

Department of Political Science
University of New Mexico

PS 376.001- **Health Policy and Politics** (meets in Education 105) Spring 2017

SYLLABUS (January 17, 2017)

Instructor: Deborah R. McFarlane, DrPH, MPA TR 9:30-10:45

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Teaching Assistant: Barbara Gomez-Aguinaga

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Office hours: Thursday 3:30-5pm (Social Science Building #2066), and by appointment

Overview

This class provides an overview of health policy and politics in the United States. While the course focuses upon the American health care system and its politics, we also consider how health services are financed and organized in other industrialized countries. Additionally, we examine the determinants of health which allows us to assess what health care services can and cannot accomplish. Health disparities among ethnic and social groups are also covered and we consider the vast health disparities between nations.

Required Text

James Morone and Dan Ehlke. *Health Politics and Policy 5th Edition*. New York: Delmar Cengage Learning, 2014.

<u>Grading</u>	Exams	(63%)
	1 paper	(31%)
	Class participation	(6%)

Other

Qualified students with disabilities needing appropriate academic adjustments should contact me as soon as possible to ensure your needs are met in a timely manner. Handouts are available in alternative accessible formats upon request.” If you need more information on ADA, please contact the Office of Equal Opportunity at 277-5251.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will learn the factors that affect the development and implementation of American health policies.
2. Students will be able to gather and analyze data about state health profiles and policies.
3. Students will understand disparities in health status and how these are affected by public policy.
4. Students will be able to recommend health policies that address population needs.
5. Students will be familiar with how the American health system fares relative to the health systems of other wealthy countries.

WEEK DATES & TOPIC

1. 1/17 **Introduction to Class**

- a. Present course objectives.
- b. Go through reading expectations for class.
- c. Discuss the organization of the class and assignments.
- d. Discuss writing expectations for the class.

2. 1/19 **Introduction to Health Policy**

- a. Go through the stages of the political process.
- b. Consider the role not played by the American civil services.
- c. Present the major themes in health care politics and policy.
- d. Review the history of American health politics and policy since 1912.
- e. Choose two states for the research assignment: one from the top 25 in terms of per capita income and one from the bottom 25 and submit names of states and per capita income to Dr. McFarlane through LEARN email for this class. The information you will need is available in the class LEARN site under folder. Each student will have a unique combination. States will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Readings

Introduction, xxi-xliv.

3. 1/24 Chapter 1 (Values in Health Policy: Understanding Fairness and Efficiency)

- a. Places the U.S. health care system in perspective.
- b. Introduces the concepts of fairness and efficiency in health care.
- c. Review expectations for the research assignment.

Readings

Chapters 1, Values, pp. 2-13

4. 1/26 **Public Health, Determinants of Health, and Introduction to Measures**

- a. Present factors that determine health status and how to measure.
- b. Define public health vs. health care.
- c. Discuss the Gordon typology for health intervention.
- d. Discuss some of the ways that population health is measured.
- e. Distinguish between mortality and morbidity.

Readings

Gordon, Larry J., "Public Health Is More Important Than Health Care," *Journal of Public Health Policy*, Vol. 14, No. 3 (1993), pp. 261-264 (required).

McFarlane, Deborah R. 2005. "Foreword," pp. xi-xvi in Patel and Rushefsky, *The Politics of Public Health in the United States* (required).

Population Handbook (on-line and on-reserve)

5. 1/31 Research Assignment and Sources

6. 2/2 The View From Economics: Markets and Politics in Health Care

- a. Examine the assumptions of the market model and its applicability to health services.
- b. Consider the role of government in the market model.

Readings

Chapter 2, pp. 14-27

7. 2/7 **Congress**

- a. Examine the role of Congress in health policymaking.
- b. Consider the role of partisanship.
- c. Discuss the role of advocacy groups.

Readings

Chapter 3, Congress, 29-55.

8. 2/9 **The Presidents**

- a. Examine the role of the Presidency in health policy.
- b. Review the history of the Presidency in health policy in the 20th century.
- c. Film: “Obama’s Deal”

Readings

Chapter 4, Presidents, 56-75.

9. 2/14 The Presidents continued

10. 2/16 **Why Health Reform Happened**

- a. Consider the bumps along the road.
- b. Read the Eyewitness Section

Readings

Chapter 7, pp. 116-124

11. 2/21 **Federalism**

- a. Examine intergovernmental aid for health.
- b. Go over three major grant types.
- c. Analyze how this relationship influences state health policies.

Readings

Chapter 6, pp. 94-115

12. 2/23 Review for Test 1

13. 2/28 Test 1

14. 3/2 **Medicare**

- a. Describe the historical developments in the largest federal health program.
- b. Consider the future of Medicare.

Readings

Chapter 8

15. 3/7 **Medicaid: Designed to Grow**

Readings

Chapter 9

16. 3/9 **10 Myths About Health Lobbyists**

- a. Examine the validity of 10 myths about power and influence.
- b. Consider the public interest in health care.

Readings

Chapter 16

17. 3/14 Spring Break
18. 3/16 Spring Break
19. 3/21 **The View from the States: Massachusetts**
Readings
Chapters 11-14
20. 3/23 **Texas and Oregon**
Readings
Chapters 13 and 14
21. 3/28 **Public Opinion**
 - a. Discuss the relationship between public opinion and health policy outcomes.
 - b. Examine the principles and limitations of public opinion.Readings
Chapter 15
22. 3/30 Test 2
23. 4/4 **Reproductive Health**
Readings
Chapter 19
24. 4/6 **Reproductive Health and Environmental Health Addendum**
25. 4/11 **Children**
Readings
Chapter 20
26. 4/13 No Class PAPER IS DUE BY 5 P.M. No Exceptions.
27. 4/18 **American Health Care in International Perspective and England**
Readings
Chapter 23
28. 4/20 **Canada** and Review 3
Readings
Chapter 24
29. 4/25 Review for Test 3
30. 4/27 Test 3
31. 5/2 Results from Test 3, Tentative Grades/Review for Final
32. 5/4 Review for Final Exam
33. 5/9 Final Examination, 12:30-2:30 (This is a guess based on last semester's final exam schedule—the official exam schedule for Spring 2017 has not yet been posted.)