



College of Nursing and Health Professions
Department of Public Health

HC 311 - Comparative Health Systems

Location meeting and Class meeting schedule - Independent Study (Online Asynchronous)
Credits: 3 Section: # Term: Fall 2026

Instructor Information



Instructor: Christopher Alvarado

Email: Christopher.alvarado@cancer.org

Phone: N/A

Office Location: Henry Hall 117

Virtual Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays 9am-1pm HST or by appointment

Communication

Preferred mode of communication is via email. I will respond to all emails within 48 business hours.

College & Department Information

Public Health Program at the College of Nursing and Health Professions

Office Location:

3140 Waialae Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

<https://chaminade.edu/nursing-health-professions/>

Phone: 808-739-8572

Course Description & Materials

Catalog Course Description

HC-311 Comparative Health Systems This course provides students an overview of the U.S. healthcare system in comparison to other health systems around the world including the policy programs, providers and payment systems. It also addresses key issues in healthcare services today. It provides a thorough survey of the policies and structures of the U.S. healthcare system, a historical analysis of the development of the current system, and the organization and administration of healthcare services today and for the future. Participants will examine the healthcare system in terms of equity, appropriateness and effectiveness of the way healthcare services are delivered and how we pay for them.

Pre-Requisites: ENG 102 and COM 101 are prerequisites for all upper division courses.

Time Allocation

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit

hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement. This equates to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester, 10-week term, or equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. Direct instructor engagement and out-of-class work result in total student engagement of 45 hours for one credit.

HC-311 is a three-credit hour course requiring 135 clock hours of student engagement, in accordance with the Chaminade University of Honolulu Credit Hour Policy. Over the 15 weeks of this course, students will spend 37.5 hours in class participating in lectures, discussions, case studies, and simulations. Students will complete eight weekly assignments, requiring approximately 24 hours of independent work (3 hours each). Students will also take four quizzes, requiring 10 hours total for preparation and assessment (2.5 hours each). The final written paper (8-10 pages) will require approximately 30 hours of research, drafting, revision, and submission. Students will additionally prepare and deliver a final presentation, estimated at 6 hours for preparation and in-class delivery. The remaining 27.5 hours will be spent on weekly readings, studying, and Canvas learning activities, averaging 1.8 hours per week.

Suggested Materials

Johnson & Stoskopf's Comparative Health Systems, 3rd Edition — Leiyu Shi & Richard G. Greenhill. ISBN-13: 978-1284289268 (ISBN-10: 1284289265). This textbook is not required; it is offered as a suggested resource for students who would like additional reading to support their learning throughout the course.

Recommended Items

Course Website: <https://chaminade.instructure.com/>

Hardware Requirements:

Canvas is accessible from both PC and Mac computers with a reliable internet connection. You will also need to be able to access audio and video files. Subsequently, you should have access to speakers or headphones that allow you to hear the audio.

Software Requirements:

You will need to have some ability to listen to audio in an mp3 format, watch videos in mp4 format, stream online videos, and read .pdf files. There are a number of free software online that can be downloaded for free. If you need assistance with locating software please feel free to contact the Chaminade Help Desk at helpdesk@chaminade.edu or (808) 735-4855.

Canvas (<https://chaminade.instructure.com>)

Canvas is a web-based learning management system, or LMS. It is used by learning institutions, educators, and students to access and manage online course learning materials and communicate about skill development and learning achievement. You will use canvas to get your weekly assignment, keep track of your grades, and turn in your work

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

Upon completion of [degree program name], the student will be able to:

1. Utilize public health concepts to assess major health-related needs of diverse populations, addressing social determinants of health, and factors that contribute to morbidity and mortality through the design and development of interventions that promote health equity and reduce disparities.

