

University of Florida
College of Public Health & Health Professions
HSA 7157 – Research Foundations in Health Policy
Spring, 2018
Delivery Format: On-Campus

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 PM (in HPNP). Other times by appointment (usually in Grinter Hall)

Meetings:

Fridays, Periods 2-4 (9:35--12:35)
HPNP Room G-210

Prerequisites:

Students are assumed to have significant prior knowledge of the US health care and public health systems, and the ability to demonstrate that knowledge in their class participation and completion of assignments. Except by permission of the Instructor, students must have completed HSA 6114 (Introduction to the US Health Care System) or an equivalent class to be admitted to this course.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Purpose and Intended Outcome

Health policy in the United States is dynamic and controversial. Local, state, regional, and national health policies, not to mention those of non-governmental entities and organizations, directly or indirectly impact the activities of delivery systems and the behavior of providers and patients. Despite recent controversy regarding the role and value of science, this course is predicated in part on the proposition that proposed or enacted policy interventions are enhanced if they are informed by rigorous, objective and independent research.

The course will focus on the methods underlying such research, including the manner in which health policy research is structured, executed and reported.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course students should be able to:

- Characterize health policy and health policy research.
- Describe the role of research in the policymaking process, particularly in the United States
- Define Policy Analysis
- Define Evaluation (assessment) Research
- Analyze a significant health policy issue by collecting relevant information from numerous sources; specifying appropriate criteria for decisions; and developing logical alternative solutions, recommendations, and justifications.
- Incorporate quantitative and qualitative evidence in policy analysis including the ability to compile and present relevant data in readily understood formats
- Prepare and present written and oral health policy analysis in a clear and concise manner as evidence of strong communication skills
- Assess or evaluate a health policy intervention.

Instructional Methods

The course includes a combination of readings, discussions, and student presentations.

What is expected of you?

You are expected to actively engage in the course throughout the semester. You must come to scheduled meetings having prepared by completing any out-of-class assignments.

In addition to active engagement in all aspects of the course meetings, readings, webinars or the like, there are **two projects/assignments:**

1. All students will identify a health policy issue reflecting their individual interests, and prepare a policy analysis referring to that issue. Regardless of topic, the projects must include the following elements.

- A summary description of the policy issue of interest, and the core argument as to why it should be viewed as an issue that is properly subject to policy intervention;
- Brief but clear summaries of two or more potential policy interventions (e.g. a new law, a regulation, a rule, a cultural change) that might be expected to positively impact the issue;
- A specific recommendation and proposed policy intervention, selected from among those described as potentially valuable, and including a clearly stated justification for the option selected.;
- A discussion as to the various means whereby the impact of the intervention might be assessed, if it were to be enacted as described.

Each student will be expected to deliver a brief oral presentation in class, capturing each of the four required project elements. The presentation may be relatively formal (including slides, handouts, exercises, etc.), or it may be very informal and conversational. But it **MUST** cover all four of the required elements. In addition to presenting the policy analysis, each student must actively lead a class conversation in which feedback is sought and respectfully considered. Students will be allocated thirty minutes of class time for this presentation, including the

discussion. Subsequent to the presentation, a final version of the policy analysis, including all four of the required elements, and incorporating material derived from the class discussion is to be composed and submitted as a term paper, due no later than March 16, 2018.

2. Each student will prepare a proposed or an actual evaluation/assessment research study to assess the impact of some specified health policy intervention. The study (or proposed study) description must include:

- A clear statement of the specific outcome of the intervention to be assessed, including an operational definition
- A description of the study design
- A detailed description of the data that are to be employed in the assessment
- A description of the data analysis methodology
- If applicable, the findings, discussion and conclusion, otherwise a description of the intended utilization of anticipated findings.

As for the policy analysis, the evaluation research study will be presented in class and subsequently turned in as a written product, due no later than April 20, 2018.

Assessment (Grades)

Active engagement in course activities will be assessed by observation and scored in range of 0-20 points.

Each project will be assessed by observation of the presentation and review of the written product. Each component of each project will be scored in a range from 0-20 points for the presentation and 0-20 points for the written product, to a maximum of 40 points for each project, 80 points overall.

