

SPOL40470— Comparing Healthcare Systems

Module Information	
Module Code	SPOL40470
Module Title	Comparing Healthcare Systems
Department	Social Policy, Social Work and Social Justice
Year Group	MSc in Comparative Social Change
Module Personnel	Naonori Kodate
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	10 credits
Semester	Semester 1 (Autumn Trimester)
Contact Hours	2 lectures per week

Module Content	
Module Description	Through comparative study of different health care systems, this course seeks to develop critical awareness of the key debates in policy reforms, e.g. the role of government and other actors such as the private sector, health care professionals and users. Themes covered in the course include the historical foundations of different health care systems; similarities and differences in the way health care is financed, provided and regulated; contemporary debates on care reforms including social determinants of health, financial viability, universal access (e.g. Sláintecare), quality improvement, patient safety, and the use of technologies in care settings..
Module Learning Aims	This module aims to provide the student with the relevant knowledge, skills and competence to understand, analyse and explain complex care systems, health services and policies.
Learning Outcomes	Upon completion of this module, students should be able to: • Acquire insights into structure of health care systems in industrially advanced economies; • Develop a systematic understanding of the major economic, political and sociological issues involved in

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	the organisation, production and financing of health care services, both nationally and internationally; • Foster a critical awareness of key debates in policy reforms, including the role of government and other actors through comparative study of different health care systems; and • Critically examine the roles of professionals, service users and researchers in the making, implementation and evaluation of health policy through the use of case studies.
Indicative Reading / Resources	Blank, R.H., Burau, V. and Kuhlmann, E. (2017). Comparative Health Policy. Red Globe Press. Larkan, F. et al. (Eds.) (2022). Systems Thinking for Global Health. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Tiberghien, Y. (2021). The East Asian COVID-19 Paradox Elements in Politics and Society in East Asia. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Wilkinson, R.G. and Pickett, K.E. (2010). The Spirit Level: Why More Equal Societies Almost Always Do Better. London: Allen Lane.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	4,000 word end of term essay (Deadline: Friday 27 November 2026): 80%; Individual in-class presentation and participation: 20%
Assessment Details	

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	None
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	