UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY HENRY W. BLOCH SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

HA 5581 – Health Policy in the United States Spring 2012

Meeting time: Mondays 7.00 PM–9.45 PM Location: Bloch 3

Instructor: Arif Ahmed, BDS, PhD, MSPH

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Course Description and Objectives

The health care system is one of the largest sectors in the United States economy and has generated a wide range of social, political, economic, and ethical issues in recent years. Because of the diverse debates and the high stakes associated with them, health care issues have become an integral part of the public policy process.

Through this course the students will develop an understanding of the determinants of health, health policymaking, and major current health policy issues. We will examine the public policy process in detail and how it affects the organization, financing, and delivery of health care. We will focus on the roles of key players in health policy formulation and the public policy responses to major issues such as insurance coverage, access to care, cost-containment, and quality of care. We will also examine different perspectives on health care reform.

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

- Describe various determinants of health
- □ Discuss the major current health policy issues
- □ Understand the impact of public policy on health
- □ Identify different stakeholders in health policymaking
- □ Describe the health policymaking process
- □ Discuss various perspectives on health care reform
- □ Critically analyze specific health policies and offer policy alternatives

Textbooks and Readings

- □ Required:
 - 1. Morone, J. A., Litman, T. J., & Robins, L. S. (2009). *Health politics and policy* (4th Ed.). Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Cangage Learning.
 - 2. Lee, T. H., & Mongan, J. J. (2009). *Chaos and organization in health care*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.
 - 3. Cogan, J. F., Hubbard, R. G., Kessler, D. P. (2011). *Healthy, wealthy, & wise: Five steps to a better health care system* (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute Press.
- □ Additional readings (mainly journal articles) will be assigned throughout the semester.

Course Requirements/Assignments*

- 1. Class participation and discussion (10%): Attendance and class participation is very important for everyone to benefit from the course. Therefore, please read all assigned readings before coming to class. You are expected to submit at least one discussion question on the readings each week, attend classes, and contribute to a meaningful discussion of the topic of the day. Please submit the discussion question(s) to me electronically by 10:00 AM on the day of class. Your grade for this component will depend on the quality of the questions submitted, class attendance, and raising valid points, expressing opinions, and sharing experiences in class.
- 2. *Issue brief* (15%): You will write an issue brief (maximum 4 single-spaced pages) on a health policy issue of interest to a local health care/advocacy organization. You are expected to discuss the issue brief in class (not necessarily on the day it is due).
- 3. **Health reform debate** (20%): For this assignment, you will analyze, present, and debate the major arguments put forth in one of the books assigned for this course. This is a team assignment. Depending on the number of students in class, 4 teams of 2-4 students will be formed. Each team will be assigned to argue for or against the major points made in Cogan et al. (2011) and Lee & Mongan (2009).
- 4. **Book review** (20%): This is an individual assignment. For this assignment, you will write a review (approximately 8-10 pages) of one of the books assigned for this course: Cogan et al. (2011) or Lee & Mongan (2009).
- 5. **Policy analysis term paper (35%):** You will conduct an in-depth analysis (approximately 18 double-spaced pages) of a federal or state legislative policy related to health care. **Please electronically submit your topic for approval by March 5.**

*Weights shown in parentheses above will be used to determine the final course grade according to the scale shown below (there will be no curve). Detail instructions for completing the assignments will be made available through the course Blackboard site.

Grading Scale

A (outstanding) = 95% or more A- (excellent) = 90-94% B+ (very good) = 87-89% B (good) = 83-86% B- (adequate) = 80-82% C+ (barely adequate) = 77-79% C (poor) = 70-76% D (very poor) = 60-69% F (unacceptable) = 59% or less

Course Policies

- Students are expected to use the Blackboard site set up for this course. Most course-related information, announcements, and documents will be posted on this site. <u>All</u> electronic communications pertaining to the course will be done through Blackboard and/or your UMKC e-mail account. You can access Blackboard at https://blackboard.umkc.edu/webapps/login/ using your UMKC login and password.
- 2. Once finalized, no request for changing the debate teams or schedule will be entertained. Absence during the debate will result in zero score for the individual concerned.

