Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy

Health and Public Policy
Fall 2017

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: Sophia Jones, Ph.D.
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Classroom: SC 101
Class Hours: Friday 9:50-12:50
Office Hours: By appointment

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. I will inform students of any changes ahead of time (e.g., adding or dropping readings, internet videos, guest lectures, change in due date schedule for assignments etc.).

Date of this syllabus: 09/07/17

Overview: This course is an introduction to health policy. This class will provide students with a sense of how health policy affects public health and health care. The class will begin with the basic machinery of policymaking and the legal process that underpin the individual health care and public health systems, and then turns to an exploration of many of the fundamental problems and contemporary issues in health policy and law, with an emphasis on previous and current health care reform. Students will learn to think critically about health policy issues and apply this ability in writing and speaking. The course will include reading assignments, lectures,
class discussions, written assignments, student presentations, examinations, and quizzes.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Provide an understanding of the policymaking process.
2. Provide an understanding of the health care and public health systems.
3. Discuss and analyze health policy issues.
4. Provide an understanding of health care economics and financing and their relationship to health care policymaking.
5. Develop an understanding of the federal health insurance programs and their connection to access health care, uninsured, underinsured and healthcare reform.
6. Develop an understanding of the basic legal concepts that underlie the health care and public healthcare systems (including the legal rights and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the healthcare system and the extensive and complex role played by federal and state law in the protection of the public's health).


ISBN# 9781284087543

This book will be supplemented by other reading materials including journal articles, newspaper or magazine articles and will vary from week to week. Some of the supplemental readings will be announced as the course progresses. Instructions for where to locate the articles will be provided. Students will be responsible for locating the articles, reading them prior to class, and bringing the articles to class for discussion. Students having difficulty finding any of the reading materials, must notify the instructor.

Attendance is required and classroom participation is strongly encouraged (please see grade percentages). Students should notify the instructor of any anticipated absence or tardiness to class, or need to leave early. Attendance will be noted and class participation is factored into your final grade.
**Course Requirements:** The course requirements include 1 policy memo, 1 group presentation including a one page self-reflective summary, 1 quiz and 1 final exam.

**Health Policy Memo:** Each student will prepare a brief memo (5 pages total-content will be double spaced, 12 point font, min 1” margins) analyzing a current health policy problem (topic to be assigned). A separate handout detailing this assignment will be distributed in the class or posted online.

**Group Presentation:** Students will be divided into teams. The number of team members on each team will vary depending on the size of the class. Each team is responsible for developing a PowerPoint Presentation which must include equal participation from each member of the group. This presentation will be given in front of the entire class. Students will be provided with a topic on an issue that is often debated within the healthcare industry. The team must provide arguments from both sides and provide literature and other supportive research to support the argument in favor and the argument against the topic. Team members must research the topic and be prepared to answer questions from the instructor and/or students within the audience. When possible and if class time allows, students will be given time in class to work with their teams, however all students on the team will be responsible for meeting with their group outside of class and as needed.

**Attendance is MANDATORY for all students on the designated final presentation days whether you are presenting or not.** Depending on the final number of groups, presentations will be held during the last two or three weeks of class. The specific date for your group’s presentation will be determined at a later date. The PowerPoint **MUST** include appropriate and current citations from a journal/peer reviewed article (additional information will be provided concerning acceptable references) and this literature must be from within the past ten (10) years and provided in the reference list and on a separate PowerPoint slide at the end of the presentation. Additional information on the format of the group presentation will be provided in detail during the semester. A separate handout detailing this assignment will be discussed in class and posted online.
**Quizzes and Exams:** There will be two in-class quizzes and one in class final exam. The final exam is typically scheduled by the university. The final exam will cover material from the latter half of the course. You should expect that any content presented in the readings or in class, including lectures, internet videos, and guest lecturers if applicable, will be covered on the quizzes and exam. You will have the class time allotted to complete the quizzes and exam. The format, content, scheduling and information required for the quizzes and/or final exam are all subject to change.

**Submission of Documentation for Review:** All documents scheduled to be submitted to the instructor will not be accepted in a PDF format. Further instructions will be provided on how to submit documents/assignments.

**Grades:**

Students will be graded on the following:

- Class Attendance/Participation: 10%
- Policy Memo: 15%
- Quiz 1: 15%
- Quiz 2: 15%
- Group Presentation: 25%
- Final Exam: 20%

Course grades will be assigned as follows:

- A: 90-100
- B+: 86-89
- B: 80-85
- C+: 76-79
- C: 70-75
- D: 61-69

60 or below is a failing grade.
Any questions regarding the grading of specific course requirements must be brought to my attention immediately.

**Other considerations:** Collegial and respectful conduct is expected in class. Class members should consider themselves colleagues who will collaborate to help each other develop a solid understanding of materials and concepts.

Prompt attendance at all classes is expected. Please notify the instructor via email if you anticipate missing class, arriving late to class or leaving early. Any missed classes, late arrivals or leaving early without an excused absence will count against your class participation grade. Timely arrivals and departures should be the norm.

Please silence or turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices during class.

**The Importance of Class Discussion**

Students enrolling in this class should understand that discussions will present at least two sides to each topic. All views are welcomed and encouraged. A classmate, professor or guest lecturer may present an argument that you strongly agree or disagree with. Constructive dialogue will be strongly supported throughout the semester. Rutgers University seeks to provide a unique opportunity for considering diverse and different approaches to topics. At any time during class if you are not comfortable hearing views that may differ from your own, or if you are uncomfortable participating in class discussions, please do not hesitate to discuss this with Dr. Jones to determine if this class is the right one for you.

**Assignments:**

All assignments must be completed on time. A hard copy of the assignments should be turned in during the class session in which they are due unless specified that they should be submitted online. **Late work will be penalized and will have a deduction of five (5) points for each day the assignment is late.** Assignments cannot be submitted later than one week after the due date; missed assignments will receive a failing grade.

Cheating, plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Such actions will result in a failing grade on the assignment and disciplinary action will be pursued.
Students will not be permitted to submit the same information repeatedly from different classes and or assignments. All assignments and papers are subject to screening through the “plagiarism checking system.”

For further information about academic misconduct and a full explanation of the University’s policies, please see the University’s Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students located on the web at:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/

If any questions or concerns arise, please contact me.

**Persons with a Disability**

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating to his or her abilities should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and to facilitate your educational opportunities. You should also register with the Office of Disability Services (http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu).

**Final Exam**

Please note that your final exam is normally scheduled by the University and is subject to change. This scheduled meeting date is normally considered “testing week” for the University. Students requesting an alternative date for an exam must contact me at least 4(four) weeks in advance of the exam. Only valid exam conflicts will be grounds for an alternate date and will be reviewed on an individual basis. If you have a serious illness or an emergency on the day of the exam, please contact me IMMEDIATELY. Failure to make alternative arrangements prior to an exam or a paper/assignment due date will result in a failure for that exam or paper/assignment. There are no make-up exams for unexcused absences.

**Email Correspondence**

All emails should be sent through your Rutgers University assigned email address and should include your name, class title, and your concerns or questions should be stated clearly to receive a response within twenty-four (24) hours.
Sakai

Students are required to check Sakai throughout the semester to receive updates on assignments.