

Fall 2022 Syllabus

POLI 309-01- Health Policy (3 Hours)

CRN 14572

Monday-Wednesday - 2:00 P.M.-3:15 P.M.

Maybank 307

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Course Description and Objectives

Public policies are the legal, judicial and administrative actions of federal, state and local governments. They direct the delivery of government sponsored services to 380 million+ Americans. These policies determine what services should be provided to whom, the mechanisms by which these services are delivered, the institutions that provide them and the financing sources that support these functions. Under our dual system of government- commonly known as federalism- some of these functions are assigned to the federal government by the U.S. Constitution, some are under the purview of state governments based on their individual constitutions and some are carried out by both.

Public health policy falls in the third category. The major national health “safety net” has been developed largely through federal legislation to address broad national concerns while states bear principal responsibility for the agencies, institutions and programs that impact the welfare of their individual citizens. States, in turn, delegate the implementation of these policies to their local government partners, including hospitals, local health clinics, departments of health, emergency services and a variety of professional staff.

In summary, an effective public health delivery system relies on a coordinated partnership between the federal government, 50 state governments, 3,000+ counties, 3,000+ local health departments and hundreds of related agencies.

The debates around the scope, practice, delivery and sustainability of health care have triggered policy disagreements and conflicts for decades. As political constituencies and ideologies shift in the public arena, the areas of health care that receive the most scrutiny and conflict also may trigger major changes in policy focus and commitment.

A decade ago, the primary focus of debate was the Affordable Care Act. In the past two years it has been defining the balance between individual rights and government responsibility for public health in the COVID-19 environment.

As we begin this semester the most riveting and contentious debates are around the rights of women to make personal and/or medical choices regarding their bodies and the authority of government to intervene in those choices. The recent reversal by the United States Supreme Court of the constitutional protections previously enshrined in *Roe v Wade* has triggered a fundamental policy dilemma- should each state decide this question under their sovereign power granted by the 10th Amendment to the Constitution – or should the U.S. Congress utilize its federal lawmaking authority to re-instate under federal law the rights of women to control their own bodies?

This current debate provides a unique opportunity this semester to study a major public health policy debate and to understand the process of public policymaking.

At the conclusion of the semester students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a firm understanding of the basic theories and policies that drive the policymaking process;
- Understand the central debates and conflicts that shape health care policymaking in America;
- Demonstrate familiarity with the major laws, institutions and infrastructures that currently comprise the public “Safety Net.”
- Define the critical processes and institutions that form the American health care delivery system.
- Assess and determine the impact of all of these policy activities in shaping:
 - Who has access to the American health care system;
 - The critical financing mechanisms that support the development, maintenance and distribution of health care, and
 - Determine and define the measures of quality that are related to positive health outcomes.

Required Readings:

This course does not have a required textbook. Your **principal required reference** is : Appendix A – Summary of the Public Health System in the United States: Institute of Medicine (US) Committee for the Study of the Future of Public Health, National Academies Press, Washington, D.C; 1988.

Additional Required Readings:

1. “The Uninsured: A Primer: Key Facts about Americans Without Health Insurance” – The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured.
2. The Henry Kaiser Family Foundation: Focus on Health Reform: Summary of Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148).
3. Kaiser Family Foundation: Focus on Health Reform: Summary of new Health Care Law”, April 15, 2011.
4. Medicaid- A Primer: The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. 2013.

5. The Social Security Act of 1939.
6. The Medicare and Medicaid Acts of 1965.
7. The Emergency Treatment and Labor Act of 1986 (EMTALA)
8. The Prescription Drug Act of 2006

Suggested Additional References:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
 The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)
 The South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHEC)
 The U.S. Department of Justice
 National Women’s Law Center
 Journal of Health Affairs

Graded Assignments:

Over the course of the semester, you will complete the following graded assignments:

1. An analysis of *Roe v Wade vs Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization*.
2. A position paper on legislative policymaking in the South Carolina Legislature;
3. An analysis of federal policy on rural health care issues;
4. An analysis of U.S. federal policy on health care in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.
5. A Midterm Examination and
6. A Final Examination.

