

POLS 111, Fall 2011, Section 3383
United States Politics:
Current Problems and Controversies—Health Care Policy
Tu, Th 8:00 am – 9:15 am
Douglass Hall, Room 210

Instructor:

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and

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Office Hours: By appointment/before/after class

Course Description:

The Affordable Care Act changed the health care policy landscape in the United States and continues to be a subject of debate and controversy in Congress, states, and communities nationwide. Are you interested in learning more about how health care policies are made in the U.S.? How do certain health care issues come to the attention of policy makers while others do not? What percentage of the federal budget is devoted to health care-related issues? What role do advocacy and interest groups play in affecting the health care policy agenda? This course will discuss all of these issues and more. Each week, we will discuss a different aspect of the policy making process in the U.S., drawing from specific examples from health care policy making.

The course will be delivered through a combination of lecture, discussion, and individual presentations.

Required Texts (Available through the UIC Bookstore)

<u>Author</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>ISBN</u>
Jacobs & Skocpol	Oxford Univ. Press	<i>Health Care Reform & American Politics</i>	2010	9780199769124
Weissert & Weissert	Johns Hopkins Univ. Press	<i>Governing Health, 3rd Ed.</i>	2006	9780801884320

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course requirements and their importance for your final grade are as follows:

1. Class Participation	10%
2. Newspaper Article Synopsis and Presentation	25%
3. Written Exercise 1: Bill or Interest Group assignment	20%
4. Written Exercise 2: Regulation or Federal Health Policy assignment	20%
5. Final Exam	25%

Class Participation

One aspect of your grade will be based on your active participation in class discussions. Since the quality of your comments and observations will be evaluated, it is essential that you read the assigned materials prior to class meetings and be prepared to discuss them in class. Although attendance does not count toward your grade, you must be present and consistently participate in order to receive credit for class participation. (Sudden participation at the end of the semester will not help the participation aspect of the grade.) In addition to participating in routine class discussions during lectures, credit will also be given for questions posed during the newspaper presentations and for your involvement in the discussions surrounding the written exercises.

Written Assignment Guidelines (includes Newspaper Article Synopsis, bill/interest group assignments, and regulation/federal health policy assignment)

All written assignments are to be typed, using **1-inch margins on all sides** and submitted in hard copy format in class (please do not email assignments). (Please be sure to adjust your word processing software so that you are conforming to these margins.) All written submissions should use **11-point Times New Roman or Garamond font** and be **single-spaced**. The length of each written assignment will vary based on the assignment. Written submissions that do not conform to these specifications will be downgraded. You can attach a cover sheet or write your name/info in a header that is within the 1inch margin so you do not use up space for your name/info. **All written assignments must indicate in the header space which assignment it fulfills (e.g., newspaper article synopsis) and must include a title.**

Because of the import of written communication in this course and the public policy field in general, your written assignments will not only be graded for their content as well as for their organization, clarity, appropriate citation to the literature/facts, and analytical rigor. Students are required to use the American Psychological Association, MLA, or Chicago Style formats for in-text citations, references, and other formatting matters. Appropriate transitions, headings and sub-headings, and other methods of organizing and presenting your written assignments are expected. I strongly encourage you to consult the UIC Writing Center if you have any concerns or would like assistance with preparing your written assignments: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing/>.

Newspaper Article Synopsis and Presentation (required of all students)

Aside from learning about the process of health care policymaking, this course will draw heavily from current events. As such, you are **strongly** encouraged to be regular readers of major national newspapers/on-line news outlets such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and/or the *Wall Street Journal*, CNN.com, foxnews.com, and msnbc.com. Throughout the course we will discuss current health policy events and you should be familiar with such events to participate in the discussion.