The sum of each student's scores (with a potential range of 0-100 points) will be translated to a letter grade as follows:

- 93 -100 points: A
- 90 - 92 points: A-
- 86 - 89 points: B+
- 83 - 85 points: B
- 80 - 82 points B-
- 76 - 79 points: C+
- 73 - 75 points: C
- 70 - 72 points: C-
- 65 - 69 points: D+
- 60 - 64 points: D
- Fewer than 60 points: E

Please be aware that while a grade of C may count toward a graduate degree at UF (given a sufficient GPA) C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students.

Letter grade to grade point conversions are fixed by UF as follows.

Letter Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+
Grade Points	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33

For greater detail on the meaning of letter grades and related university policies see:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

My teaching philosophy

My role as the instructor is to guide, assist and support students through their own process of acquiring the course subject matter. In choosing to teach almost exclusively at the graduate level, I have for many years been committed to the proposition that learning is and should be left largely in the hands of each individual student.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity. As a student at the University of Florida, you have committed yourself to uphold the Honor Code, which includes the following pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

You are expected to exhibit behavior consistent with this commitment to the UF academic community, and on all work submitted for credit at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

It is your individual responsibility to know and comply with all university policies and procedures regarding academic integrity and the Student Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code at the University of Florida will not be tolerated. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students Office for consideration of disciplinary action. For additional information regarding Academic Integrity, please see Student Conduct and Honor Code or the Graduate Student Website for additional details:

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

<http://gradschool.ufl.edu/students/introduction.html>

Please remember cheating, lying, misrepresentation, or plagiarism in any form are unacceptable and inexcusable.

ONLINE FACULTY AND COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>

SUPPORT SERVICES

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, you must register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please make sure you provide this letter to me by the end of the second week of the course. The College is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to assist students in their coursework.

Counseling and Student Health

- Students sometimes experience stress from academic expectations and/or personal and interpersonal issues that may interfere with their academic performance. If you find yourself facing issues that have the potential to or are already negatively affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and/or seek help through University resources available to you.
- The Counseling and Wellness Center 352-392-1575 offers a variety of support services such as psychological assessment and intervention and assistance for math and test anxiety. On line and in person assistance is available. Visit their website for more information:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>

- You Matter/We Care website: <http://www.umatter.ufl.edu/>. If you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, you can reach out for help through the You Matter/We Care website, which is staffed by Dean of Students and Counseling Center personnel.
- The Student Health Care Center at Shands is a satellite clinic of the main Student Health Care Center located on Fletcher Drive on campus. Student Health at Shands offers a variety of clinical services. The clinic is located on the second floor of the Dental Tower in the Health Science Center. For more information, contact the clinic at 392-0627 or check out the web site at: <https://shcc.ufl.edu/>
- Crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from:

Alachua County Crisis Center
(352) 264-6789

<http://www.alachuacounty.us/DEPTS/CSS/CRISISCENTER/Pages/CrisisCenter.aspx>

Do not wait until you reach a crisis to come in and talk with us. The University has helped many students through stressful situations impacting their academic performance. You are not alone, so do not be afraid to ask for assistance.

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DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT

Course Materials and Technology

There is no required text for this course. However, numerous foundational volumes are germane to our conversations, depending primarily on your prior exposure to relevant content and the focus of your interest for the course. Examples include:

Longest BB. *Health Policymaking in the United States*. Current edition. Health Administration Press: Chicago, Ill.

Bardach E. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis*. The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving. Current Edition, CQ Press, Washington, DC.

Seavey JW, Aytur SA, McGrath RJ *Health Policy Analysis. Framework and Tools for Success*. Springer Publishing Company

Teitelbaum, JB and Wilensky SE *Essentials of Health Policy and Law* Current Edition. Jones and Bartlett

Shi, L., Singh, DA, (2016) *Essentials of the U.S. Health Care System*. Current Edition. Jones and Bartlett Learning