The grade distribution for these assignments will be as follows:

Midterm Examination	20%
Final Examination	20%
Paper # 1	15%
Paper # 2	15%
Paper # 3	15%
Paper # 4	15%

Grade Policy:

93-100 = A 90-92.9 = A- 87-89.9=B+ 83-86.9 = B 80-82.9= B- 77-79.9=C=+
 73-76.9= C 70-72.9= C- 67-69.9 = D+ 63-66.9= D 60-62.9= D- Below 60= F

Students with Disabilities

The College abides by Sec. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1974 and the American with Disabilities Act. If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class for which you

may require special accommodations, please see an administrator at the Center for Disability Services (SNAP) or contact me so that accommodations can be made.

Center for Student Learning

Students are encouraged to utilize the Center for Student Learning (CSL) academic support services for assistance in study strategies, writing papers, etc. These services are available at no cost. Visit the CSL website at: <http://csl.cofc.edu> or call (843)953-5635.

Honor Code and Academic Integrity

Lying, cheating, attempted cheating and plagiarism are violations of the College's Honor Code and will be investigated. Each incident will be investigated to determine the degree of deception. Incidents where the instructor determines the student's actions reflect misunderstanding and/or confusion will be handled by the instructor. The instructor designs an intervention or assigns a grade reduction to help prevent the student from repeating the error. The response is recorded on a form, is signed by both the instructor and the student, and is forwarded to the Dean of Students and placed in the student's file. Cases of significant academic dishonesty will be reported directly to the Dean of Students. A student found responsible by the Honor Board will receive an XXF in the course, indicating failure of the course due to academic dishonesty. The status indicator will appear on the student's transcript for two years after which the student may petition for the XX to be expunged. The F is permanent. For any question, please consult the Student Handbook.

Graded Assignments

There are four (4) graded assignments. Each will constitute 15% of your final grade. Each assignment is designed to enhance your knowledge of public policy in a specific area of health care. Each assignment has a specific deadline for submission via OAKS. The assignments are described below.

Note: The MLA citation format should be used for all references and works cited.

- I. **Assignment One – Policy Position Paper. The Policy Question: Should the U.S. Congress or the individual states determine the legal status of abortion following the recent Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*?**
Principal recommended references (1) Cornell Law School- Legal Information Institute, (2) National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Blog: " SCOTUS Overturns Roe V Wade"- June 24, 2022 and (3) Supreme Court of the United States: *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022)-Syllabus (8-page summary)*.
Overview: In June 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its 50- year-old support for *Roe V Wade* that protected certain practices regarding the reproductive rights available to women, including abortion. The decision has resulted in major policy activities among state legislatures, including laws that make abortion a crime with various penalties. The Supreme Court in its decision noted that the U.S. Congress has the legislative authority to reinstate this reproductive freedom by passing federal law. H.R. 3755 – *The Women's Health Protection Act* was unsuccessfully introduced in the past two sessions of Congress in anticipation of the *Roe v Wade* decision.
This paper requires you to take a position on the question: **Is abortion a constitutional right that should be protected by federal law – or should state legislatures use their individual**

powers as sovereign governments to make health policy for their residents? Please read the recommended references and answer the following :

- (1) Define the term “abortion” as used in the Cornell Law School reference.
- (2) Identify and explain the two Constitutional Amendments cited in the *Roe v Wade* ruling.
- (3) State the three legal actions/determination states could make under *Roe* in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v Casey* and the two that were rejected.
- (4) Provide three (3) specific reasons the Supreme Court gave in *Dobbs v. Jackson* for overturning its previous conclusions in *Roe v. Wade*.
- (5) Having reviewed both rulings, which do you support as the best health policy- (a) the Congress passing a federal law or (b) each state making its own legislative decision? Cite the specific reason(s) for your position.

Each of your answers will be graded on (a) the clarity of your responsiveness to the questions; (b) your demonstrated knowledge of the topic; (c) your ability to distinctly identify the facts that support your position on this issue.

Your response to each question should be presented in a separate paragraph or section – this is a report, not an essay!

Maximum length: Six pages, double-spaced, excluding charts and/or graphs in the appendix.

Due Date: Wednesday, September 14

Assignment Two- Report of the Health Care provisions in H.R. 5376, The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

Principal recommended references: (1) Executive Office of the President: Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 5376- Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (8/6/22); (2) Statement by HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra on Senate passage of the Inflation Reduction Act (8/7/2022); (3) Kaiser Family Foundation: “Understanding the Health Care Provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act.” (8/11/22).

