

## Healthcare Planning and Policy

### Course Description:

This course introduces students to the key concepts and principles of healthcare policy making and planning. Major features of the structure and function of the healthcare system will be examined. The distinctive characteristics of the healthcare system in the United States will be compared and contrasted with the systems of other developed and developing countries. The current access, quality and cost issues for our country are a major focus and will be studied in the context of the complex political, economic and social forces that are shaping healthcare policy today. The translation of concepts and principles to real world application will be accomplished through the use of case studies and active discussion of the issues and developments in the news.

### Course Prerequisites:

Healthcare Planning and Policy is intended for students in their Junior or Senior year who have completed HA 150 and BA 201. Exceptions to these prerequisites can only be made with the approval of the student's adviser, course instructor and Department Chair.

### Learning objectives:

With the successful completion of this course the student will have:

- 1) Achieved a foundational knowledge and understanding of the healthcare policy making process in the United States as well as the approach taken in a representative sample of other countries.
- 2) Demonstrated an understanding of the structure and organization of a health system as well as the performance measures by which it is evaluated. and ranked.
- 3) Developed a well informed perspective on the dynamics and forces at work which require a nation's health system to continually evolve.
- 4) Formulated a vision of what will and can be the future of health care in America.
- 5) Designed a new health policy which includes a concise statement of the opportunity for improvement , analysis of the options to be considered and the selection of a proposed new initiative.

### Teaching methods:

This course will include both synchronous (real time) and asynchronous (self directed) approaches to learning. The synchronous approach will be offered online utilizing Zoom conferencing capability. The asynchronous component will be textbook based. The course utilizes lectures, group discussion, news videos, case studies, student presentations, pop quizzes and scheduled examinations to achieve its objectives. Classes have been scheduled in Zoom, Meeting I.D. # 929 2116 3178.

**Required Text:**

Introduction to Health Policy, 2nd Edition, Leiyu Shi (IHP)

**Optional Text:**

Essentials of Health Policy and Law, 3rd Edition, Joel B. Teitelbaum and Sara E. Wilensky (EHPL)

**Class participation:**

At the beginning of the synchronous classes approximately 15 minutes will be committed to a discussion of student selected issues in the news. This is an opportunity to engage with the class in a review and debate of contemporary issues and developments. These exercises are aimed at cultivating the ability to constructively call attention to today's issues and connect them with the concepts and principles being studied. In order to be prepared to effectively participate in these "exchange of thought" exercises, students are strongly encouraged to scan the national media between each class and come ready to present the elements of an issue and advance a point/counterpoint discussion with the other students. Thoughtful and consistent performance in these exercises will be a consideration in the class participation component of the final grade. Please review the "Rubrics" section to learn how participation is assessed. Suggested sources for selecting issues to be introduced in the exchange of thought exercises are: Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, U.S. News and World Report, Kaiser Family Foundation website at <http://www.kff.org> and National Institute of Health Policy website at <http://www.nihp.org/NEWglossary.htm#GlosM>. ([Links to an external site.](#))

Approximately half the classes will be asynchronous self directed learnings utilizing the IHP textbook and requiring the formulation and submission of complete and accurate answers to the discussion questions at the end of the chapter. The submitted responses to these questions will be assessed and graded and will represent a significant portion of the participation component of the final grade. The formation of a study group around this work is strongly encouraged to succeed in developing optimal responses to the questions. Like peer review, study groups are part of serious academic work and, properly managed, can enhance the overall performance of each student. The formation of a study group is not mandatory but solely at the discretion of each student. Whether completed individually or in a group process each student must submit their own responses.

**Case Studies:**

Each student will be assigned 2 case studies over the course of the semester to analyze and present to the class with the use of powerpoint slides. A write up of the presentation is also required and should be submitted on the day of the presentation. These case studies are found in the "Introduction to Health Policy" textbook and are incorporated in each chapter with the key questions for the cases presented at the end of the chapter. Each student will be provided with a schedule which identifies which cases they have been assigned to present and the date for the assigned cases. These case studies will be evaluated as another key factor of the class participation component of the final grade. While there is no prescribed formula for carrying out this assignment, the case studies will be evaluated on the basis of the student's grasp of the significant issues in the case, use of additional sources to illuminate and enhance the case study subject matter, understanding of the policy and political trade offs in the case and effective communication skills. The objective is to exercise the student's critical thinking skills in evaluating real world examples of health policy in action.

**Instructor Information:**

James Caldas, M.B.A.,M.P.H, LFACHE

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Office hours by appointment

**Grading System:**

Class participation	40%
Mid term exam	20%
Proposed policy presentation	10%
Final exam	30%

**Attendance:**

With 40% of a student's grade reflecting class participation, it is imperative that every effort be made to attend all classes. Successful completion of this course requires consistent attendance as a prerequisite to attain the participation portion of the final grade. Should an absence be unavoidable please notify the instructor by email before the class meets. If you participate in a team sport or are involved in any University-sanctioned activities that will require you to miss more than one class please review the situation with the instructor.

**Late assignments:**

Late assignments may be accepted with a valid excuse but will be subject to the risk of point deductions.

