



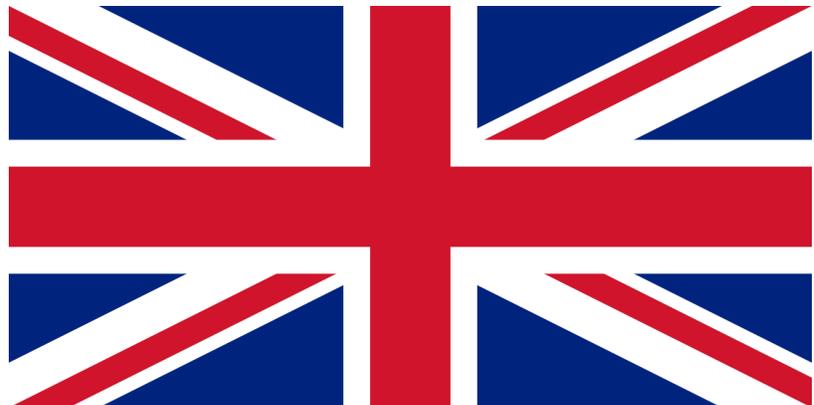
Which is Better? An Economic Comparison of Health Care in France, the UK, and the US**

June 9-July 6, 2019

1st week in Paris; weeks 2-4 in London

200-level Economics elective (i.e. ECON2289.01)

For more information contact Prof. Tracy Regan, Dept. of Econ. (tracy.regan@bc.edu) and/or
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Course Description: This course is designed as an introduction to the health care systems of the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), and France. In 2010, the World Health Organization (WHO) carried out the first ever analysis of the world's health systems and found that France provided the best overall health care. The United Kingdom was ranked #18 and the US at #37.¹ This couples with the US spending 17.2% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2016 on health expenditures despite not having particular good health outcomes (e.g., 38.2% obesity rate, 2015).² By comparison, France only spends 11% of its GDP on health expenditures and has an obesity rate of 19.5%.³ The *New York Times* recently published a series of articles attempting to understand why the U.S. spends so much than other (developed) countries and did not note any differences in utilization rates, for example, and instead explained the phenomena by referencing Uwe Reinhardt's famous 2003 paper entitled, "It's the Prices Stupid."⁴ In 2011, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) was happy to report the better health the English enjoyed relative to the Americans despite similar demographics (and worse weather and food!).⁵ This course will introduce students to these three representative health care systems and will seek to understand the disconnect between health care outcomes and spending. The 2010 Affordable Care Act essentially preserved the privatized nature of health care in the US despite nearly every other (developed) country in the world having universal coverage. We will investigate the reasons for this, along with the current Administration's efforts to ensure that Obamacare fails.

Possible Cultural Activities: In Paris, these include the Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Notre Dame, Montmartre and Sacre Coeur, Musee d'Orsay, Arc de Triomphe, Luxembourg Gardens, Centre Pompidou, Musee Rodin, and Champs-Elysees. In London, these include afternoon tea, tour of Parliament, a West End show, the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, Windsor Castle, the Florence Nightingale Museum, the Bethlem Museum.

Expenses: Tuition (3-credit tuition was \$2,508*); GeoBlue international health insurance (\$50*); Program fee (\$3,400); Enrollment fee (\$45*). *Note: the tuition, enrollment fee, and health insurance rates are from summer 2018. The rates for summer 2019 will be posted by early April. Students are also responsible for coordinating and paying for their own travel to Paris (or London) and budgeting for meals and personal expenses not covered by the program fee. We will all travel from Paris to London together with the Eurostar.

Application and Admission Dates: Summer applications open and are a rolling admissions process that begin on Oct. 15, 2018. The deadline for summer applications is Feb. 5, 2018. Summer confirmation forms are due Feb. 20, 2019. Visa applications and necessary medical appointments will occur Mar.-Apr., 2019 along with a departure orientation. Students are encouraged to purchase their airline tickets during this time as well. Expenses are billed via Agora in May, 2019 and payment is due prior to departure.

****Notes:** Items are subject to change due to scheduling, availability, budget issues, class size, etc.

¹ <http://www.who.int/healthinfo/paper30.pdf>

² <https://data.oecd.org/healthres/health-spending.htm>; <http://www.oecd.org/health/obesity-update.htm> htm

³ <http://www.oecd.org/health/obesity-update.htm>

⁴ <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/02/upshot/us-health-care-expensive-country-comparison.html>;

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/pdf/10.1377/hlthaff.22.3.89>

⁵ <http://www.bbc.com/news/health-12674976>