The above legislation passed the U.S. Senate on August 7, 2022 and the U.S. House of Representatives on August 12. This major legislation includes, among other elements, significant provisions that will impact health care policy in the United States. This assignment requires you to **identify and describe the specific provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act that will expand health care access and reduce health care costs**. There are at least **five** specific health care policy changes that are included in the legislation.

- (1) Provide the vote by political party in each chamber on this legislation.
- (2) Identify and explain each health care provision (mandate) of the legislation in a separate paragraph.
- (3) Identify the specific health care constituency that will be affected by each health care provision in this legislation.
- (4) Identify the federal health care agency- or agencies-within HHS that will have specific responsibility for the implementation of this legislation.

Maximum length: 6 pages, excluding charts, graphs.

Due Date: Wednesday, September 28

Assignment 3-Legislative Policy Analysis: South Carolina General Assembly: S.1373 -Abortions.

This assignment requires you to research the most recently introduced law on abortion introduced in the **South Carolina General Assembly**. Recommended sources: (<https://www.scstatehouse.gov>). and SC1373 <https://legiscan.com/sc/text/1373/2021>.

You are to access the bill, read the bill in its entirety and provide the following information:

- Date of bill introduction
- Bill sponsors and the Senate Districts they represent
- Senate Committee to which the bill is currently referred and the Chair of that Committee
- The eleven (11) stated provisions (goals, purposes, intent) of this legislation as stated in the bill text.
- The definition of the following medical terms as defined in this legislation:
 - Abortifacient
 - Abortion
 - Fertilization
 - Pregnant minor

Maximum length: 6 pages, excluding charts and graphs

Due Date: Monday, October 31

Assignment 4- U.S. Rural Health Policy – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has primary responsibility for federal rural health care policy. Using the HHS.gov website, you are to provide the following information:

- The specific policy goals of HRSA.
- The demographics of rural health as provided by the agency.
- The content of the August 8, 2022 press release that describes:
 - The federal government’s most recent investments in rural health care policy and
 - The amount of funding appropriated as stated in this announcement.
- Identify and explain the specific grant awardees and organizations that will receive these funds .
- Identify and explain the rural health initiatives and programs currently supported by HRSA.

Maximum length : 6 pages excluding charts and graphs.

Due Date: Monday, November 21

Fall 2022 Class Schedule

August 2022

Wednesday, August 24

Introductions and Semester Overview

Monday, August 29

Public Policy Defined

Wednesday, August 31

No Class

September 2022

Monday, September 5

Public Policy Defined

Wednesday, September 7

Public Health Policy defined

Monday, September 12

Public Policy Typologies

Wednesday, September 14

Public Policy Typologies

Assignment # 1 Due

Monday, September 19

Public Policy typologies

Wednesday, September 21

Policy Theory – the Cyclical model

Monday, September 26

Policy Theory – the Cyclical model

Wednesday, September 28

Policy Theory- the Cyclical model

Assignment # 2 Due

Monday, October 2

Major health policy Issue: Access

Wednesday, October 5

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Monday, October 10

Major health policy issue: Access

Wednesday, October 12

Major health policy issue: Cos

Monday, October 17

Major health policy issue: Cost

Wednesday, October 19

Major health policy issue: Quality

Monday, October 24

Major health policy issue: Quality

Wednesday, October 26

The Federal “Safety Net”

Monday, October 31

The Federal “ Safety Net”

Assignment # 3 Due

November 2022

Wednesday, November 2

The Federal “Safety Net”

Monday, November 7

Fall Break- No Class

Wednesday, November 9

State responsibilities for health ca

Monday, November 14

State responsibilities for health care

Wednesday, November 16-
Monday, November 21

State responsibilities for health care
Local responsibilities for health care

Assignment # 4 Due

Wednesday, November 23
Monday, November 28
Wednesday, November 30

Thanksgiving Holiday – No Class
Local responsibilities for health care
Local responsibilities for health care

December 2022

Monday, December 5
Tuesday, December 6
Friday, December 9

Last Day of Fall Semester Class
Reading Day

Final Examination
3:30-5:30 P.M.

Wednesday, December 14
Saturday, December 17

Fall Semester Grades Due at Noon
Fall 2022 Commencement

8/17/2022