All students will prepare and present a **1- to 2-page** synopsis of a current health policy-related article from a major national news outlet following the written assignment guidelines noted above. At a minimum, your synopsis should include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) title of the article, author, source, date of the article; (2) a brief summary of the health policy issue that is the focus of the article; (3) the branch(es) of government that are involved/the focus of the issue and/or article; (4) the current status of the issue; (5) the major policy “actors” involved; and (6) identification of at least 3 points/lessons that you have learned from class that are at play in the article/for this issue.

For the presentation, you will want to cover each of the main points required for the assignment but you should **not read your assignment to the class**. Rather, you are expected to prepare talking points to give a coherent and engaging presentation. Given that time will be allotted for questions, you will want to anticipate the questions that may be posed in advance. Additionally, you will want to ensure that your article has enough “substance” to lend itself to responding to all of the required assignment elements and to enable you to engage in a discussion with your classmates.

A sign-up sheet for presentation of your article synopsis will be circulated in class. You will have 3 minutes for your presentation and 2 minutes for Q&A. A hard copy of your synopsis is to be turned in to the professor on the morning of your in-class presentation.

Written Exercise 1 (Choose 1)

Bill Assignment (if selected, due September 8)

Using the <bill text> and <bill summary & status> search functions on <http://thomas.loc.gov>, identify a health-related bill under consideration in the current Congress that is of interest to you. In **2 pages (paragraph format)** and in your own words, summarize the bill and, at a minimum, include the following information:

- (1) the bill number;
- (2) the bill/act title;
- (3) the lead sponsor (and his/her political party which you'll have to look up elsewhere);
- (4) the number of co-sponsors;
- (5) a summary of the major components of the bill (**note: you are expected to read the bill to accurately summarize it; the bill summary/synopses included in Thomas often are incomplete**);
- (6) the current status of the bill (available by searching the bill summary/status section of the site);
- (7) the federal agency(ies) that are affected by the bill and any requirements that Congress would impose on the federal agency(ies) as a result of this bill;
- (8) your insights as to the level of detail included in the bill that would provide guidance to the responsible federal agency(ies) in terms of implementation; and
- (9) whether the bill as written authorizes any funds for implementation of the bill.

As noted on the schedule below, time has been allotted on September 8 for discussion of the bill assignment so you should be prepared to discuss your assignment in class and be able to answer questions about your bill.

Interest Group Assignment (if selected, due September 20)

- (1) Go to OpenSecrets.org (<http://www.opensecrets.org>)
- (2) Select <**Influence and Lobbying**>
- (3) Select <**Interest Groups**>
- (4) On the right-hand side, type in "**health**" where it says "search for an industry"
- (5) Select <**Health**> from the list of various health industries
- (6) A list of contributors will appear, select "View More Contributors" at the bottom of the list of top contributors
- (7) From the full list of contributors, select one that is of interest to you that has a hyperlink associated with it (i.e., an underline that you can click on to see more details – such as Pfizer, Inc.) and click on the hyperlink
- (8) The detail for the link selected will then provide a summary of their contributions, total \$, the recipients of their \$ contributions, the congressional committees that they contributed to, and bills that they lobbied for/against.

Your assignment is to summarize the information contained in item 8 above in **2 pages (paragraph format)**. You can focus on specific issues, parties, etc. that are of interest to you. At a minimum, your summary should include:

- a. An overview of the organization from the summary page
- b. Summary data on their contributions to individuals and committees
- c. Information on the major health-related committees that they contributed to

- d. Identify 3 major health-related bills that they lobbied for/against and summarize the purpose identified in the individual lobbying reports and the chamber, committee, agency who was lobbied (all available from the individual lobbying reports):
 - a. click on the “number” listed under <number of reports & specific issues> which provides a list of specific lobbying reports filed that are associated with that bill
 - b. If you click on each report, it tells you the issues that were lobbied and what chamber/committee, agency was lobbied

As noted on the schedule below, **time has been allotted on September 20 for discussion of the bill assignment so you should be prepared to discuss your assignment in class and be able to answer questions about your bill.**

Written Exercise 2 (Choose 1)

Regulation Assignment (if selected, due October 6)