2. Utilize evidence-based approaches to evaluate program outcomes and inform decision-making processes that prioritize service, justice, and peace in public health practice, while emphasizing the importance of using data and research to drive impactful, equitable, and sustainable public health interventions.
3. Analyze public health data using statistical, epidemiological and data visualization techniques, to generate products that support communication and decision-making related to public health interventions.
4. Investigate basic concepts of legal, ethical, economic, and regulatory dimensions of health care and public health policy, and the roles, influences, and responsibilities of the different agencies and branches of government.
5. Develop innovative sustainable public health strategies that address complex challenges, promote equity, and contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while fostering sustainable development practices locally and globally.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon completion of HC-311 Comparative Health Systems, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze the key components and stakeholders of the U.S. healthcare system, including providers, payers, policy structures, and public programs.
2. Evaluate the historical development of the U.S. healthcare system and its influence on contemporary healthcare structure, financing, and access.
3. Assess the organization and administration of healthcare services, identifying current challenges and opportunities in meeting diverse population health needs.
4. Critique the concepts of equity, appropriateness, and effectiveness in healthcare delivery and payment mechanisms, with attention to social justice and disparities.
5. Compare the U.S. healthcare system to international models using health indicators, outcomes data, and system structures to inform policy discussion and reform.

Marianist Values

This class represents one component of your education at Chaminade University of Honolulu. An education in the Marianist Tradition is marked by five principles and you should take every opportunity possible to reflect upon the role of these characteristics in your education and development:

1. Education for formation in faith.
2. Provide an integral, quality education.
3. Educate in family spirit.
4. Educate for service, justice and peace, and integrity of creation.
5. Educate for adaptation and change.

Marianist Values Integration

HC 311 reflects the Marianist tradition by promoting critical thinking about global health systems through the lens of justice, equity, and community well-being. Students analyze how different countries structure and finance healthcare while considering the ethical responsibility to support vulnerable populations, aligning with the values of service, justice, and peace. Collaborative discussions and group activities foster family spirit, while the study of diverse and evolving systems encourages adaptation and change. Through these learning experiences, students receive an

integral, values-centered education that prepares them to contribute meaningfully to public health practice.

Native Hawaiian Values

Education is an integral value in both Marianist and Native Hawaiian culture. Both recognize the transformative effect of a well-rounded, value-centered education on society, particularly in seeking justice for the marginalized, the forgotten, and the oppressed, always with an eye toward God (Ke Akua). This is reflected in the 'Ōlelo No'eau (Hawaiian proverbs) and Marianist core beliefs:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith (Mana) — E ola au i ke akua ('Ōlelo No'eau 364) May I live by God.
2. Provide an Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao) — Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono ('Ōlelo No'eau 1957) Acquire skill and make it deep.
3. Educate in Family Spirit ('Ohana) — 'Ike aku, 'ike mai, kōkua aku kōkua mai; pela iho la ka nohana 'ohana ('Ōlelo No'eau 1200) Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.
4. Educate for Service, Justice and Peace (Aloha) — Ka lama kū o ka no'eau ('Ōlelo No'eau 1430) Education is the standing torch of wisdom.
5. Educate for Adaptation and Change (Aina) — 'A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi ('Ōlelo No'eau 203) All knowledge is not taught in the same school.

Alignment of Course Learning Outcomes

	CLO 1	CLO 2	CLO 3	CLO 4
Marianist Values	x	x	x	
PLOs	x	x	x	x
Native Hawaiian Values	x	x	x	x
Gen Ed Learning Outcomes (if applicable)				

Course Activities

Participation

Participation & In-Class Activities - 10%

Participation includes attending class, contributing meaningfully to discussions, engaging in simulations, group exercises, debates, and other in-class tasks. Active participation is essential to understanding comparative health systems. Points may be deducted for repeated absences, lack of engagement, or disruptive behavior. Students are expected to arrive prepared, having completed readings prior to class meetings.

Homework

Weekly Assignments (Homework) - 40%

Weekly assignments include country comparisons, short essays, case briefs, policy matrices, and other written or applied activities. These assignments are designed to reinforce weekly learning objectives and prepare students for the semester consulting project. Unless otherwise noted, assignments are due Sundays at 11:59 PM (HST). Late submissions may be accepted for partial credit within one week, with a 10% deduction per day late, unless prior arrangements are made. Students are expected to submit original work and follow APA formatting where applicable.

Quizzes

Quizzes - 20%

Four quizzes throughout the semester assess comprehension of readings, lectures, and in-class activities. Quizzes may include multiple choice, short answer, and application-based questions. Quiz 4 is cumulative and covers material from Quizzes 1–3 in addition to more recent content. Quizzes must be completed within the assigned time frame, and make-up quizzes are only permitted in cases of documented emergencies. Students are expected to prepare by completing weekly readings and participating actively in class discussions and activities.

