

The College of Charleston
POLI 309.01 – Health Policy
Fall Semester 2016
MWF 8:00 A.M.-8:50 A.M.
Maybank 316

Instructor: Marguerite Archie-Hudson, Ph.D.
Office hours: Monday/Wednesday /Friday: 9:15-10-30 A.M and by appointment
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Course Description and Objectives:

Political Science 309.01 will focus on federal and state laws, policies and institutional structures that impact the three pillars of health care: Access, Cost and Quality. The course will examine the current status, financing and delivery of health care, 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.

The debates around the scope, practice, delivery and sustainability of health care have engendered policy disagreements and conflicts for decades. The passage of the Social Security Act of 1935 initiated the development of a complex system of health delivery that has continued to be the subject of contentious debate around the questions of “who pays? – and who benefits?” The passage of federal legislation to create Medicare, Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and the Medicare Prescription Drug Act all contributed to the development of a public “Safety Net” with regard to the delivery of American health care.

In March 2010 the 111th U.S. Congress passed, and President Barack Obama signed into law, the most comprehensive and far-reaching health policy legislation in decades- the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148, as amended by the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act (P.L. 111-152). This historic enactment followed a bitter partisan battle over health care reform and was passed with nearly united opposition from the Republican members of Congress. The Affordable Care Act - (ACA), as the combined legislation is known - is considered a landmark legislative achievement in the history of health and social welfare policy in the United States, the most significant since the Social Security Act of 1935 and the Medicare and Medicaid Acts of 1965. However, as the question of reauthorization nears the bitter partisan divide continues on whether the legislation should be strengthened or abolished. If the latter position prevails, how will the millions of Americans currently covered receive the health care they need?

At the conclusion of the semester students should be able to (a) identify the historic and current policies that shape and inform the delivery of health care in America, (b) discuss the effect of these policies on the issues of access, cost and quality and (c) be able to make informed analyses regarding the effectiveness of current federal and state health care policies in addressing the healthcare needs of the American public.

Course Requirements

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| g. Final Examination | 20% |
| h. Class attendance/participation | 15% |

Required Textbook

Knickman, James R. and Kovner, Anthony R., Editors: Health Care Delivery in the United States, 11th Edition, 2015, Springer Publishing Company, New York, N Y.

Additional recommended readings:

1. Obama, Barack, J.D., "U.S. Health Care Reform: Progress to date and next steps", Journal of the American Medical Association, July 11, 2016.
2. McDonald, Margaret and Hertz, Robin, "Pfizer Facts: A Profile of Uninsured Persons in the United States. Pfizer.Org.
3. "The Uninsured – A Primer: Key Facts about Americans without Health Insurance"- the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.
4. "The Uninsured and the Difference Health Insurance Makes." www. Kff.org, September 2010.
5. Devore, Kathryn Pitkin, Gresenz Carol and Ringel, Jeanne: "Understanding Disparities in Health Care Access", Health Affairs Journal, Vol. 30: 1844-1851, October 2013.
6. Kaiser Family Foundation: "Focus on Health Care Disparities-Key Facts", December 2012.
7. Davis, Patricia A: Medicare Primer: CRS Report for Congress, Congressional Research Service, January 31, 2013.
8. Medicaid- A Primer 2013: The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.
9. Claxton, Gary: "How Private Insurance Works- a Primer", Institute for Health Care Research and Policy, Georgetown University, April 2002.
10. "U.S. Healthcare Costs: Background Brief", Kaiser Edu.Org.
11. Berry, Daniel J: "Drivers of U.S. Health Care Costs", Journal of Health Affairs, Dec. 2011- Vol. 30, No. 12
12. "Crossing the Quality Chasm: The IOM Health Care Quality Initiative:" The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Science.
13. "National Health Quality Report" – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality", U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.
14. National College of Emergency Physicians: Report on Healthcare Quality
15. United Health Foundation: America's Health Ranking- U.S. Health Overview"- 2015 Edition
16. Goldberg, Janet and Doonan, Michael- Massachusetts Health Care Reform 2006- An Analysis of the Pros and Cons" – Health Policy Institute of Ohio.
17. Kaiser Family Foundation- "Focus on Health Reform: Issue Brief: Massachusetts Health Care Reform Plan: 6 Years Later"-May 2012.
18. Kaiser Family Foundation. " Focus on Health Reform- Summary of the new Health Care Law", April 2011