Go to <http://www.gpo.gov> and select the <Code of Federal Regulations> (CFR) from the right-hand side of the browser. Once the CFR is selected, select 2010 for the year. Then select <Title 42. Public Health>. Use the + symbols within Title 42 to expand various sections of the public health title of the CFR to identify a regulatory issue that is of interest to you. Once you identify an issue of interest to you, review the regulation and then, in **2 pages (paragraph format)** and in your own words, summarize the regulation and, at a minimum, include the following information:

- (1) The regulation number (e.g., 42 CFR §8.1 et seq.)
- (2) the regulation title (e.g., Certification of Opioid Treatment Programs);
- (3) the federal agency responsible for administering the regulation (e.g., Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration);
- (4) a summary of the elements of the regulation;
- (5) a discussion of the regulated party (e.g., substance abuse treatment programs; medical care providers)
- (6) the date of the last update to the regulation (usually listed at the bottom of the table of contents for the regulation and is prefaced by “Source”).

As noted on the schedule below, time has been allotted on October 6 for discussion of the regulation assignment so you should be prepared to discuss your assignment in class and be able to answer questions about your regulation.

Federal Health Policy Assignment (if selected, due October 18)

Go to <http://www.gpo.gov> and select the <U.S. Code> from the right-hand side of the browser. Once the U.S. Code is selected, select 2009 for the year. Then select <Title 42. The Public Health and Welfare>. Use the + symbols within Title 42 to expand various sections of the public health title to identify a policy issue that is of interest to you. Once you identify an issue of interest to you, review the policy and then, in **2 pages (paragraph format)** and in your own words, summarize the policy and, at a minimum, include the following information:

- (1) The citation (e.g., 42 U.S. Code §300aa-1 et seq.)
- (2) the code title (e.g., National Vaccine Program);
- (3) the federal agency responsible for administering the regulation (e.g., Department of Health and Human Services);
- (4) a summary of the elements of the policy;
- (5) your thoughts on the level of “detail” included in the policy language and whether it is clear as to its intent and implementation provisions.

As noted on the schedule below, time has been allotted on October 18 for discussion of the federal health policy assignment so you should be prepared to discuss your assignment in class and be able to answer questions about your policy issue.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

In the public policy arena, submitting something “early” is considered “on time.” Submitting something “on time” is considered “late.” Submitting something “late” is “not acceptable.” To this end, late assignments will not be accepted except for exceptional circumstances which must be communicated to the instructor prior to the assignment due date.

EXAMS

One in-class exam will be administered during the final exam period. The exam will include term identification/definition, short answer, and essay formats. The exams may also include a choice of short readings (i.e., newspaper/online news source articles) to which you will be asked to apply theoretical lessons from the course and to answer a series of questions. The exam will require you to address and specifically cite to themes, theories, and concepts discussed in the readings, lectures, and class. A study sheet of review items will be distributed prior to the final exam, to assist your preparation.

GRADING SCALE FOR ALL ASSIGNMENTS/EXAMS/FINAL GRADE

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = <60

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As an academic community, the University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to providing an environment in which research, learning, and scholarship can flourish and in which all endeavors are guided by academic and professional integrity. All members of the campus community—students, staff, faculty, administrators—share the responsibility of insuring that these standards are upheld so that such an environment exists. Instances of academic misconduct by students, and as defined herein, shall be handled pursuant to the *Student Disciplinary Policy* which is available online

<http://www.uic.edu/depts/dos/docs/StudentDisciplinaryPolicy0809withpagenumbersandcov.pdf>

At a minimum, the standards for this course include:

1. Prepare all assignments on your own, in your own words, adhering to proper citation and formatting requirements.
2. Turn in timely, complete, thorough, and factually accurate assignments that provide appropriate citations to the literature/cited sources and using the prescribed format.
3. Select your own topic for each exercise, write up the materials in your own words and be sure to thoroughly proofread (not just spell check) your assignments.
6. Preparing your in-class oral briefing presentation and written policy paper critique on your own, and following the prescribed guidelines for each including adhering to the required time allotment for presentation of the briefing and critique.

