

HSCC 3120 – Health Policy and Law Fall 2006

When: Tuesdays, 1:00 – 3:45P
Where: Hawes 101
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Thursday – 9:00A - 12:00P
Other days/times by appointment only

Course Description

As per the AASU catalogue, the purpose of this course is to provide the student with an overview of the health policymaking process as well as the legal environment of health care. Issues pertinent to policy deliberation, formation, evaluation, and statutory and administrative law are also explored in this course.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, it is anticipated that the student will be able to demonstrate significant understanding of the following:

- (1) The general typology of public health policy, including the different statutory and non-statutory forms of policy, the substantive goals of various health policies, and the relationship of health policy to population health status.
- (2) The steps involved in the health policymaking process including: policy formulation/advocacy, policy formulation/legislative development policy implementation, and policy evaluation/modification.
- (3) The key stakeholders involved in the health policymaking process, including both the producers/suppliers of such policies, the consumers/demanders of such policies, and their various interactions with one another at different stages of the policy-making process.

Course Objectives (cont'd)

- (4) The inherent strengths/limitations of the public health policymaking approach with respect to improving population health status/reducing disease burden.
- (5) The general structure of the American legal system, including sources of common law, statutory law, and administrative law, as well as those governmental structures responsible for production and enforcement of such laws.
- (6) General principles of civil liability as they apply to and affect health services organizations, including liability related to professional negligence, product liability, contract/antitrust liability, and general corporate liability issues.
- (7) Legal issues pertaining to patient-specific concerns including patient privacy/confidentiality of patient information, informed patient consent, and patient-specific rights and responsibilities with respect to health services organization encounters.

Course Textbook

Longest, B.B. Jr. Health Policymaking in the United States. 4th Edition. AUPHA/Health Administration Press. (2006)

Supplemental Text/Readings

Supplemental readings will be provided to the student from time to time throughout the term to coincide with the material covered in the lecture portion of the class. These supplemental readings will be placed on reserve at Lane Library during the week when the readings will be discussed in class. Students should avail themselves to the reserves system at Lane if not already familiar with how this system operates, including accessing reserve material online via the electronic reserves (ERes) system.

Course Evaluation and Grading

The grading scale to evaluate student performance will be similar to that used by other courses: 90-100(A), 80-89(B), 70-79(C), 65-70(D), <65(F). Any deviations from this standard scheme will be a result of the distribution of class scores. **Typically, those persons who show up for class each week, participate regularly, and invest time in learning the material will do well in the class.** Each student's grade in the course will be based on the following criteria (with the relative weight for each):

1.	Course Exams (2)	--	40%
2.	Writing Assignments (Best 3 of 4)	--	30%
3.	Policy Summary Assignment	--	20%
4.	Class Participation	--	10%

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change)		Longest Chapter#
<u>8/22:</u>	Course introduction/overview Introduction to health policy Health policy framework	1
<u>8/29:</u>	The environment of public policymaking The public policymaking process Special interest group activities	2, 3
<u>9/5:</u>	Policy formulation: legislative agenda setting Policy formulation: legislative development	5, 6
<u>9/12:</u>	Policy implementation: rulemaking and operations Executive branch activities Special interest group activities Institutional oversight of policy implementation	7, 8
<u>9/19:</u>	The outcomes of public policy Organizational impact(s) of health policymaking Policy environment assessment methods	4
<u>9/26:</u>	Public policy evaluation – rationale and techniques Policy modification The federal budget and policy modification	9
<u>10/3:</u>	Contemporary domains of health policy The future of health policymaking	TBA
<u>10/10:</u>	Exam #1 (tentative)	
<u>10/17:</u>	Introduction to U.S. legal system Sources of jurisprudence/law Governmental administration/oversight	TBA
<u>10/24:</u>	Civil liability for HSO's Negligence liability Tort liability Product liability	TBA
<u>10/31:</u>	Contract/antitrust liability issues for HSO's Corporate liability issues for HSO's	TBA

Tentative Course Schedule (subject to change)	Longest Chapter#
<u>11/7:</u> Legal issues in patient care Legal issues with informed consent Patient rights and responsibilities	TBA
<u>11/14:</u> Employment law fundamentals Legal Issues Pertaining to Labor Relations	TBA
<u>11/21:</u> No class – Thanksgiving break	
<u>11/28:</u> Miscellaneous sources of health law Legal reporting requirements Legal topic(s) – TBA Course evaluations (tentative)	TBA
<u>12/5:</u> Exam #2 (optional – see below) Policy summary assignments due (TBA)	