August 2016

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| Wed 24 | Introductions and semester overview |
| Fri 26 | Review of semester research assignments |
| Mon 29 | Defining Public Policy (Handout) |
| Wed 31 | Defining Public Policy |

September 2016

Mon 5	Defining Health Care Policy - key concepts Knickman, Chapter One
Wed 7	Defining Characteristics of the U.S. Health Care System Knickman – Chapter One
Fri 9	Defining Characteristics of the U.S. Health Care System Knickman – Chapter One
Mon 12	Major Issues in the U.S. Health Care System Knickman, Chapter One <u>Paper One Due</u>
Wed 14	Major Issues in the U.S. Health Care System – Shared Responsibility Knickman, Chapter Two
Fri 16	Health Care Providers- key stakeholders in health policy development Knickman, Chapter Eleven
Mon 19	Health Care Providers and health policy development Knickman, Chapter Eleven
Wed 21	Employers-key stakeholders in health policy development Knickman, Chapter Nine
Fri 23	Employers and health policy development Knickman- Chapter Three
Mon 26	Health Insurers- Key stakeholders in health policy development Knickman- Chapter Eleven
Wed 28	Health Insurers – Key stakeholders <u>Paper Two Due</u>
Fri 30	Insurers- Decoding the language of insurance (Handout)
October 2016	
Mon 3	U.S. Congress: Key stakeholders in health policy
Wed 5	U.S. Congress: Key stakeholders in health policy
Fri 7	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services: Key stakeholder in health policy
Mon 10	Midterm Examination
Wed 12	The federal Health Care “Safety Net” (Handout)

Fri 14	The federal Health Care Safety Net
Mon 17	The federal Health Care Safety Net
Wed 19	State roles in health care policy
Mon 24	State roles in health care policy
Wed 26	The Mass. Health Care Act of 2006
Fri 28	The Mass. Health Care Act of 2006 – 6 years later <u>Paper Three Due</u>
Mon 31	The Affordable Care Act of 2010
<u>November 2016</u>	
Wed 2	The Affordable Care Act of 2010
Fri 4	The Affordable Care Act of 2010
Mon 7	Fall Break – No Class
Wed 9	The Affordable Care Act- reauthorization challenges
Fri 11	The Affordable Care Act – reauthorization challenges <u>Paper Four Due</u>
Mon 14	Future of health care delivery- Technology
Wed 16	Future of health care delivery – Workforce
Fri 18	Class presentation- Group One
Mon 21	Class Presentation – Group Two
Wed 23	Thanksgiving Holiday- No Class
Fri 25	Thanksgiving Holiday -No Class
Mon 28	Class presentation – Group Three
Wed 30	Class presentation- Group Four <u>Paper Five Due</u>
<u>December 2016</u>	
Mon 5	Last Day of Class- Final Exam Review

Tue 6 Reading Day

Sat 10 **FINAL EXAMINATION**
8:00 A.M.- 11:00 A.M.
Maybank 316

Required Research Assignment

This purpose of this required assignment is to study a current health issue with the potential for major impact on the access, cost and quality of health for Americans. Once you select a topic you will be required to write five papers on the subject and draw a conclusion as to whether (a) the current policy or administrative solution is effective in responding to the issue; (b) whether a new law or administrative solution is indicated; (c) whether the management of this issue should be left to federal, state or local authorities; (d) state your personal opinion on whether you support or oppose the stated solution as you begin your research and (e) whether your opinion became more informed, changed or remain the same at the conclusion of your research- and what factors or information changed your opinion or helped you to maintain your original position. Several students will be researching the same topic and at the end of the semester there will be a group presentation to the class regarding whether the current solution solves the identified problem or presents additional problems for the government and/or the public.

You will select a topic from the four issues described below:

Group 1 – Regulation of prescription drug pricing – The EpiPen has become the prescription of choice for reversing life-threatening allergic reactions. Many states require schools and other public facilities to keep supplies of this drug on hand in case of an emergency. The price of a prescription for the EpiPen had risen rapidly in the last 4 years. The policy question – Should the federal government have authority to regulate price increases for the EpiPen and similar potentially life-saving drugs ?

Group 2- Gun violence and Public Health- The incidence of gun violence has reached epidemic proportion in America . The effects are devastating on families and communities. The Policy Question: Should the U.S. Congress declare gun violence to be a public health issue as well as a criminal justice issue?

Group 3 – Regulation of Air Ambulances- Current federal law bans states from regulating air ambulance companies, leaving families with exorbitant costs, as much as \$80,000 one way, to transport critically ill patients to the necessary facilities. The Policy Question: Should the current federal law be revised to allow regulation of these companies?

