

## **MHSA 8635 – Health Politics and Policy Fall 2005**

**When:** Thursdays, 4:30P – 7:15P  
**Where:** TBA  
**Instructor:** Joey Crosby, Ph.D, R.Ph  
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**Office Hours:** Tuesday – 12:00P – 4:30P  
Wednesday – 11:00A – 1:00P  
Thursday – 12:00P – 4:30P

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### **Course Description**

As per the AASU graduate catalogue (2005-2006), the purpose of this course is to provide the student with an overview of the policymaking process that results in the formulation of health policy in the public sphere. Topics considered include principles of public policy analysis, policy evaluation methods, and political environmental assessment techniques. Various domains of current health policy interest are also discussed. As health services organizations are uniquely and significantly affected by a myriad of past, current, and prospective public policies at various levels on a daily basis, a sound working knowledge of the public policymaking process is a critical skill for health services administrators to possess at all levels.

### **Course Objectives**

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

- (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: the policy formulation/advocacy stage, the policy formulation/legislation development stage, the policy implementation stage, and the policy evaluation/modification stage.

## Course Objectives (cont'd)

- (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.
- (4) The inherent strengths/limitations of the public health policymaking approach with respect to improving population health status/reducing disease burden.
- (5) The general processes/methodologies associated with the identification of policy problems and the analysis of potential policy solutions, to include consideration of specific analytical criteria in making such judgments.
- (6) The general processes/methodologies associated with the evaluation of policy and/or program effectiveness with respect to policy/program objectives in relation to policy/program outcomes.
- (7) The policy issues that comprise the environment of health policy, and how such issues have evolved over time.

## Course Textbook/Readings

Longest, B.B. Jr. Health Policymaking in the United States. Third Edition. AUPHA / Health Administration Press. (2002) **(HP-US)**

Longest, B.B. Jr. Contemporary Health Policy. AUPHA/Health Administration Press. (2002) **(CHP)**

Supplemental readings will be provided for students from time to time to coincide with course material be covered in lecture. Such readings will be drawn primarily from the scholarly health policy/politics/economics literature including, but not limited to, the following:

Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law  
Inquiry  
Medical Care  
American Journal of Public Health  
Journal of Health and Social Policy  
Health Affairs  
Policy Studies Journal  
Policy Studies Review  
Journal of Political Economy

## Course Evaluation and Grading

The grading scale used to evaluate student performance will be the same as that used in other AASU courses: 90-100 (A); 80-90 (B); 70-79 (C); 65-69 (D); <65 (F). Any deviations from this standard grading schedule will be a result of the distribution of class scores on particular assignments. Each student's grade in this course will be based on the following (with the relative weights for each):

1.	Homework Assignments	40%
2.	Health Policy Brief	20%
3.	Health Policy Critique	30%
4.	Policy Presentation	10%

## Homework Assignments

Students will be assigned a number of homework assignments throughout the term to roughly coincide with the material being covered in the lecture portion of the course. These assignments may include short answer/essay questions, policy research, and/or summaries/critiques of the policy literature. Generally speaking, students will be given a week to complete each assignment and submit for credit. Students who are not able to attend class, for whatever reason, will still be responsible for obtaining and completing these assignments in a timely fashion. The instructor reserves the right to deduct points for any homework assignments submitted after the designated due date.

## Health Policy Brief

Students will also be required to select (and approve with me first) a specific piece of health policy legislation (whether proposed as a bill or implemented into law) at either the federal or state level for purposes of preparing a policy brief, or summary, of the health policy/legislation. This exercise will allow the student the opportunity of analyzing the health policymaking process from the earliest stages of policy development (e.g. agenda development) through to the formal implementation, evaluation, and modification of such policies over time. The areas/issues that may be included within the policy brief include, but are not limited to, the following:

- \*\* What groups, individuals, or special interest organizations were involved with advocacy efforts early in the policymaking process for purposes of getting the health policy issue on the policy agenda?
- \*\* What legislator(s) sponsored the formal legislation relating to the health policy issue, and why were they involved?
- \*\* What alliances (if any) were formed within the various legislative chambers to increase the likelihood of successful passage of formal legislation relating to the health policy issue?