Final Project

Semester Consulting Project - 30%

Global Health Systems Consulting Portfolio

Students will work throughout the semester as public health consultants hired to evaluate a country's healthcare system, building a professional consulting portfolio that analyzes the system, compares it to the United States, and provides evidence-based recommendations for improvement. The portfolio is developed in four phases across the semester (Weeks 4, 8, 12, and 15), each building on instructor feedback from the phase before, and culminates in a final portfolio and a recorded executive presentation. Full instructions, requirements, and grading criteria for each phase are posted on Canvas.

Course Policies

Attendance

Even though this course is fully online, active participation is still essential. “Attendance” in an online class isn't about being physically present, it's about staying engaged, completing weekly activities, and participating in discussions on time.

What Attendance Looks Like in This Course:

To be counted as “attending” for the week, you must complete the following by Sunday at 11:59 PM (HST):

- Submit the weekly assignment or discussion post
- Participate in any required discussion board replies
- Complete scheduled quizzes or activities
- Engage with course materials (readings, videos, modules)

Late Work

Assignments in HC 311 are designed to build progressively toward the development of key competencies. To support consistent learning and ensure timely feedback, all assignments are due Sundays at 11:59 PM (HST) unless otherwise noted.

Late submissions will be handled as follows:

Assignments (weekly work, matrices, outlines): Accepted up to 7 days late with a 10% deduction per day (including weekends). After 7 days, assignments will no longer be accepted unless extenuating circumstances are communicated in advance.

Quizzes: Quizzes must be completed by the posted deadline. Make-up quizzes will be granted only in cases of documented emergencies or approved accommodations.

Consulting Portfolio: Because the consulting portfolio is a major course assessment, late submissions of each phase (Parts 1–4) will be accepted for up to 3 days with a 10% deduction per

day. After 3 days, submissions will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made.

Presentations: There are no scheduled live presentation times. Students record their executive presentation and submit it online via Canvas by the Sunday 11:59 PM (HST) deadline. Late recordings follow the same policy as the Consulting Portfolio above.

Communication is essential.

Students who experience unavoidable circumstances should contact the instructor before the deadline whenever possible to discuss options. Extensions may be granted at the instructor's discretion when requested in a timely manner.

Make-Up Work

Because this course is fully online and asynchronous, there are no in-class sessions or live quizzes to make up. Make-up requests for missed quizzes are handled under the Quizzes policy above and are granted only in cases of documented emergencies or approved accommodations.

Extra Credit

This course does not offer extra credit.

Incomplete Grade

A grade of Incomplete (I) may be requested only in cases of documented emergencies or other extenuating circumstances that prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the semester, and only when the majority of coursework has already been completed satisfactorily. Students must contact the instructor before the end of the semester to discuss eligibility and to complete any required University paperwork. Approval is at the instructor's discretion and subject to Chaminade University's Incomplete Grade Policy.

Changes to the Syllabus

While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, your instructor reserves the right to change any provision herein at any time. Every effort will be made to keep you advised of such changes, and information about such changes will be available from your instructor.

Final Grades

Final grades are submitted to Self-Service:

A = 90% and above

B = 80-89%

C = 70-79%

D = 60-69%

F = 59% and below

Important Information

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is an essential aspect of all learning, scholarship, and research. It is one of the values regarded most highly by academic communities throughout the world. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and will not be tolerated.

Students are responsible for promoting academic honesty at Chaminade by not participating in any act of dishonesty and by reporting any incidence of academic dishonesty to an instructor or to a University official. Academic dishonesty may include theft of records or examinations, alteration of grades, plagiarism, and unauthorized and/or undisclosed AI usage, in addition to more obvious dishonesty. See catalog section Student Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Work for further information.

Questions of academic dishonesty in a particular class are first reviewed by the instructor, who must make a report with recommendations to the Dean of the Academic Division. Punishment for academic dishonesty will be determined by the instructor and the Dean of Academic Division and may include an "F" grade for the work in question, an "F" grade for the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University.

