

Political Economy of Health Care

Winter term, [Block Winter](#)
M,T,W,Th,F 9 AM - 11 AM

Visiting Professor Daniel Kessler
2 classroom credits LAW-44441A Winter

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the economic, institutional, and legal background necessary to understand the financing and operation of the US health care system. The course consists of lectures, business school case discussions, and discussions of readings from policy journals such as Health Affairs. No prior training in economics or experience in health care is expected; all students are welcome.

The course covers four broad topic areas:

1. Economic tools: flows of funds, the causes of cost growth, and market failures in health care;
2. Organizations: hospital and physician services markets, integrated delivery systems, managed care, consumer-directed health care, and the pharmaceutical industry;
3. Public policy issues: regulation of managed care, the patient's bill of rights', regulation of pharmaceuticals, Medicare and Medicaid, and coverage of the uninsured; and
4. International perspectives: how have other countries' health care systems evolved and what can the US learn from their experience.

Requirements include a take-home exam, class participation, and two short web exercises. Professor Kessler is visiting from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business and Law School.