CLASS DECORUM

Out of respect for your instructor and your classmates, cell phones, pagers, mp3 players and similar electronic devices must be turned off before entering class. While laptop computers may be used for note taking, students will be asked to discontinue such use if they become disruptive for other students or if the student is found doing something other than taking notes for the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture	Assignment
8/23/11	First Day of Class Introductions Review syllabus and course expectations	--
8/25/11	Introduction to health care policymaking	Weissert & Weissert (W&W), Introduction
A. CONGRESS		
8/30/11	Congress' role in health policy making: congressional committees, staff First day that newspaper article presentations may commence	W&W, pp. 15-43, 66-78 CRS, Committee Assignment Process (Blackboard (BB))
9/1/11	Political parties and institutional constraints	W&W, pp. 51-66
9/6/11	The budget process	W&W, pp. 43-50 Blackboard (BB), Links, Kaiser Family Foundation Budgeting Video
9/8/11	Current examples of congressional involvement in health policymaking	Bill assignment turned in and discussed in class
B. INTEREST GROUPS		
9/13/11	Interest groups	W&W, pp. 126-149
9/15/11	Interest groups and lobbying	W&W, pp. 149-182
9/20/11	Current examples of interest group influence	Interest group assignment turned in and discussed in class
C. THE PRESIDENCY & THE BUREAUCRACY		
9/22/11	The Presidency-1	W&W, pp. 81-115
9/27/11	The Presidency & The Bureaucracy	W&W, pp. 115-125
9/29/11	No class	
10/4/11	The Bureaucracy cont.	W&W, pp. 183-230
10/6/11	Current examples of federal health care regulation	Regulation assignment turned in and discussed in class
D. THE POLICY MAKING PROCESS		
10/11/11	What is public policy?	W&W, pp. 301-315
10/13/11	Policy process frameworks and theories of policy change	W&W, pp. 316-342
10/18/11	Current examples of current federal public health law	Federal health policy assignment turned in and discussed in class
10/19/11	Mid-term grades posted	---
E. THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM		
10/20/11	States and health care reform—history, their role, their organization, and state innovations	W&W, pp. 231-263, 275-295
10/25/11	Federal-state health programs: Medicaid and SCHIP	Kaiser Family Foundation Medicaid Primer (BB) CHIP Fundamentals, NHPF (BB)
10/27/11	Medicare	Kaiser Family Foundation Medicare Primer (BB)
F. HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS ABROAD		
11/1/11	Health care policymaking abroad-1	TBD
11/3/11	Health care policymaking abroad-2	TBD

Date	Lecture	Assignment
G. HEALTH CARE REFORM—2010		
11/8/11	Introduction, timeline, and why was it needed?	Jacobs & Skocpol, pp. 1-49
11/10/11	The health care reform battles and the role of party politics	Jacobs & Skocpol, pp. 50-120
11/15/11	The Affordable Care Act—what is it?	Jacobs & Skocpol, pp. 121-146 Kaiser Family Foundation, Summary of the New Health Care Reform Law (BB)
11/17/11	Health care reform predictions from Jacobs & Skocpol	Jacobs & Skocpol, pp. 147-179
11/22/11	The politics of health care reform and the courts Guest Lecture: Daniel Swartzman, JD, Department of Health Policy & Administration, School of Public Health, UIC	Health Affairs Policy Brief, <i>Legal Challenges</i> (BB) Washington Post editorial, <i>Health Care and the Constitution</i> , August 12, 2011 (BB) Other readings TBD (BB)
11/24/11	No class, Thanksgiving	
11/29/11	TBD (maybe public health policy)	TBD
12/1/11	Last day of class Review for final exam; complete course evaluations	--
12/8/11, 8-10 am	Final examination (note that this is Thursday not Tuesday)	--