For the most up to date information, please refer to the Academic Honesty Policy on the Chaminade University Catalog website.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) Statement

Chaminade University recognizes the increasing role of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in academic and professional environments. AI encompasses, but is not limited to, generative AI platforms, automated writing or content generation software, coding assistants, and similar tools. Students must ensure all submitted work genuinely reflects their knowledge and effort. Using AI to produce or significantly complete graded assignments, exams or other academic tasks — defined as use that substitutes for or substantially replaces a student's own analysis, reasoning or written expression — without explicit instructor approval is considered academic misconduct and will be dealt with according to the University's Academic Honesty Policy.

If an instructor has reasonable grounds to question whether submitted work genuinely reflects a student's own knowledge, authorship, or mastery of course material — or whether it meets the course's expectations for AI use — the instructor may require the student to provide additional or alternative evidence of authorship and content mastery. Such evidence may include drafts, notes, revision history, source materials, process explanations, oral discussion, in class work, or completion of an alternative assessment. A student's refusal or inability to provide such evidence may be considered, along with other available information, in evaluating whether the work meets course requirements and stated learning outcomes. Instructors will not rely solely on AI detection software or other automated tools in making grading or academic integrity determinations. Such determinations will be based on the totality of the available information and handled in accordance with applicable University policies and procedures. See the catalog section Student Use of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Work for further information.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination Statement

Chaminade University of Honolulu is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes the dignity of all people, inclusivity and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. For pregnant and parenting students, I am also obligated to provide you with similar resources for support and protections available to you. My goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

Contact information and reporting options: chaminade.edu/titleix/nondiscrimination/. File a report via the Campus Incident Report Form.

Nondiscrimination Policy & Notice of Nondiscrimination

The university is committed to comply with all State and Federal statutes, rules, and regulations which prohibit discrimination. The university is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender identity and expression, age, religion, color, national origin (including shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics), ancestry, citizenship, disability, genetic information, marital status, breastfeeding, arrest and court record (except as permissible under State law), sexual orientation, or status as a covered veteran. Inquiries about Title IX or general Civil Rights

concerns may be referred to the University's Title IX Coordinator, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, or both and contact information may be found at chaminade.edu/titleix/nondiscrimination/. On-campus Confidential Resources may also be found at chaminade.edu/titleix/resources-and-support/.

The University's Nondiscrimination Policy and Grievance Procedures can be located on the University webpage at: <https://chaminade.edu/compliance/title-ix-nondiscrimination-policies-procedures/>.

To report information about conduct that may constitute sex discrimination or make a complaint of sex discrimination under Title IX, please refer to the Campus Incident Report form. Chaminade University of Honolulu prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. The NOTICE of NONDISCRIMINATION can be found here: Notice of Nondiscrimination.

CUH Alert Emergency Notification

To get the latest emergency communication from Chaminade University, students' cell numbers will be connected to Chaminade's emergency notification text system. When you log in to the Chaminade portal, you will be asked to provide some emergency contact information. If you provide a cellphone number, you will receive a text from our emergency notification system asking you to confirm your number. You must respond to that message to complete your registration and get emergency notifications on your phone.

Assessment for Student Work

With the goal of continuing to improve the quality of educational services offered to students, Chaminade University conducts assessments of student achievement of course, program, and institutional learning outcomes. Student work is used anonymously as the basis of these assessments, and the work you do in this course may be used in these assessment efforts.

Student with Disabilities Statement - Kōkua 'Ike

Accessibility Services recognizes disability as a valued aspect of diversity and ensures equal access to the educational environment in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act; the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended; and the principles and professional standards of the Association on Higher Education and Disability. Access is supported through reasonable accommodations and referrals to campus and community resources.

Appointments with the Accessibility Services Coordinator are available through Stellic at chaminade.stellic.com and may be held virtually or in person. Drop-in appointments are also welcome.

Students seeking support must meet with the Accessibility Services Coordinator as early as possible, even if they are unsure whether they have appropriate documentation of their disability or its impacts. The Accessibility Services Coordinator prioritizes listening to students' experiences and will discuss any documentation needs during the initial intake meeting. Students may seek support at any time. Learn more at chaminade.edu/ada-accommodations.

