The College of Charleston
Spring 2019
POLI 309-01 – Health Policy
Tu-Th 10:50 A.M. – 12:05 P.M.
Maybank 207
Instructor          Marguerite Archie-Hudson, Ph.D.
Office Hours:          Mondays 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Tuesdays 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. and by appointment
Office Location:          114 Wentworth, Room 101
Telephone:          843-953-8138
E-mail:           archiehudsonm@cofc.edu

Course description and objectives:

Political Science will focus on American health policymaking with particular focus on how current federal
laws and policies address the three pillars of health care: 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 19356 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 create Medicare. Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program, the Emergency Medical
treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) and the Medicare Prescription Drug Act have all contributed to the
development of a public “safety Net” with regard to health care.

In March 2010 the 111th Congress passed, and President Barack Obama signed into law, the most
comprehensive and far-reaching health policy legislation in decade—the Patient Protection and
Affordable care Act (P.L. 111-148), as amended by the Health care and 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 U.S., the most significant since the passage of Social security and Medicare. 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. On Friday, December 14, 2015,
U.S. District Court Judge Reed O’Connor, a Texas federal Judge, issued the most recent decision on the
Affordable Care Act placing the fate of the legislation on again in question.
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 effects 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 on a daily sign-in sheet.

B. Expectation of 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 electronic devices (including cell phones) for personal use during class is prohibited.

D. Students who are receiving services through the Center for Disability services, are scheduled to travel with an athletic team or 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.

E. Students who plan personal (i.e., non-emergency) off-campus trips prior to a scheduled exam will not receive excused absences nor the opportunity to make up the examination.

F. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize posted office hours and/or schedule appointments to discuss assignments or readings.

**Grading**

Grades will be based on a four part required research paper that examines a current health care issue, a Midterm examination, a final examination and class participation as follows:

1. Research paper 1…………..10%
2. Research paper 2…………..10%
3. Research paper 3…………..10%
4. Research paper 4…………..10%
5. Midterm examination……25%
6. Final Examination………25%
7. Class attendance/participation……10%

**Required Reading**


The Henry Kaiser Family Foundation: Focus on Health Care Reform: Summary of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – (handout)

“Crossing the Quality Chasm: The IOM Quality Initiative”, The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

“Cracking the Code on Health Care Costs”- A report by the State Health care Containment Commission-the Miller Center- the University of Virginia.
“What is Driving U.S. Health Care Spending?” The Bi-Partisan Policy Center, September 2012.


Other required readings may be assigned during the semester.

**Course Outline**

**January 2019**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tu 8</td>
<td>Introductions and class overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th 10</td>
<td>Review of semester and research assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tu 15</td>
<td>Federalism defined (Handout)</td>
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<td>Th 17</td>
<td>State Roles in Health Care (handout)</td>
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<td>Tu 22</td>
<td>State Roles in Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Th 24</td>
<td>Defining Public Policy – Wilson, Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Tu 29</td>
<td>Public Policy Typologies – Wilson, Chapter 1</td>
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<td>Th 31</td>
<td>Public Policy Typologies-</td>
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**February 2019**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tu 5</td>
<td>Policy Theory – Wilson, Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Th 7</td>
<td>Policy Theory – Wilson, Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Tu 12</td>
<td>Policy Cycle Model – Wilson, Chapter 2</td>
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<td>Th 14</td>
<td>Policy Cycle Model</td>
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<td>Tu 19</td>
<td>Policy Cycle Model</td>
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<td>Th 21</td>
<td>Midterm Examination</td>
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<td>Tu 26</td>
<td>Health Care Policy – Wilson, Chapter 6</td>
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<td>Th 28</td>
<td>Health Care Policy</td>
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**March 2019**

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<tr>
<td>Tu 5</td>
<td>Health Care Policy- Solo Doctor Policy Regime</td>
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<td>Th 7</td>
<td>Health Care Policy – Medicare-Medicaid</td>
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<td>Tu 12</td>
<td>Health Care Policy – Medicare-Medicaid</td>
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Required Research Assignments

This semester you will explore the federal legislative efforts to address the problem of the growing cost of health care in America. Each of the following assignments require you to view a legislative hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health Education Labor and Pension, commonly known as the HELP Committee. For each hearing you will access the on-line Committee hearing, listen to the testimony (suggest you download them) and answer the following questions:

1. Identify the Chair of the hearing panel and goals stated for the session.
2. Identify the presenters and the agencies they represent.
3. State the specific factors driving health care cost as stated by each presenter.
4. State the specific effects on the constituencies represented.
5. Provide the specific solutions provided by each presenter for reducing health care costs.


Paper 2–Hearing date: July 17, 2018. Topic: “Eliminating Excess Health Care Spending and Improving Quality and Value for Patients.”
Paper 3- Hearing date: July 31, 2018 – Reducing Health Care Costs – Decreasing Administrative Spending