Topical Outline/Course Schedule

SECTION 1: Overview of US Healthcare Policy

January 19 Introductions, course overview, setting the context

- Topics:
 - Defining health policy
 - Rationale for health policy
 - Market failure
 - Public interest theory of legislation
 - Health or healthcare as a right?
 - Role of government in healthcare
 - Understanding fairness and efficiency
 - American values in health care and policy
 - Right to health/health care as a basis for government action
 - The Role of Research
 - Debates:
 - Individuals are in the best position to maintain their healthcare, not the government
 - Market competition can lead to efficient pricing and consumption of health care services
 - Research doesn't matter

- Discussion of individual and group topic assignments for policy presentations
- Potential Reading:
 - Feldstein PJ (2006) *The Politics of Health Legislation* 3rd edition Health Administration Press, Chicago Ill. Chapter 1
 - Longest Chapter 1: Health and Health Policy
 - Articles from: Kronenfeld JJ, Parmet WE, Zezza (2012) *Debates on U.S. Health Care* Sage
 - Chapter 1 – Moral Significance of Health Care (Illingworth and Sandler)
 - Chapter 3 – Health Care as a Human Right (Meier and Bhattacharya)
 - Chapter 4 – Individual and Societal Responsibility for Health (Jones, Platt, Rubin, Jacobson)
 - Chapter 5 - The Role of the Market in Health Care (Freedman, Horwitz)

January 26

- Topics:
 - The political culture and language of health policy
 - The political parties and power
 - The Iron Triangle
 - Precedents for current US health policy
 - Understanding the language of the US political system
 - History of US health policy - key milestones
 - Debate:
 - Federal health policy
 - The individual mandate is the best way to obtain universal or near universal coverage
 - An employer mandate is an efficient and effective tool to expand coverage
 - State Health Policies
 - A block grant provision would give states more flexibility to administer the Medicaid program
- Potential Reading:
 - Peterson MA. From Trust to Political Power: Interest Groups, Public Choice and Health Care. In: Lee PR and Estes CL *The Nation's Health* (pages 183-198) Jones and Bartlett Publishers: Sudbury, MA, 2003.
 - Rothman J A Century of Failure: Health Care Reform in America in Conrad P *The Sociology of Health and Illness. Critical Perspectives* (7th edition) (pages 292-300) Worth Publishers: NY, NY: 2005.
 - Articles from: Kronenfeld JJ, Parmet WE, Zezza (2012) *Debates on U.S. Health Care* Sage
 - Chapter 15 – Individual mandate (Tanden, Spiro, Miller)
 - Chapter 18 – Employer Mandate (Carey)
 - Chapter 26 – Medicaid Program Flexibility (Duncan, Bell, Hall, Samuels)

February 2

- Topic:
 - The policy process
 - Overview
 - Agenda setting
 - Window of opportunity
 - Development of legislation
 - Legislative process
 - Health professionals in the legislative process
 - Implementation: rulemaking and operation
 - The Affordable Care Act as a Case Study
- Potential Reading:
 - Longest Chapter 2: The Context and Process of Health Policymaking
 - Evans CH, Degutis LC What it takes for Congress to Act. *American Journal of Health Promotion* November/December 2003 18(2): 177-181.
 - Craig RL et al (2010) Public Health Professionals as Policy Entrepreneurs: Arkansas's Childhood Obesity Policy Experience. Vol. 100:2047-2052

SECTION 2: Health Policy Analysis

February 9

- Topic:
 - Overview of policy analysis
 - Defining Policy Analysis
 - Ethical Issues in policy analysis
 - Using language; semantics
 - Your role
 - Policy Analysis Steps
 - Step 1 - Defining the problem
 - Step 2 - Assembling the Evidence
 - Making Conclusions:
 - Step 3 - Constructing alternatives
 - Step 4 - Selecting criteria
 - Step 5 - Projecting outcomes
 - Step 6 - Confront trade-offs
 - Step 7 – Decide
- Potential Readings:
 - Urban Institute/Kaiser Family Foundation Florida Medicaid Reform: Informed Consumer Choice
 - Chapter 14 in Teitelbaum and Wilensky
 - Weimer DL and Vining AR Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice
 - Chapter 13: Gathering Information for Policy Analysis
 - Bardach, pages 1-59