Kōkua 'Ike: Tutoring & Learning Services

Chaminade is proud to offer free, one-on-one tutoring and writing assistance to all students. Tutoring and writing help is available on campus at Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning in a variety of subjects (including, but are not limited to biology, chemistry, math, nursing, English, etc.) from trained Peer and Professional Tutors. Please check Kōkua 'Ike's website for the latest times, list of drop-in hours, and information on scheduling an appointment. Free online tutoring is also available via TutorMe. Tutor Me can be accessed 24/7 from your Canvas account. Simply click on Account > TutorMe. For more information, please contact Kōkua 'Ike at tutoring@chaminade.edu or 808-739-8305.

Campus Resources & Support Services

The following resources are available to all Chaminade students. Reach out early — these services exist to support your success.

Resource	Description	Contact / Website
Accessibility Services (Kōkua 'Ike)	Accommodations under Section 504 and ADA. Contact early — appointments via Stellic, virtual or in person.	chaminade.edu/ada-accommodations
Tutoring & Academic Coaching (Kōkua 'Ike)	Individualized support in English, math, nursing, sciences, and social sciences, plus guidance developing goals and study strategies.	tutoring@chaminade.edu · 808-739-8305
Career Services	Individualized job search strategy coaching, resume reviews, job interview coaching, and access to career-related resources and opportunities.	chaminade.edu/career-services
Basic Needs Resources	Support for food insecurity, housing instability, and other basic needs.	chaminade.edu/basic-needs/
Title IX / Nondiscrimination	Reporting and support for sex discrimination and gender-based violence. Campus Incident Report Form available online.	chaminade.edu/titleix/resources-and-support/
Hazing Prevention	Confidential support, crisis intervention, and reporting for any type of abuse including hazing.	hazingpreventionnetwork.org/athlete-helpline/
Campus Safety / SafeSwords	Security escort service for anyone who feels unsafe walking alone on campus at any time of day. Call security and a professional will escort you to your destination.	chaminade.edu/student-life/security/campus-safeswords-program/
CUH Alert Emergency Notification	Emergency text system. Register your cell number via the Chaminade portal and confirm the text to complete enrollment.	chaminade.edu

Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments / Assessments (Due Sundays 11:59 PM)
1	Aug 17-23	Introduction to U.S. Healthcare	Assignment 1 – Due Aug 23
2	Aug 24-30	Historical Evolution of U.S. Healthcare	Assignment 2 – Due Aug 30
3	Aug 31-Sep 6	Healthcare Financing & Insurance	Quiz 1 – Due Sep 6
4	Sep 7-13	Organization & Administration of Services	Consulting Portfolio Part 1 – Due Sep 13
5	Sep 14-20	Access, Coverage & Affordability	Assignment 3 – Due Sep 20
6	Sep 21-27	Quality, Appropriateness & Value	Assignment 4 – Due Sep 27
7	Sep 28-Oct 4	Equity & Social Justice	Quiz 2 – Due Oct 4
8	Oct 5-11	Public Health System & Workforce	Consulting Portfolio Part 2 – Due Oct 11
9	Oct 12-18	Fall Wellness Week	No assignments due
10	Oct 19-25	International Health System Frameworks & Case Study: United Kingdom (NHS)	Comparative Matrix 1 – Due Oct 25
11	Oct 26-Nov 1	Case Study: Germany & Japan	Quiz 3 + Comparative Matrix 2 – Due Nov 1

Week	Dates	Topics	Assignments / Assessments (Due Sundays 11:59 PM)
12	Nov 2-8	Case Study: Canada	Consulting Portfolio Part 3 – Due Nov 8
13	Nov 9-15	LMIC Health Systems	Assignment 5 – Due Nov 15
14	Nov 16-22	Portfolio Finalization Week	Quiz 4 (Cumulative) – Due Nov 22
15	Nov 23-29	Student Virtual Presentations	Consulting Portfolio Part 4: Final Portfolio & Executive Presentation – Due Nov 29
16	Nov 30-Dec 4*	Course Surveys	Complete Course Evaluation Survey – Due Fri, Dec 4*

*Fall Semester last day of instruction is Fri, Dec 4; Finals Week runs Dec 7-10.

Fall Wellness Week runs Mon, Oct 12 – Fri, Oct 16 (Week 9). No assignments are due that week.