Course Description:
This course will be all over the map – since that is the case for American medical care. We will touch on standard health policy issues (insurance, payment policies, the ACA, etc.) and common clinical problems that lead to medical care (cancer, heart disease, etc.). We will explore the evolution of evidence of medical waste (and harm) coming from Dartmouth researchers. And we will get into the mud of what doctors actually do: things that work, things that don’t and the vast gray area in-between. Here I hope to empower you to be able to get into the clinical detail by developing the skills of analytic thinking, quantitative literacy, and healthy skepticism. You don’t have to be a doctor (or health policymaker) to become an informed citizen – and discerning consumer – for the largest sector of the nation's economy.

Homework:
Since there are only 9 – 3 hour sessions, a lot of your learning will take place outside of class. Prior to each class, there will be some reading (not a lot) and some directed tasks (questions, problems) to complete before each class. You will need to check your email to get these. Students should be present and submit their work – no credit for late homework.

You must get to read my book Less Medicine, More Health – 7 Assumptions that Drive Too Much Medical Care. Lucky you. And luckily for you its short and an easy read. We’ll do an assumption a day starting after the 2nd class.

Class Participation:
Since there are only 16 of you, you should be able to actually participate in class (my typical classes have been 50-80, so I’m looking forward to this). Students should be present to participate – but you probably figured that out on your own. I’d like to have fun, hope you do too.

Final Assignments:
You must get to comment on my book…specifically you will identify the assumption/disturbing truth that most resonates with you and say why. You get to butter me up with 500 words. Then you will identify the assumption/disturbing truth you find least persuasive (or most disagree with). You get to criticize me with 500 words. And I’ll ask you to write an abstract (don’t worry, you will have had some practice by then).

Final Exam:
Not sure exactly what this will look like, but I am sure there will be one.

Components for Grading:
- 25% Homework
- 25% Class Participation
- 25% Final Assignment
- 25% Final Exam