February 16: No Meeting

February 23: Policy Analysis Presentations

- Required Readings:
 - Assigned by presenter

SECTION 3: Evaluation Research and Assessment

March 2: Evaluation Research

- Definitions: HSR vs Policy Research vs Program Evaluation
- Introduction to Program Evaluation
- Study Designs
- Steps in inquiry

Aday LA, Begley CE, Lairson DR, Balkrishnan R Evaluating the Healthcare System. Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Equity, Chapter 1(pp1-49), Health Administration Press, Chicago, ILL

Aday LA, Begley CE, Lairson DR, Balkrishnan R Evaluating the Healthcare System. Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Equity, Chapter 9 (pp 301-333), Health Administration Press, Chicago, ILL

Rossi PH, Lipsey MW and Freeman HE Evaluation: A Systematic Approach Chapter 3: Identifying issues and formulating questions (pp 67-99)

March 9 No Meeting...Spring Break

March 16 Data Sources

Data Sources for Policy Research (Allyson)

- Survey Data
- Administrative and Claims Data
- Counting the Uninsured
- Qualitative/Case Study Research

Become familiar with surveys conducted by the Federal Government. Visit:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/default.htm> on the left hand bar is a link to surveys and data collection systems. (National Center for Health Statistics)
- <http://www.ahrq.gov> follow the link for data and surveys.(Agency for Health Care Quality and Research)
- <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/rsds.asp> Follow the link to Research – especially note the MCBS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services)

- Summary of Surveys and Data Systems, National Center for Health Statistics, June 2004
www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/NCHS_Survey_Matrix.pdf

Iezzoni LI 2002 Using Administrative Data to Study Persons with Disabilities *The Milbank Quarterly* 80(2): 347-379.

Iezzoni I LI 1997 Assessing Quality Using Administrative Data *Annals of Internal Medicine* 127(8 pt 2): 666-74.

Kincheloe J, Brown ER, Frates J, Call KT, Yen W, Watkins J 2006 Can We Trust Population Surveys to Count Medicaid and the Uninsured? *Health Affairs* 25(4):1163-1167.

Chattopadhyay A and Bindman AB 2006 The Contribution of Medicaid Managed Care to the Increasing Undercount of Medicaid Beneficiaries in the Current Population Survey *Medical Care* 44(9):822-826.

Davern M, Rodin H, Beebe TJ, Call KT 2005 The Effect of Income Question Design on Health Surveys on Family Income, Poverty, Eligibility Estimates *Health Services Research* 49(5 part I):1534-1552.

Call KT, Davidson G, Hall A, Kincheloe J, Blewett LA, Brown ER *Administrative Data case Study Report: Sources of Discrepancy between Survey-based Estimates of Medicaid Coverage and State Administrative Counts* State health Access Data Assistance Center, University of Minnesota, July 2006.

March 23 and 30

Optional Discussion Meetings on Current US Health Care Systems Attributes and Issues

April 6

Evaluation Research Presentations

April 13 Individual meetings as needed/requested.

April 20 No Meeting (Dr. Duncan will be out of town)

Appendix Readings relevant for the Optional (March 23 and 30) Meetings.

Historical Foundations for Current State of US Health Care Policy

- Historical precedents for current US health care policy
 - Physicians, Hospitals, and Public Health
 - Role of Health Insurance
- Today's health policy environment

Historical Precedents

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 1, Chapter 3. The Consolidation of Professional Authority pp. 29-144

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 2, Chapter 2. The Reconstitution of the Hospital pp. 145-179

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 2, Chapter 1. The Mirage of Reform pp 198-234.

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 2, Chapter 2. The Triumph of Accommodation 290-334.

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 2, Chapter 1. The Mirage of Reform pg 235-289.

Current Policy Environment

Rothman J *A Century of Failure: Health Care Reform in America* in Conrad P *The Sociology of Health and Illness. Critical Perspectives (7th edition)* (pages 292-300) Worth Publishers: New York, New York, 2005

Peterson MA *From Trust to Political Power. Interest Groups, Public Choice and Health Care* in Lee PR and Estes CL *The Nation's Health* (pages 183-198) Jones and Bartlett Publishers: Sudbury, MA, 2003.

