

POLS 111, Fall 2012, Section 3383
United States Politics:
Current Problems and Controversies—Health Care Policy
Tu, Th 8:00 am – 9:15 am
Douglass Hall, Room 220

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? What do we mean by public health policy? 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. This interactive course draws from current policy issues and applies relevant theory to provide students with both real-world and theoretical knowledge. Course requirements include in-class exams, a group project/simulation exercise, and a brief policy review. This course is a great introduction for those interested in learning more about health care policy making in this country. 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>
Weissert & Weissert	Johns Hopkins Univ. Press	<i>Governing Health</i> , 4 th ed.	2012	978-1-4214-0621-3

Blackboard (BB)

There is an active Blackboard for this course that will provide most of the course handouts, lecture slides, external links, additional readings and other items noted on the syllabus. All BB readings will be posted during the first week of class with others added throughout the semester as the course relies heavily upon current events. Check Blackboard regularly. Students are expected to have read all Blackboard readings prior to the given class session in which they will be discussed.

E-Reserves

Selected readings throughout the semester will be placed on E-reserve. More information on accessing the e-reserve file(s) will be posted on BB and announced in class.

Course Requirements

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

1. Class Participation	10%
2. Newspaper Article Synopsis (15%) and Presentation (5%)	20%
3. Group Exercise: Policy Debate	20%
4. In-class mid-term exam	25%
5. Final Exam	25%

GRADING SCALE

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60-69 F = <60

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.

Religious Holidays

The University Holidays and Religious Observances calendar can be found online at <http://www.uic.edu/depts/oe/docs/ReligiousHolidaysFY20122014.pdf>. Please let me know if you have any conflicts with the religious holiday calendar or if you will be absent due to a religious holiday. If an assignment is due on a holiday that you observe, please be sure to speak with me in advance of the due date to make other arrangements; failure to do so will result in a reduced grade for the assignment.

Newspaper Assignment Guidelines

The newspaper article synopsis is to be typed, using **1-inch margins on all sides, 11-point Times New Roman or Garamond font, double-spaced, 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.) 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.

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 **2-page** synopsis of a current health policy-related article from one of the following major news outlets:

- Washington Post
- New York Times
- Wall Street Journal
- Chicago Tribune
- LA Times

- CNN.com
- Foxnews.com
- Msnbc.com

The selected article MUST be from the week immediately prior to your presentation date (no exceptions). If you are signed up to present your synopsis on Tuesday, September 25, then your article must have been published sometime between September 17 and September 24. To ensure that you have enough to discuss in your synopsis and presentation, **the published article must be a minimum of 1200 words or more (about 2 on-line pages or about 1 full page of a newspaper layout with graphics/photos/etc.).**

The written portion of the assignment must follow guidelines noted above and, at a minimum, your synopsis should include, but not be limited to, the following: (1) a copy of your article attached, (2) title of the article, author, source, date of the article; (3) a brief summary of the health policy issue that is the focus of the article; (4) the branch(es) of government that are involved; (5) the current status of the issue; (6) the major policy “actors” involved; (7) whether this issue is/likely to be/was an election issue and why; and (8) your opinion on the issue and what will likely happen (and why).

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 and posted to Blackboard. 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. **It is your responsibility to remember/check BB to confirm your synopsis presentation date. Failure to present/turn in your synopsis on the assigned date will result in a “0” for the newspaper assignment grade. If an unusual circumstance occurs that requires you to change your scheduled presentation date, you must communicate with the instructor at least 1 week prior to your scheduled date. Only 1 change may be made to your assigned date, otherwise you will receive a grade of “0” for the assignment.**

Group Debate Assignment

There will be one in-class group debate exercise that will be held on two consecutive class days, November 27 and November 29 and will require participation by all students. To provide you with ample time to prepare for the debate, there class times have been set aside throughout the semester (October 25, November 15, and November 20) where you can get together with your small groups to prepare for the debate in addition to any time you may want to devote outside of class.

In late September/early-mid October you will have an opportunity to sign up to represent one category of stakeholders or “actors” in the public health policy making process such as doctors, insurers, pharmaceutical industry, the elderly, the uninsured, small business, Republican party, Democratic party, the President, selected federal agencies, the states, etc.

Following the sign-up, a list of possible debate topics will be distributed/posted on BB for your group to use in preparing your possible responses to debate questions. The bulk of the responses to the debate questions will be able to be gleaned from course readings and lectures; however, you are strongly encouraged to also consult outside materials/sources from your respective stakeholder groups (e.g.,

AARP position statements, AMA policies/position statements, national party platforms, National Governors Association materials, etc.) in preparing your possible answers. It will be up to each group to decide how they would like to prepare for the debate. For example, you may decide to divide the questions where each person is responsible for one question and then you provide feedback to one another, you may all want to research each question and come up with a collective response, etc.

