>.

Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: (352) 264-6789  
<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

**University Police Department:** Visit the [UFPD](http://www.ufpd.ufl.edu) website or call 352-392-1111 (911 emergencies).

**UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:** For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the [UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center](http://www.ufhealth.org/emergency) website.

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. We have helped many students through stressful situations. You are not alone so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

## ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC RESOURCES

- **Career Connections Center:** Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601.
- **Library Support:** Assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- **Teaching Center:** Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- **Writing Studio:** 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help writing papers.
- **Student Complaints On-Campus:** Visit the [Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage](#) for more information.
- **On-Line Students Complaints:** View the [Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

## ONLINE FACULTY COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS

Students sometimes Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give professional and respectful feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

# COURSE SCHEDULE

## MODULE 1

	WEEKLY TOPIC	MATERIALS	TASKS
<b>W 01</b>	JAN 13—JAN 19 <b>COURSE INTRODUCTION</b>	Syllabus	<i>Syllabus Quiz</i> [Wed 1/15] Campaign Topic [Sun 1/19]
<b>W 02</b>	JAN 20 <b>MLK HOLIDAY</b>	Anatomy of Healthcare	Team Warm-Up [Sun 1/26]
<b>M 1.1</b>	JAN 27—FEB 2 <b>GOALS OF HEALTHCARE</b>	The Economics of Healthcare The Healthcare “Iron Triangle”	<i>Quiz 1.1</i> [Mon 1/27] Team Presentation [Mon 1/27]
<b>M 1.2</b>	FEB 3—FEB 9 <b>HEALTH POLICY</b>	How Laws Affect Your Health Obamacare Turns 10	<i>Quiz 1.2</i> [Mon 2/3] Class Reflection #1 [Mon 2/3]
<b>M 1.3</b>	FEB 10—FEB 16 <b>POPULATION HEALTH</b>	Population Health Basics Disparities in Health and Health Care	<i>Quiz 1.3</i> [Mon 2/10] Class Reflection #2 [Mon 2/10]
<b>M 1.4</b>	FEB 17—FEB 23 <b>HEALTH &amp; TECHNOLOGY</b>	The Future of Rural Healthcare The Technology of Healthcare	<i>Quiz 1.4</i> [Mon 2/17] Campaign Part 1 [Sun 2/23]
<b>M 1.5</b>	FEB 24—MAR 2 <b>HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS</b>	Types of Patient Care Types of PCPs	<i>Quiz 1.5</i> [Mon 2/24] Campaign Part 2 [Sun 3/2]
<b>W 08</b>	MAR 3 <b>EXAM 1</b> [IN-CLASS]		
<b>M 2.1</b>	MAR 10—MAR 14 <b>AMBULATORY CARE</b>	Ambulatory Healthcare The Role of Ambulatory Care	<i>Quiz 2.1</i> [Mon 3/10] Campaign Part 3 [Sun 3/14]
<b>W 10</b>	MAR 15—MAR 23 <b>SPRING BREAK HOLIDAY</b>		
<b>M 2.2</b>	MAR 24—MAR 30 <b>INPATIENT FACILITIES</b>	Hospital Care The Role of Inpatient Care	<i>Quiz 2.2</i> [Mon 3/24] Presentation Slides [Sun 3/30]
<b>M 2.3</b>	MAR 31—APR 6 <b>HEALTH INSURANCE</b>	When the U.S. Implemented the ACA Health Insurance Basics	<i>Quiz 2.3</i> [Mon 3/31] Reflection #3 [Mon 3/31]
<b>M 2.4</b>	APR 7—APR 13 <b>MEDICARE</b>	Medicare and Medicaid 101 An Overview of Medicare	<i>Quiz 2.4</i> [Mon 4/7] Reflection #4 [Mon 4/7]
<b>M 2.5</b>	APR 14—APR 20 <b>MEDICAID</b>	Medicaid in Florida An Overview of Medicaid	<i>Quiz 2.5</i> [Mon 4/14] Reflection #5 [Mon 4/14]
<b>W 15</b>	APR 21 <b>STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</b>		
<b>W 16</b>	APR 28 <b>EXAM 2</b> [IN-CLASS]		

\*\*\*This course schedule is subject to revision, always check Canvas for updates. Schedule is subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances. Any changes will be announced, and the student is personally responsible for obtaining updated information regarding those changes.