Barr DA, Lee PR and Benjamin AE *Health Care and Health Care Policy in a Changing World* in Lee PR and Estes CL *The Nation's Health* (pages 199-212) Jones and Bartlett Publishers: Sudbury, MA, 2003.

Barr DA *Introduction to US Health Policy* - Chapter 2 *Health Care as a Reflection of Underlying Cultural Values and Institutions* (page20-51)

Oberlander J. (2012). Unfinished Journey – A Century of Health Care Reform in the United States. NEJM 367(7):585-590, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMp1202111>

Navarro V Why some countries have national health insurance, others have national health services, and the US has neither *Social Science and Medicine* 1989; 28(9):887-898.

Navarro V The Politics of Health Care Reforms in US Presidential Elections (2008) *International Journal of Health Services* Volume 38 (4):597-606

An Overview US Health Care (I)

- Spending and Cost
- Quality
- Access

Spending and Cost

Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Care Costs. A Primer.* May 2012 <http://kff.org/health-costs/issue-brief/health-care-costs-a-primer/>

NIHCM (2012). U.S. Health Care Spending: The Big Picture
[http://www.nihcm.org/images/stories/Data Brief 1 - Big Picture FINAL.pdf](http://www.nihcm.org/images/stories/Data%20Brief%201%20-%20Big%20Picture%20FINAL.pdf)

NICHM (2012) The Concentration of Health Care Spending
[http://www.nihcm.org/images/stories/DataBrief3 Final.pdf](http://www.nihcm.org/images/stories/DataBrief3_Final.pdf)

White C, Cubanski J, Neuman T December 2014 How Much of the Medicare Spending Slowdown Can be Explained ? Insights and Analysis from 2014 The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation <http://files.kff.org/attachment/issue-brief-how-much-of-the-medicare-spending-slowdown-can-be-explained-insights-and-analysis-from-2014>

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation July 2014 The Facts on Medicare Spending and Financing.
<http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/7305-08-the-facts-on-medicare-spending-and-financing.pdf>

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation February 2014 Medicaid Per Enrollee Spending: Variation Across Sates

Hartman M, Martin AB, Lassman D, Catlin A, and the National Health Expenditure Accounts Team (2014) National Health Spending in 2013: Growth Slows, Remains in Step with the Overall Economy *Health Affairs* published ahead of print doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2014.1107

Sisko AM, Keehan SP, GA Cuckler, Madison AJ et al (2014) National Health Expenditure Projections, 2013-2023: Faster Growth Expected with Expanded Coverage and Improving Economy *Health Affairs* published ahead of print doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2014.0560

Altman D Our Fragmented Approach to Health-Care Costs *The Wall Street Journal* December 4, 2014 <http://kff.org/health-costs/perspective/our-fragmented-approach-to-health-care-costs/>

Emanuel E. et al (2012). A Systemic Approach to Containing Health Care Spending. *NEJM* <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMs1205901>

Antos J.R. et al (2012). Bending the Cost Curve through Market-Based Incentives. *NEJM* <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMs1207996>

Thorpe KE (2005) The Rise in Health Care Spending and What to do About It. *Health Affairs*, Vol 24 (6): 1436-1445.

An Overview of US Health Care (II)

Access and Health Insurance

Kaiser Family Foundation (2012). The Uninsured and the Difference Health Insurance Makes <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/1420-14.pdf>

Majerol M, Newkirk V, and Garfield R December 5, 2014 The Uninsured: A Primer – Key Facts About Health Insurance and the Uninsured in America. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation <http://kff.org/uninsured/report/the-uninsured-a-primer/>

Stephens J, Gates A, Newkirk V, Snyder L Health Coverage and Care in the South: A Chartbook

Quality

National Committee on Quality Assurance *The State of Health Care Quality Report* 2014

Bodeheimer T Coordinating care – A Perilous Journey Through the Health Care System *New England Journal of Medicine*

Bodenheimer T, Wagner EH, Grumbach K (2002) Improving Primary Care for Patients with Chronic Illness 288:1775-1779

Institute of Medicine Crossing the Quality Chasm: A new Health System for the 21st Century. Brief Report <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2001/Crossing-the-Quality-Chasm-A-New-Health-System-for-the-21st-Century.aspx>

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