The College of Charleston
POLI 309.01- Health Policy
Spring Semester 2018
MWF 11 – 11:50 A.M.
Education Center 118

Instructor: Marguerite Archie-Hudson, Ph.D
Office hours: MWF 1:00-3:00 P.M. and by appointment
Office Location: 114 Wentworth Street, Room 101
Telephone: 843-93-8138
E Mail archiehudsonm@cofc.edu

Course Description and Objectives:

Political Science 309.01 will focus on American health policymaking with particular focus on how current federal, state and local laws and policies address the three pillars of health care: access, cost and quality. The course will examine the political and social environments in which health policymaking occurs and the key policy actors that drive federal and state decisions regarding health care for all Americans.

U.S. Presidents have been key initiators of major health policy. The passage of the Social Security Act of 1935 (President Roosevelt) began the development of a complex system of health delivery that was followed by federal legislation to create Medicare and Medicaid (President Lyndon Johnson), The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act –EMTALA (President Ronald Reagan), The Children’s Health Insurance Program (President Bill Clinton), the Medicare Prescription Drug Act (President George W. Bush) and The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act- ACA (President Barack Obama). Each of these major health policy initiatives raised fundamental policy questions of “who benefits?” and “who pays?”

At the conclusion of the semester students should be able to (1) identify the historic and current policies that shape and inform the delivery of health care in America; (2) understand the effect of these policies on the issue of access, cost and quality; and (3) be able to make informed analyses regarding the effectiveness of current federal, state and local health policies in addressing the healthcare needs of the nation.

Course Requirements

A. Regular class attendance. A daily sign-in sheet will be provided.
B. Expectation for class participation include reading assignments prior to class, joining in class discussions and turning in assignments on time. Late assignments will incur severe grade deductions.
C. Electronic devices are permitted only for note-taking. Students who violate this rule will incur severe grade deductions.
D. Students are encouraged to utilize posted office hours and/or schedule appointments to discuss assignments and other academic concerns.
E. Students who are receiving services through the Center for Disability Services, are scheduled to travel with an athletic team or will participate in a student government or other official off-campus activity during the semester must present a letter of verification signed by the appropriate college official.

F. Students are encouraged to utilize the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library, First Floor) academic support services for assistance in study strategies and other academic concerns.

G. Students who plan personal (non-emergency) off-campus trips prior to a scheduled exam (Midterm or Final) will not receive an excused absence nor have an opportunity to make up the exam.

**GRADES**

Students are expected to read, study, analyze and evaluate the role of major policy actors, laws, policies and agencies in shaping present health care policy. The semester grade will be based on a three-part policy analysis, a Midterm Examination, a Final Examination and class attendance/participation as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Policy Analysis, Part One</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Policy Analysis, Part Two</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Policy Analysis, Part Three</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Midterm Examination</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Class attendance/participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Readings**

There is not a required textbook. A series of reports, articles and data will be assigned throughout the semester. Among them are the following:

4. United Health Foundation- “America’s Health Rankings”
6. “Crossing the Quality Chasm: The IOM Health Care Quality Initiative” – The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.”
8. “Cracking the Code on Health Care Costs” – A Report by the State Health Care Containment Commission- the Miller Center, the University of Virginia.
10. A Glossary of Health Care Insurance Care Terms”
11. The ACA Essential Health Benefits”- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services


Course Outline

January 2018

8     Introductions and semester overview
10    Review of semester research assignments
12    Public Policy defined
15    Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday – No Class

Overview of Public Policy

17    Public Policy defined
22    Community Health Needs Assessment
24    Community Health Needs Assessment
26    Policy Typologies
29    Policy Typologies
31    No Class – Professor at State Capitol (Meeting w/ Legislators-Medicaid expansion)

February 2018

2     Policy Activities
5     Policy Activities
7     Policy Environments
9     Policy Environments
Policy Analysis # 1 Due
12    Policy Actors
14    Policy Actors
The Three Pillars of Health Care: Access, Cost, Quality
16    U.S. Surgeon General: Healthy People 2020 Initiative
Health Care Access – defined

Health Care Access

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

Health Care Costs
“Cracking the Code on Health Care Costs” – the State Health Care Cost Containment Commission Report (required reading)

Health Care Cost Containment Commission Report

**March 2018**

Health Care Costs

Health Care Quality
“Crossing the Quality Chasm: The Institute of Medicine Health Care Quality Initiative” (required reading)

Health Care Quality

**The Federal Role in Health Policymaking**

The Congressional Committees

The Congressional Committees

The Federal Departments

Policy Analysis #2 Due

Spring Break

Spring Break

Spring Break

The Federal Agencies

The Federal Agencies

The Federal “Safety Net” (Handout)
**Required Research Assignments**

The semester research assignment is a three-part policy analysis of the South Carolina Medicaid Program. The policy question is whether the state’s program should be expanded to include all eligible citizens.

**Paper #1 - Overview of the federal Medicaid program, including the ACA mandate and the U.S. Supreme Court response.** The analysis will focus on the following:

a. The statutory authority for the federal law  
b. The national data/statistics that describe the program  
c. The federal eligibility guidelines for state participation in the federal program  
d. The federal agency that has responsibility for the implementation of the federal program  
e. The principal policy actors and stakeholders  
f. The financing structure of federal/state Medicaid programs

**Paper #2 - Overview of the current SC Medicaid Program – policy, structure and implementation**

a. The statutory authority for the state program  
b. The name, structure and implementation of the SC program  
c. The principal policy actors in the implementation of SC Medicaid  
d. The stakeholders affected by the SC Medicaid program
e. The eligibility criteria and the number of enrollees  
f. The financing structure and income source(s) for the SC program  
g. The medical services provided under SC Medicaid  

Paper # 3 – Current Issues in South Carolina Medicaid Program  

a. The number of Medicare eligible persons not enrolled in the SC program  
b. The specific health care options available to eligible citizens not enrolled  
c. The principal policy actors with decision making authority for the SC program  
d. The current policy options available to the policy actors

Each paper will have a maximum of six single-spaced pages. Answers must be specific to each section and not in narrative or essay form. Papers that do not follow this format will not be accepted.

Works cited will follow the MLA style citation format. Appendices (charts, graphs, etc.) will not be counted against the maximum number of pages.