Examination Format

There are two (2) non-cumulative exams scheduled to be given as part of the course requirements. The first exam, scheduled for early October, is **mandatory**. The second exam, scheduled for early December, will be **optional** to any student that wants to/needs to take it to improve their cumulative grade in the course, subject to the following conditions: (1) the student must have maintained a satisfactory record of class attendance throughout the term, with no more than two total absences for any reason; (2) the student must have submitted all required course work up to the second exam, including all writing assignments and his/her policy summary notebook. Any student that meets both of these conditions and is otherwise satisfied with his/her cumulative earned grade in the course may choose to forgo the second exam.

The format of the exams will be in-class, open note, multiple choice types of exams, with students allowed two hours (approximately) to complete each exam. Despite being open-note exams, students are warned not to forsake adequate preparation for each exam, as the questions tend to be heavily application-oriented, and thus not usually amenable to rote response/recall from notes.

Writing Assignments

Students will be required to complete at least three (3) writing assignments during the term. These writing assignments may consist of one to several short essay-type questions that will allow the student to apply knowledge obtained from lecture and/or the text to as much of a “real world” situation as this assignment will allow. Each writing assignment will be assigned a week prior to the due date, and will be due back to me on the date specified (no exceptions). Students are allowed to use their class notes and/or text to complete each assignment, but outside assistance/collaboration is strictly forbidden. Independent work is expected in all cases.

Policy Summary Assignment

Each student will be required to select (and have approved by me) a specific public policy (federal, state, or local) and compile a policy summary notebook that describes their public policy in sufficient detail such that a lay reader would have a better understanding of the public policy issue upon reviewing the contents of the policy summary. Each notebook should include the following: (1) a three-page maximum summary (in the student’s own words) of the public policy being reviewed, including pertinent information such as the author(s) of the public policy (legislator(s), executive branch sponsor(s), etc.), when it was enacted, the presumed target(s) of the policy, the expected impact(s) of the policy, any anticipated or unanticipated results of the policy since enactment, etc.; (2) full copies of source literature (journal articles, newspaper articles, Lexis-Nexis citations, etc.) that deal specifically with your selected public policy (minimum of three sources, maximum of six sources total), with a one-page maximum abstract summary of the contents of each article selected.

Students will be evaluated on this assignment based on adherence to the above requirements as well as grammar, spelling, and overall neatness/appearance of the notebook. Students that turn in notebooks that do adhere to the above requirements should not expect an exemplary grade on this assignment.

Student Performance / Conduct Expectations

At each registration, students must agree to abide by the rules of the Honor Code and the Code of Conduct. The Honor Code and Code of Conduct are printed in the AASU Catalog, Students Illustrated and on the University website. Any student desiring assistance with any matter related to these Codes is invited to seek assistance in the Division of Student Affairs.

Commensurate with their obligations associated with adherence to these defined codes of conduct, all students in this course are expected to:

1. Exercise honesty in all matters, both academic and personal in nature.
2. Be fair and courteous with others, treat them fairly and with respect, showing sensitivity to cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity and personal dignity.

Student Performance / Conduct Expectations (continued)

3. Accept personal responsibility for appropriate behavior as defined by the Codes.
4. Know the offenses under each Code and the penalties for violating them.
5. Understand that they are responsible for knowing and following any additional written or verbal requirements given by the professor, which relate to honor or conduct and which are inherent to the classroom or University functions.
6. Know what plagiarism is, as defined under the Honor Code; recognize that it undermines individual and academic integrity and ensure that it is avoided in both spirit and deed.
7. Understand that the Codes apply at all University activities whether on the main campus or at other locations.
8. Remember that they are representatives of Armstrong Atlantic State University and that they must always conduct themselves in a manner that brings credit upon themselves and the University.

Any student determined to be in violation of one or more of the provisions of these codes will be subject to all proscribed academic and/or disciplinary penalties as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. Lastly, it should be noted that student ignorance of the specific provisions within the Code of Student Conduct is not an acceptable defense in any such proceedings. Students should thus exercise particular care to refrain from any activity or behavior that has the appearance of constituting a violation of the Code.

Provisions for Students with Disabilities

All students that have a documented disability, whether permanent or temporary, that will impact significantly on their ability to be successful in this course, are encouraged to discuss the disability with me to allow for appropriate assistance through the Office of Disability Services. All inquiries will be strictly confidential.