### **Classroom Code of Conduct:**

All interactions in class will be civil, respectful and supportive of an inclusive learning environment for all students. One of the best indicators of a collaborative exchange of ideas is that the self esteem of all participants is maintained. Any concerns regarding participation in class should be brought to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Electronic Devices:**

Use of cell phones in the classroom is not permitted for any reason. Please turn cell phones off or switch to silent mode. Use of laptop computers to enhance the learning experience and access course materials is recognized and appreciated. Students should use discretion and professional judgement in determining appropriate use of laptop computers during class. The use of laptop computers or tablets should not be used if such use detracts from engagement in classroom discussion.

### **Disability Resources:**

If you have a disability that requires an accommodation, please speak with the instructor. Arcadia University provides reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you require accommodations or other academic support due to a physical, psychological, psychiatric or learning disability you should contact Disability Support Services at 215-572-4033.

### **Safe and Productive Environment:**

Arcadia University is committed to assuring a safe and productive environment for all students. In order to meet this commitment and comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and guidance from the Office of Civil Rights, the University requires faculty members to report incidents of sexual violence shared by students to the University's Title IX Coordinator. The only exceptions to a faculty member's reporting obligation are when incidents of sexual violence are communicated by a student during a classroom discussion, in a writing assignment for a class, or as a part of a University-approved research project.

Information regarding the reporting of sexual violence and the resources that are available to victims of sexual violence is set forth at [HTTP://.arcadia.edu/university/policies-guidelines/title-ix](http://.arcadia.edu/university/policies-guidelines/title-ix)Links to an external site..

### **Disclaimer:**

The Instructor reserves the right to make modifications to the course outline, including assignments, throughout the semester.

Course outline: Please note that dates followed by \*\*\* are synchronous.

Date Matter/Content	Subject Required Reading	
09/01/2020 ***	Introduction and background, review syllabus and course outline, clarify issues and discuss any concerns	None
09/03/2020 ***	Overview of the US Healthcare System; Finance, Quality and Access	None, optional, EHPL Chapter 4
09/08/2020 ***	Overview of Health Policy; Definitions, Framework and Stakeholders	The Constitution of the United States <a href="http://www.house.gov/Constitution/Constitution">http://www.house.gov/Constitution/Constitution</a>
09/10/2020	Review Chapter 1 of IHP and submit written responses to the discussion questions no later than noon 09/13/2020	Chapter 1 IHP
09/15/2020 ***	Federal Health Policy making: Formulation, Implementation and Modification  Student case study presentations from Chapter 1 IHP with class feedback and discussion	
09/17/2020	Review Chapter 2 of IHP and submit written responses to the discussion questions no later than noon 09/20/2020	Chapter 2 IHP
09/22/2020 ***	Health Policy making at the State and Local Levels including the Private Sector  Student case study presentations from Chapter 2 IHP with class feedback and discussion	

09/24/2020	Review Chapter 3 of IHP and submit written responses to the discussion questions no later than noon 09/27/2020	Chapter 3 IHP
09/29/2020 ***	The Health Bureaucracy and Public Policy Essential issues in Health Policy and Law	None, optional, EHPL Chapter 5 and 6
10/01/2020 ***	Guest speaker (TBD )	None
10/06/2020 ***	International Health Policy making: Examples of other countries and the role of the World Health Organization  Student case study presentations from Chapter 3 IHP with class feedback and discussion	
10/08/2020	Review Chapter 4 of IHP and submit written responses to the discussion questions no later than noon 10/11/2020	Chapter 4 IHP
10/13/2020 ***	Financing and Delivery:Real World Policy Implications  Student case study presentations from Chapter 4 with class feedback and discussion	
10/15/2020 ***	Midterm Exam	
10/22/2020	Review Chapter 5 IHP and submit written responses to the discussion questions no later than noon 10/25/2020	Chapter 5 IHP
10/27/2020 ***	Health Policy for Diverse Populations:Understanding who is vulnerable  Student case study presentations from Chapter 5 IHP with class feedback and discussion	

10/29/2020	Review Chapter 6 IHP and submit written responses to the discussion questions no later than noon 11/01/2020	Chapter 6 IHP
11/03/2020 ***	International Health Policy: Issues in Developed and Developing Countries  Student case study presentations from Chapter 6 IHP with class feedback and discussion	
11/05/2020	Review Chapter 7 and submit written responses to the discussion questions no later than noon 11/08/2020	Chapter 7 IHP
11/10/2020 ***	Overview of Health Policy Research: Unique challenges to implementation  Student case study presentations from Chapter 7 IHP with class feedback and discussion	
11/12/2020	Review Chapter 8 and submit written responses to the discussion questions no later than noon 11/15/2020	Chapter 8 IHP
11/17/2020 ***	Health Policy Research Methods: Method Types and Approaches to Evaluation  Student case study presentations from Chapter 8 IHP with class feedback and discussion	
11/19/2020	Review Chapter 9 and submit written responses to the discussion questions no later than noon 11/22/2020	Chapter 9 IHP
11/24/2020 ***	Health Policy Research Example: Problem definition and Intervention  Student case study presentations from Chapter 9 IHP with class feedback and discussion	

12/01/2020 ***	Health Policy research examples; Problem definition and Intervention	Chapter 10 IHP
12/03/2020 ***	Guest speaker (TBD)	
12/08/2020 ***	Student Proposed Policy Initiative: Presentation and Feedback	
12/10/2019 ***	Student Proposed Policy Initiative: Presentation and Feedback	
12/15/2019	Reading Day	
TBD ***	Final Exam	