On the debate days, it is expected that each student will participate in answering the questions. **Your final debate grade will be based on the following criteria: (1) your group's preparation/ability to respond to each question, (2) your individual responses to debate questions, and (3) your ability to work as part of your team (the latter will be assessed during the prep days).**

Exams

There will be an in-class mid-term and final exam for this course. The exams 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 exams 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 exams, to assist your preparation. You will be notified later in the semester as to whether the final exam will be cumulative or not.

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/Student%20Disciplinary%20Policy%202011-12%20Final-1.pdf>

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
8/28/12	First Day of Class Introductions Review syllabus and course expectations Sign up for newspaper assignment	--
8/30/12	Introduction to health care policymaking Sign up for newspaper assignment	Weissert & Weissert (W&W), Introduction, pp. 1-12
A. CONGRESS		
9/4/12	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))
9/6/12	Political parties and institutional constraints	W&W, pp. 51-65
9/7/12	Last day to add course or to drop without receiving a W on your academic record	

Date	Lecture	Assignment
9/11/12	The budget process	W&W, pp. 42-51 Blackboard (BB) Links forthcoming, Kaiser Family Foundation Budgeting Video
B. INTEREST GROUPS		
9/13/12	Interest groups	W&W, pp. 130-152
9/18/12	Interest groups and lobbying	W&W, pp. 152-183
9/20/12	Interest groups and lobbying continued	E-reserve: Wasserman, 2011, chapters 9 & 10 BB: Wilson & Roberts, Food Lobby
C. THE PRESIDENCY & THE BUREAUCRACY		
9/25/12	The Presidency & The Bureaucracy	W&W, pp. 79-129
9/27/12	The Bureaucracy cont.	W&W, pp. 184-229 BB materials
D. THE POLICY MAKING PROCESS		
10/2/12	What is public policy?	W&W, pp. 279-294 BB: Mensah et al., <i>Preventing Chronic Disease</i> , 2004
10/4/12	Policy process frameworks and theories of policy change	W&W, pp. 294-319
10/9/12	Public health policy making, market failures, and the law of unintended consequences: Examples from obesity-related policymaking	BB: Swinburn et al., <i>Lancet</i> 2011; 378: 804- 14. Cawley, J., <i>Health Affairs</i> 2010;29(3): 364-371 Sachs et al., <i>Obesity Reviews</i> , 2009 Kuchler et al., <i>Amber Waves</i> , June 2005
E. PUBLIC OPINION AND HEALTH POLICY		
10/11/12	Public opinion and health policy (D. Sterrett lecture)	TBD
10/16/12	Public opinion and health policy examples	BB: Blendon et al., <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2008; 359:2050-2061, November 6, 2008 Blendon & Benson, <i>N Engl J Med</i> 2011; 365:e8, July 28, 2011 Lusk, <i>Food Policy</i> 37 (2012) 530–542 Pacheco, <i>Public Opin Q</i> (Fall 2011) 75 (3): 576-592 Connolly et al., April 2012, Vol. 102, No. 4, pp. e1-e2 Rigotti et al., <i>Tob Control</i> 2003;12:251- 256 doi:10.1136/tc.12.3.251
MID-TERM EXAMINATION		
10/18/12	Review for mid-term exam; mid-term exam study	--

Date	Lecture	Assignment
	sheet posted on BB	
10/23/12	Mid-term examination	--
10/25/12	No lecture but unstructured time to meet with group for debate	
F. THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM		
10/30/12	States and health care reform—history, their role, their organization, and state innovations	W&W, pp. 230-263, 271-273 BB: Long et al., <i>Health Affairs</i> , 31, NO. 2 (2012):1-8
11/1/12	Federal-state health programs: Medicaid and SCHIP	W&W, pp. 263-271, 273-275 Kaiser Family Foundation Medicaid Primer (BB) CHIP Fundamentals, NHPF (BB)
11/2/12	Last day for undergraduates to withdraw from the course and receive a W on academic record	
11/6/12	Medicare	Kaiser Family Foundation Medicare Primer (BB) BB newspaper articles (Calmes, NYT; Cooper & Sussman, NYT, 8/23/12)
A. HEALTH CARE REFORM—2010		
11/6/12	Our health system problems and health care reform	W&W, pp. 320-341
11/8/12	The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: What is it?	Kaiser Family Foundation, Summary of the New Health Care Reform Law (BB)
11/13/12	The PPACA and the Supreme Court Decision: What does it mean?	BB: KHN Justices ruling KFF Summary of Supreme Court Decision on the ACA CRS Memo
11/15/12	In class prep time for debate (D. Sterrett)	
11/20/12	In class prep time for debate (J. Chriqui)	
11/22/12	No class, Thanksgiving holiday	--
11/27/12	Mandatory: In class debate part 1	--
11/29/12	Mandatory: In class debate part 2	--
12/4/12	No class; final exam study sheet posted on BB	--
12/6/12	Review for final exam; complete course evaluations	--
12/13/11, 8-10 am	Final examination (note that this is Thursday not Tuesday)	--