The College of Charleston

POLI 309.01-Health Policy

Fall Semester 2018
Tu-Th 10:50 A.M.- 12:05 P.M..
Maybank Hall 207

Instructor : Marguerite Archie-Hudson, Ph.D.
Office hours: Tuesdays 3:15- 4 P.M.; Wed: 10 A.M.-Noon and by appointment
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Course Description and Objectives

Political Science 309.1 will focus on American health policymaking, with particular focus on how current federal laws and policies address the three pillars of health: Access, Cost and Quality. The course will examine the 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, 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 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 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, was considered a landmark law 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 Act of 1965. Since its passage, however, major changes in the Congress and the Executive branch have brought continuing attempts to make major changes in the law or to completely repeal it. As these debates continue 50 states and hundreds of local governments find themselves caught in the cross-fire as the primary delivery of health care is their responsibility.

At the conclusion of the semester students should be able to (a) identify the historic and current federal and state 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 the current public policies in addressing the health needs of the American public.
Course Requirements

A. Regular class attendance is expected of all students. Attendance will be recorded via a daily sign-in sheet.
B. Expectations for class participation include reading the assignments prior to class, joining in class discussions and turning in assignments on time. Late assignments will incur severe grade penalties.
C. The use of telephones, I pads, tablets or any other electronic device is prohibited during class. Personal computers will be allowed for note-taking only and verification may be required at any time. Failure to observe this policy will result in severe grade penalties. Use of cell phones during class is not permitted.
D. Students are encouraged to utilize posted office hours and/or schedule appointments to discuss assignments and readings.
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 who schedule personal trips before the end of the semester (ex. scheduling early travel facing Spring Break or the end of the semester) will not receive excused absences.
G. Students are encouraged to take advantages of the services of the Writing Lab in the Center for Student Learning (Addlestone Library, first floor). Trained writing consultants are available to assist with overall development of papers, sentence structure, source documentation, etc.
H. The College Honor Code is in effect at all times throughout the semester. Academic dishonesty (lying, cheating, attempted cheating and plagiarism) are violations of the Honor Code that, when identified, are reported to the Office of the Dean of Students, investigated and may result in sanctions, including dismissal from the College. Willful violations during class, including repeated unauthorized use of cell phones in the classroom, is a violation of the Honor Code and may result in expulsion from the class.

Grades

Students are required to read, study, analyze and evaluate the role of major federal and state laws- and local administrative agencies - in shaping present healthcare policy. The semester grade will be based on a four-part Policy Research Paper that examines the implementation of a current health care policy, a Midterm Examination, a Final Examination and individual class participation as follows:

a. Policy Research –Part I  15%
b. Policy Research – Part II  15%
c. Policy Research-Part III  15%
d. Policy Research – Part IV  15%
e. Midterm Examination  15%
f. Final Examination  20%
g. Class participation (Individual)  5%

Required Textbook:

There is not a required textbook. The following research reports, articles and data analyses will be assigned throughout the semester:

3. The Henry Kaiser Family Foundation: Focus on Health Reform: Summary of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148)(Handout)
4. United Health Foundation – America’s Health Rankings
5. “Crossing the Quality Chasm: The IOM Health Care Quality Initiative.” The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (Handout).
7. “Cracking the Code on Health Care Costs.” A report by the State Health Care Containment Commission- The Miller Center- The University of Virginia (handout)
8. “What is Driving U.S. Health Care Spending?” The Bi-Partisan Policy center, September 2012. (Handout)
9. A Glossary of Health Care Insurance Terms (handout)
10. The ACA “Essential Health Benefits” – U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services

Other required readings may be assigned during the semester.