Group 4- The Crisis in Rural Health Care – The National Rural Health Association asserts that rural areas face major health disparities to health care not found in urban areas- and that this situation has reached epidemic proportions. The Policy Question: Should state legislatures include establishing and supporting rural health as a specific policy responsibility ?

Outline for writing Research papers

1. Papers 1 through 4 should be double-spaced; each should be a maximum of 5 pages, excluding charts, graphs or works cited.

2. Paper 5 should be double-spaced and not exceed a maximum of 10 pages, excluding charts, graphs or works cited.
3. Your papers must follow the outline below:

Topic One: Regulation of Prescription Drugs Pricing

1. Paper One-Identify the major life-threatening allergic reactions and the principal drug that treats these conditions. Give the incidence of life-threatening allergic reactions annually according to the CDC, including how many of these reactions occur in children. Explain why the EpiPen is the prescription of choice in treating a major allergic reaction.
2. Paper Two -Identify the states that require public schools to purchase and store EpiPens so as to be responsive to an in-school event. What policy reasons are given for these mandates?
3. Paper three – Identify the major company that produces the EpiPen, the increase in its pricing in the past five years and the increase in company profits directly from the sale of this drug. Identify the U.S. Senator who has requested the company to produce its pricing data and the Committee that he chairs.
4. Paper Four- Identify the federal agency requested by Senator Amy Klobuchar to investigate the company's drug pricing procedure. Explain why this agency has jurisdiction over this issue.
5. Paper Five – Based on your research do you take a position in support or opposition to the U.S. Congress imposing pricing regulations on Mylan laboratories and other pharmaceutical companies that produce related drugs? If you were a member of Congress how would you vote on this issue?

Topic Two: Gun Violence and Public Health

1. Paper One – According to the Centers for Disease Control, state the number of firearms death in the U.S. in 2014 and in 2015. Identify how many of these fatalities involved children. State how many persons were injured in shootings in each of these years.
2. Paper Two – What is the position of the American Public Health Association on the effects of gun violence on children, families and the overall health of communities? What evidence do they provide for their position on this issue?
3. Paper Three – State the reason the APHA joined with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence to co-host the 2014 Firearm Injury- Gun Violence Prevention Partner Forum in 2014. Provide the major recommendations from this Forum and the policymakers to whom they were directed.
4. Paper Four- On June 19,2016, 58 national public health, medical and research organizations signed a letter to the United States Senate in support of two amendments to the Senate's Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations bill. Identify the Amendments and their Senator sponsors. Identify 10 of the agencies that signed the letter.
5. Paper Five – Based on your research, do you support the two proposals contained in these amendments to mitigate the incidents and effects of gun violence? Do you agree with the APHA that gun violence is a public health as well as a criminal justice issue?

Topic Three: Regulation of Air Ambulances

1. Paper One – Identify the 1978 federal law that prohibits government from imposing any restrictions or rules on air ambulances. State the primary policy reasons for this law.
2. Paper Two- State the typical medical conditions for which air ambulances are necessary forms of transportation. State the reasons why the Association of Air Medical Services support the current law.
3. Paper Three- Explain the principal reasons why air ambulance services are so costly, including the role of insurance networks in cost calculations. Explain the current expenses to states for critically ill patients with no insurance.
4. Paper Four – U.S. Senators Jon Tester (Montana) and John Hoeven (N.D.) recently introduced legislation to amend the current law. Explain their proposals and why they failed.
5. Paper Five – Based on your research, do you support changes in the current law to allow states to regulate air ambulances? If you were a sitting member of Congress would you support or oppose such regulations?

Topic Four: Crisis in Rural health Care

1. Paper One – Based on data from the National Rural Health Association, state the ten major problems currently faced by rural communities in comparison to urban communities.
2. Paper Two – The NRHA asserts that suicide rates are higher for men and increasing for women in rural areas than in rural ones. What are the primary factors that contribute to these statistics?
3. Paper Three – Rural Healthy People 2020 is a project funded by the federal Office of Rural Health Policy. State the principal findings from this project.
4. Paper Four – Identify the number of State Health Departments that have specific agencies focused on rural health issues.
5. Paper Five – Base on your research do you agree that rural health issues are significantly different from those of urban areas? Should rural health issues become a specific, articulated responsibility of each state? Give specific reasons why you support or oppose such a policy.