- 3. Unless otherwise noted, <u>all assignments</u> must be typed and are due at the start of class on the date specified in the syllabus. No credit will be awarded for assignments received late.
- 4. Please visit http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules/programs/ch200 to familiarize yourself with the University policies on student conduct. Particularly, please review the information pertaining to plagiarism and cheating. If unsure, please ask me. I take these issues very seriously.
- 5. Please plan your schedule and commute to class in a manner that allows you to arrive in the classroom before the start of the class period.
- 6. Inclement weather policy: In the event of threatening weather conditions classes may be cancelled at the discretion of the UMKC central administration. Please consult the UMKC website and/or listen to radio/TV broadcasts for official announcements. You can also subscribe to UMKC Alert! Emergency Mass Notification System (http://www.umkc.edu/umkcalert/default.asp).
- 7. While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, the instructor reserves the right to change any provision herein if circumstances so warrant. Every effort will be made to inform the students about the changes as quickly as possible. It is the responsibility of each student to know what changes, if any, have been made to the provisions of the syllabus and to complete the course requirements accordingly.
- 8. Course withdrawal: All course withdrawals must be initiated in the Bloch School Student Services Office, Room 115, and completed through the Registration Center in the UMKC Administrative Center. Students intending to withdraw from the course after the eighth week of class (fourth week in the summer session) are required to obtain a signature of both the instructor and an academic advisor before the course withdrawal is official. Telling the instructor that you intend to withdraw from the course or ceasing to attend class does not constitute an official withdrawal. The academic calendar in the class schedule/registration guide lists the official withdrawal dates.
- 9. Following support services are available to all students:
 - The Bloch School Computer Lab located in Bloch 110 is available for your use. The lab's schedule is available at:
 http://www.umkc.edu/is/Labs/hoursLocations/normlabhours.asp
 - UMKC Writing Center: Students who desire assistance in written assignments may contact the UMKC Writing Center at 816-235-1146. It is located at 5201 Rockhill Road.
 - Office of Disabled Student Services: If you have any questions about a disability or desire accommodation under the Americans with Disability Act, please contact the Office of Disabled Student Services at 816-235-5696. The Office's website can be accessed at: http://www.umkc.edu/disability/.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 9	 Course introduction and syllabus overview Introduction to the health care system and health policy process 	Morone, Litman, & Robins (MLR) Ch 1, 2, 3, 10
Jan 23	Determinants of healthPopulation and disease trends	Readings to be distributed MLR Ch 18
Jan 30	Health policy making—stakeholders and the policy processPolicy process—agenda setting	MLR Ch 9, 11 Readings to be distributed
Feb 06	Health policy and the Congress	MLR Ch 4 Readings to be distributed
Feb 13	• The executive branch and health policy	MLR Ch 5 Readings to be distributed
Feb 20	 Health policy and the judiciary Issue brief due Issue brief discussion 	MLR Ch 6 Readings to be distributed
Feb 27	 State and local government roles in health policy Health reform debate topics due Issue brief discussion 	MLR Ch 7, 8, pp 196-200 Readings to be distributed
Mar 05	 Interest groups Policy analysis topic due (electronically)	MLR Ch 12, 13
Mar 12	 Perspectives on health reform (debate) I Book review due (electronically) 	Cogan, Hubbard, & Kessler
Mar 19	• Perspectives on health reform (debate) II	Lee & Mongan
Apr 02	• International comparison	MLR Ch 19, 20, 21
Apr 09	 Structuring and writing a health policy analysis 	Teitelbaum & Wilensky: Ch 10
Apr 16	• Current health policy issues	MLR Ch 14, 15 Readings to be distributed
Apr 23	• Current health policy issues	Readings to be distributed
Apr 30	Electronic copy of Policy Analysis paper due by 5:00 PM	