## **Health Policy Brief (continued)**

- \*\* What legislative committee(s) had jurisdiction over the proposed legislation, and what were the most important outcomes of their deliberative processes as it relates to the health policy issue at hand?
- \*\* What was the general path that the legislation followed during the legislative/policymaking process in terms of chronology of events?
- \*\* What appropriations, if any, were made as part of the process of passing the proposed legislation related to the health policy issue at hand?
- \*\* What administrative laws, policies, and/or procedures were derived from the approved legislation (if applicable)? What executive branch agencies (if any) are charged with the implementation of the approved legislation in terms of establishing rules/regulations?
- \*\* What modifications, if any, were made to the original legislation, and what were the circumstances involved?

The format of the written brief is quite flexible, and students are free to use whatever format they are most comfortable with (e.g. executive summary format, question/answer format, etc.), so long as the narrative of the written brief flows fairly logically, and is written in such a manner that it can be readily understood by someone completely unfamiliar with the policy issue at hand. Students who are uncertain as to whether their format is appropriate are encouraged to submit rough draft(s) of their written briefs to me prior to final submission for feedback on this.

The grade on this assignment will be based on an evaluation of the following: content, originality, clarity, and brevity, as well as grammar, spelling, and literary style. Students are forewarned to meticulously proofread their assignments prior to turning in for a grade, as poor grammar can result in the failure of this assignment as easily as lack of content.

## **Health Policy Critique**

Additionally, students will be given the opportunity to apply principles and concepts learned in the didactic portion of the class to “real world” health policy issues, in the form of a formal policy analysis/critique. As part of this assignment, students are required to select a health policy “problem” (subsequent to instructor approval) and conduct an extensive review of the policy literature for purposes of summarizing the public policy history relating to the “problem”. Examples of commonly cited “problems” in health and/or health care include, but are not limited to, any/all of the following:

## Health Policy Critique (continued)

**	Healthcare costs (rates of increase)	**	Unsafe work sites
**	Healthcare quality (or lack thereof)	**	Illicit drug use
**	Access to healthcare (or lack thereof)	**	Mental health
**	Water/air pollution	**	Tobacco use
**	Minority health	**	Health manpower
**	Human stem cell research	**	Insurance regulation

Refinement of the health policy “problem” to focus on a specific health policy issue is probably most ideal in terms of identifying appropriate sources of health policy literature to support the analysis/critique. Policy “problems” that are too broad will likely make it more difficult to identify such sources. I am available to assist students who have trouble identifying a policy problem and/or finding source literature regarding public policies implemented for purposes of addressing such problems.

The format of the written critique should be roughly similar to other formal reviews of the literature: 10-25 pages in length (excluding any appendices), typed, double-spaced, with appropriate referencing of source materials used (APA or other suitable format accepted – see me if you are unsure). The critique should include a general discussion of the policy “problem”, including any formal definitions, terms, or measurement issue(s) that may apply in terms of quantifying the “problem”. Such a discussion may also include conceptual models or theories (if any) that have been developed to describe/explain the problem. The critique should also include, as stated above, a thorough discussion of the public policy history related to addressing the problem. Such a discussion should include the identification of legislation (at various levels), laws, and/or rules/regulations that have been promulgated to address the policy problem. Students should also be able to identify/classify different public policies based on the type of policy intervention involved, and very generally critique/evaluate the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of the various policy interventions based on evaluation criteria presented in class.

The written policy critique will be graded based on content, style, structure, grammar and spelling. As was the case for the policy brief, students should meticulously proofread their documents prior to submission, as poor grammar/style can result in failure of this assignment as much as lack of content.

## **Policy Presentation**

Lastly, each student will be required to give an oral presentation of approximately 10-15 minutes in length that summarizes the results of either the health policy brief or health policy critique assignment. Student presentations will be evaluated jointly by both the instructor as well as fellow students in terms of thoroughness of content, effectiveness of delivery, and stimulation of collegial discussion among peers.

## **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.
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.

## Student Performance / Conduct Expectations (continued)

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.