**Course Outline**

**August 2018**

Tu August 21 Introductions and class overview
Th August 23 Review of semester research assignments

**Overview of the Public Policy Process**

Tu 28 Defining Public Policy (Handout)
Th 30 Defining Public Policy

**September 2018**

Tu September 4 Defining Public Policy
Th September 6 Key Stakeholders in Health Care Policy

Tu September 11 Key Stakeholders in Health Care Policy
**Assignment # 1 Due**

**The Three Pillars of Health Care: Access, Cost and Quality**

Th September 13 The U.S. Surgeon General Report: Healthy People 2020 Initiative
Tu September 18 The U.S. Surgeon General Healthy People 2020 Initiative
Th September 20 Health Care Access – Defined (handout)
Tu September 25  | Health Care Access Defined
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Th 27 | Health Care Costs- defined
October 2018 | “Required Reading: “What is Driving U.S. Health Care Spending?”
Tu October 2 | Discussion: “What is Driving U.S. Health Care Spending?”
 | Assignment # 2 Due
Th October 4 | Financing Health Care
 | Required Reading: “Cracking the Code on Health Care Costs”
Tu October 9 | **Midterm Examination**
Th October 11 | Financing Health Care
 | Discussion: “Cracking the Code on Health Care Costs”
Tu October 16 | Financing Health Care – Insurance (Handout)
Th October 18 | Health Care Quality
 | Required Reading: “Crossing the Quality Chasm: The Institute of Medicine Health Care quality initiative.”
Tu October 23 | Health Care Quality
 | Discussion: “Crossing the Quality Chasm”

**The Federal Role in Health Care Policy**

Th October 25 | The Health Care “Safety Net” (Handout)
 | Chapter Three
Tu October 30 | The Health Care “Safety Net”
 | Assignment # 3 Due

**November 2018**

Th November 1 | The Health Care “Safety Net”
Tu November 6 | The Federal Health Care Agencies
Th November 8 | The Federal Health Care Agencies
 | **States’ Roles in Health Care**
Tu November 13 | State Responsibilities for Health Care (Handout)
Th November 15 | State Responsibilities for Health Care
Tu November 20               State Responsibilities for Health Care

Th November 22               THANKSGIVING – No Class

Local Governments Roles in Health Care
Tu November 27               Local Responsibilities for Health Care
Assignment # 4 Due
Th November 29               Local Responsibilities for Health Care

December 2018
Mon Dec 3                   Last Day of Fall Semester
Tu December 4               READING DAY – No Class
Th December 6               Final Exam -8 A.M.-11 A.M.
                           Maybank 207

**Required Research Assignment**
The purpose of this research assignment is to view and understand the process, goals and
impact of legislative policymaking regarding a current public health problem.

The current major public health problem we will study this semester is the opioid epidemic.

You will be required to write four papers that will allow you (1) view one example of the federal
policymaking process in responding to this problem through the work of the Senate’s Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee.

**Paper # 1**- Describe the history, mission, membership, political composition, subcommittees and goals of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee.

**Paper # 2** – Go to the Committee’s website and watch the October 5, 2017 full committee hearing
entitled: “The Federal Response to the Opioid Crisis.”
1. State the goals of the Committee’s hearing as defined by the Chairperson
2. Identify each of the federal agencies (including the spokesperson) testifying before the Committee
3. Summarize the specific findings and recommendations of each of the agencies regarding the definition of the problem, the constituencies affected, the magnitude of the problem and the recommended legislative solutions.

**Paper # 3** – View the Committee’s March 8, 2018 hearing: “The Opioid Crisis: Leadership and Innovation in the States”.

1. State the goals of the Committee’s hearing as defined by the Chairperson
2. Identify each of the federal agencies (including the spokesperson) testifying before the Committee
3. Summarize the specific findings and recommendations of each of the agencies regarding the definition of the problem, the constituencies affected, the magnitude of the problem and the recommended legislative solutions.

Paper # 4 – View the Committee’s April 11, 2018 hearing: “The Opioid Crisis Response Act of 2018”
   1. Using the steps outlined of the public policy process outline, make an analysis of the relevance and effectiveness of the solution provided by the above legislation.