

# SYLLABUS

University of Florida  
College of Public Health and Health Professions  
HSA 6152: Health Policy (3 credits)

Spring, 2020

Delivery Format: On-Campus

Instructor Name: David Guzick, M.D., Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Tuesday 8:30am-11:00am, CTSI Room 3217 by appointment.

## Class Schedule

Fridays: CTRB, Rm. 3162, 9 am – 12 pm

Preferred course communications: Please contact Dr. Guzick via Outlook email.

Email Policy: Response within 24 hours to emails received on weekdays and 48 hours to emails received on the weekend.

Prerequisites: Instructor Consent.

January 10: Introduction/Overview

January 17: Moral hazard, co-pays and deductibles

January 24: Pharmaceuticals

January 31: Insurers

February 7: Hospitals and physicians

February 14: Administrative costs

February 21: Provider-induced demand/Evidence-based practice

March 6: *Spring Break – no class*

March 13: Cost-benefit/Cost-effectiveness/Cost-utility analysis

March 20: Behavioral determinants of disease

March 27: Medicare Advantage and ACOs

April 3: International comparisons

April 10: Single-payer system

- April 17: Incremental reform
- April 24: *Reading days – no class*
- April 28: Due date for health policy paper

### Purpose and Outcome

*Course Overview:* This course will take place in a seminar-type environment in which there can be a rigorous, analytic exploration of health policy. Students will be expected to be active participants based on significant pre-class preparation. Contemporary policy issues related to the determinants of health care quality, cost and access will be informed by the health services and health economics literature. Additional material from government and foundation reports, blogs and news reports will be incorporated as appropriate. A specific policy issue will be taken up each week, for which several papers will be presented by students and discussed. The number of presentations will be based on the number of topics to be reviewed. Some papers will be assigned and some will be identified by students. For each topic, the student will be expected to provide a concise and critical summary of the policy issue being considered and the pros and cons of various policy alternatives. Presentation of papers will entail a summary of the specific aim(s) posed, why this is an important research/policy question and the “obvious next step” in the literature, the rationale for the methodologic and statistical design used, analysis of the reported results and authors’ discussion, and the student’s key take-aways. Class discussion will ensue.

*Course Objectives and/or Goals:* Upon completion of the course, students are expected to be able to describe the key health policy issues confronting the United States. They will be able to state clearly the pros and cons of policy alternatives pertaining to these key issues.

*Instructional Methods:* HSA 6152 will be a highly participatory course in which the instructor will guide well prepared students in their presentations and discussions. The instruction will therefore largely be peer-based, but with close oversight by the instructor. The benefits that students will receive from this course are directly related to their level of class preparation and participation.

*Course materials:* There is no required textbook for this course. Rather, numerous textbook chapters, government/foundation reports, commentaries and manuscripts will be identified in advance of class, sometimes by the instructor and sometimes by the student with input from the instructor. These materials will be available one week ahead of time..

*Grading:* Assessment of student performance will be based on (1) the quality of their presentations, which will be approximately evenly distributed across students over the course of the semester (50 points); (2) the quality of their participation in discussions

(25 points); and (3) a policy paper on a topic of their choosing with instructor approval (25 points).

Point system used: (we will use the standard UF template to translate course points translate into letter grades). Thus:

93-100 points = A  
90-92 points = A-  
87-89 points = B+  
83-86 points = B  
80-82 points = B-  
77-79 points = C+  
73-76 points = C  
70-72 points = C-  
67-69 points = D+  
63-66 points = D

Please be aware that a C- is not an acceptable grade for graduate students. The GPA for graduate students must be 3.0 based on 5000 level courses and above to graduate. A grade of C counts toward a graduate degree only if based on credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher that have been earned with a B+ or higher. More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

#### Policy Related to Required Class Attendance

Students are required to attend all lecture and small group sessions unless significant circumstances make attendance impossible, which should be communicated to the instructor in advance. Excused absences must be consistent with university policies in the Graduate Catalog

(<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#attendance>) and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

#### Expectations Regarding Course Behavior

Students are expected to arrive for class on time, and be prepared and ready to participate in class discussions. Students are required to silence all cell phones and close all laptop computers during class unless they are to be used to support directed class activities. 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>

### Online Faculty 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/>.

### Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you require classroom accommodation because of a disability, it is strongly recommended you register with the Dean of Students Office <http://www.dso.ufl.edu> within the first week of class or as soon as you believe you might be eligible for accommodations. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation of accommodations to you, which you must then give to me as the instructor of the course to receive accommodations. Please do this as soon as possible after you receive the letter. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. 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. Visit their web site for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu>. On line and in person assistance is available.
- 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://schh.ufl.edu/>

### Inclusive Learning Environment

Public health and health professions are based on the belief in human dignity and on respect for the individual. As we share our personal beliefs inside or outside of the classroom, it is always with the understanding that we value and respect diversity of background, experience, and opinion, where every individual feels valued. We believe in, and promote, openness and tolerance of differences in ethnicity and culture, and we respect differing personal, spiritual, religious and political values. We further believe that celebrating such diversity enriches the quality of the educational experiences we provide our students and enhances our own personal and professional relationships. We embrace The University of Florida's Non-Discrimination Policy, which reads, "The University shall actively promote equal opportunity policies and practices conforming to laws against discrimination. The University is committed to non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act." If you have questions or concerns about your rights and responsibilities for inclusive learning environment, please see your instructor or refer to the Office of Multicultural & Diversity Affairs website: [www.multicultural.ufl.edu](http://www.multicultural.ufl.edu)