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### Course Schedule (subject to change):

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topics Covered:</u>	<u>Longest Ch.</u>
8/18	Course Introduction Introduction to Health Policy Typology of Health Policy Theories of Governmental Intervention	<b>HP-US</b> Ch. 1, 2

#### *Supplemental Readings for 8/18:*

Averch, H. "The Role of Markets." Abstracted from Private Markets and Public Intervention: A Primer for Policy Designers. University of Pittsburgh Press. (1990)

Feldstein, P.J. "An Economic Version of the Interest Group Theory of Government". Abstracted from The Politics of Health Legislation: An Economic Perspective. Second Revised Edition. Health Administration Press. (2003)

Bloche, M.G. "Should Government Intervene to Protect Non-Profits?" Health Affairs. Vol. 17, No. 5. pp. 7-25

*Homework Assignment for 8/18:*

**Summarize the public interest and special interest (economic) theories of governmental intervention in private markets. Provide both (1) a public interest as well as (2) a special interest (economic) argument that would presumably justify some type of governmental intervention to protect non-profit health care organizations as described in the article by Bloche.**

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8/25	The Environment of Health Policy The Public Policymaking Process Policy Formulation – Agenda Setting Policy Problems and Policy Solutions The Role of Politics in Agenda Setting	HP-US Ch. 3, 4
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*Supplemental Readings for 8/25:*

Davidson, S.M. "Politics Matters! Health Care Policy and the Federal System." Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law. Vol. 22, No. 3.

Feldstein, P.J. "An Economic Version of the Interest Group Theory of Government." Abstracted from The Politics of Health Legislation: An Economic Perspective. Second Revised Edition. Health Administration Press. (2003)

Atchison, B.K. and Fox, D.M. "The Politics of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act." Health Affairs. Vol.16, No. 3, pp. 146-157.

*Homework Assignment for 8/25:*

**Define and describe the role(s) that political consideration play(s) in terms of the production of public policy. Identify some of the most relevant political considerations that were implicated with the passage and subsequent implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.**

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9/1	Policy Formulation – Agenda Setting Definition of Policy Problems Identification of Policy Solutions Policy Research Inputs in Agenda Setting	HP-US Ch. 4
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*Supplemental Readings for 9/1:*

Guess, G.M. and Farnham, P.G. "Problem Identification and Structuring." Abstracted from Cases in Public Policy Analysis. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Georgetown University Press. (2000)

Lavis, J.N., Ross, S.E. and Hurley, J.E. "Examining the Role of Health Services Research in Public Policymaking." Milbank Quarterly. Vol. 80, No. 1 (2002), pp. 125-154.

Gornick, M.E. "Disparities in Medicare Services: Potential Causes, Plausible Explanations, and Recommendations." Health Care Financing Review. Vol. 21, No. 4, pp. 23-43.

*Homework Assignment for 9/1:*

**Based on the Gornick article:**

- (1) Provide a workable definition of the health-related problem to be addressed vis-à-vis some type(s) of public policy intervention(s).**
- (2) Describe the known antecedents to this problem that are also identified in the article as well.**
- (3) Based on the typology of policy problems as described in the Guess and Farnham article, how would you classify this problem (e.g. well-structured, moderately-structured, ill-structured) and why? If you classified it as moderately or ill-structured in terms of type, what further area(s) of research input are needed to clarify policymakers' understanding of this problem.**

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9/8	Methods and Principles of Policy Analysis Market-based Policy Alternatives Incentive-based Policy Alternatives	N/A
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*Supplemental Readings for 9/8:*

Rhoads, S.E. "Economic Incentives." Abstracted from The Economist's View of the World: Government, Markets, and Public Policy. Cambridge University Press. (1985)

Feldstein, P.J. "Should Kidneys (and Other Organs) be Bought and Sold?" Abstracted from Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. (2002)

*Supplemental Readings for 9/8 (continued):*

Guess, G.M. and Farnham, P.G. "Pricing and Public Policy: The Case of Cigarette Taxes." Abstracted from Cases in Public Policy Analysis. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Georgetown University Press. (2000)

Gruber, J. and Levitt, L. "Tax Subsidies for Health Insurance: Costs and Benefits." Health Affairs. Vol. 19, No. 1, pp. 72-85.

