

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
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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 (Mid-term 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:

A. Policy Analysis, Part One	20%
B. Policy Analysis, Part Two	20%
C. Policy Analysis, Part Three	20%
D. Midterm Examination	15%
E. Final Examination	20%
F. Class attendance/participation	5%

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:

1. "Tri-County Health Landscape: 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment Report"
2. Medicaid-A Primer – 2013- The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured."
3. The Henry Kaiser Family Foundation: Focus on Health Reform: Summary of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148).
4. United Health Foundation- "America's Health Rankings"
5. Kaiser Family Foundation: Focus on Health Reform Issue Brief – "Massachusetts Health Care Reform Plan- Six Years Later."
6. "Crossing the Quality Chasm: The IOM Health Care Quality Initiative" – The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies."
7. National College of Emergency Physicians – Report on U.S. Health Care Quality.
8. "Cracking the Code on Health Care Costs" – A Report by the State Health Care Containment Commission- the Miller Center, the University of Virginia.
9. "What is Driving U.S. Health Care Spending?" The Bi-Partisan Policy Center, September 2012.
10. A Glossary of Health Care Insurance Care Terms"
11. The ACA Essential Health Benefits" - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
12. The Kaiser Family Foundation: "The Uninsured- A Primer- Key Facts about Americans without Health Insurance."- The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured." October 2012.

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
- 19 Public Policy assessment model: “Tri-County Health Landscape: 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment.” (Handout)
- 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

- 19 Health Care Access – defined
- 21 Health Care Access
- 23 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**
- 26 Health Care Costs
“Cracking the Code on Health Care Costs” –the State Health Care Cost Containment Commission Report (required reading)
- 28 Health Care Cost Containment Commission Report

March 2018

- 2 Health Care Costs
Report: “What is Driving U.S. Health Care Spending?”-the Bipartisan Policy Center Report (required reading)
- 5 Health Care Quality
“Crossing the Quality Chasm: The Institute of Medicine Health Care Quality Initiative” (required reading)
- 7 Health Care Quality
- 9 Health Care Quality

The Federal Role in Health Policymaking

- 12 The Congressional Committees
- 14 The Congressional Committees
- 16 The Federal Departments
Policy Analysis #2 Due
- 19 **Spring Break**
- 21 **Spring Break**
- 23 **Spring Break**
- 26 The Federal Agencies
- 28 The Federal Agencies
- 30 The Federal “Safety Net” (Handout)

April 2018

2	The Federal "Safety Net"
4	The Federal "Safety Net"
	<u>State Roles in Health Care</u>
6	State Roles in Health Care Policymaking (Handout)
9	State Roles in Health Care
11	State roles in Health Care
16	Local Governments' Roles in Health Policymaking <u>Policy Analysis # 3 Due</u>
18	Local Governments' Roles in Health Policymaking
20	Local Governments' Roles in Health Policymaking
23	Last day of Spring semester classes
27	FINAL EXAMINATION 12 Noon- 3 P.M. Ed Center 118

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.