*Homework Assignment for 9/8:*

1. Evaluate the feasibility and potential effectiveness of establishing a functioning market for the economic exchange of transplantable solid organs as described by Feldstein. What problems would policymakers likely encounter in the process of market development?
2. Evaluate the feasibility and overall effectiveness of the two incentive-based policies (cigarette taxes in the Guess and Farnham piece and health insurance subsidies in the Gruber and Levitt piece) in this week's readings. What factors were most likely responsible for the success (or lack thereof) of each policy approach?

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9/15	Methods and Principles of Policy Analysis Regulatory Policy Alternatives Public Provision Policy Alternatives	N/A
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*Supplemental Readings for 9/15:*

Averch, H. "Regulation." Abstracted from Private Markets and Public Intervention: A Primer for Policy Designers. University of Pittsburgh Press. (1990)

Brown, L.D. "Political Evolution of Federal Health Care Regulation." Health Affairs. Winter 1992. pp. 17-37.

Conover, C.J. and Sloan, F.A. "Does Removing Certificate-of-Need Regulations Lead to a Surge in Health Care Spending?" Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law. Vol. 23, No. 3, pp. 455-484.

Feldstein, P.J. "Can Price Controls Limit Medical Expenditure Increases?" Abstracted from Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (2002).

*Homework Assignment for 9/15:*

1. Describe the presumed goal(s) of each of the regulatory policies (certificate of need and price controls) discussed in this week's readings. How effective (or not) was each one in terms of accomplishing its stated goal(s)? What factor(s) were most likely implicated with each policy's success (or lack thereof)?
2. How regulated is the health care enterprise in 2005? How has this changed over time?

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9/22	Methods and Principles of Policy Analysis Evaluation of Public Policy Alternatives Preferred Policy Selection Issues The Politics of Preferred Policy Selection The Role of Interest Groups in Policy Selection	HP-US Ch. 8
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*Supplemental Readings for 9/22:*

Averch, H. "Appraisal of Strategies." Abstracted from Private Markets and Public Intervention: A Primer for Policy Designers. University of Pittsburgh Press. (1990)

Feldstein, P.J. "The Demand for Legislation by Health Associations." Abstracted from The Politics of Health Legislation: An Economic Perspective. Second Revised Edition. Health Administration Press. (2003)

Feldstein, P.J. "The Self Interest Paradigm and the Politics of Health Legislation." Abstracted from The Politics of Health Legislation: An Economic Perspective. Second Revised Edition. Health Administration Press. (2003)

Short, P.F., Shea, D.G. and Powell, M.P. "Health Insurance Options for Americans Approaching Age Sixty-Five: An Analysis of Options for Incremental Reform." Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law. Vol. 28, No. 1, pp. 41-76.

*Homework Assignment for 9/22:*

**Refer to Figure 6 in the Short et al article. Identify one example of each of the four types of health policy alternatives identified as part of the policy analysis material (market-based, incentive-based, regulatory-based, public provision) from that table. Which of the four policies is preferable in terms of accomplishing the goal of expanding health insurance coverage to persons approaching age 65 and why?**

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topics Covered:</u>	<u>Longest Ch.</u>
9/29	Policy Implementation – Roles/Responsibilities Rulemaking/Operations – Roles/Responsibilities Oversight of Policy Implementation Activities	<b>HP-US</b> Ch. 6 <b>CHP</b> Ch. 8

*Supplemental Readings for 9/29:*

Pollitz, K. et al. "Early Experience with 'New Federalism' in Health Insurance Regulation." Health Affairs. Vol. 19, No. 4, pp. 7-22.

Biles, B. Dallek, G. and Nicholas, L.H. "Medicare Advantage: Déjà vu All Over Again?" Health Affairs. Web Exclusive. Retrieved 8/12/05 from [www.healthaffairs.org](http://www.healthaffairs.org).

*Homework Assignment for 9/29:*

TBA

10/6	Policy Outcomes/Consequences Interfaces with Health-Related Organizations Interfaces with Health-Related Interest Groups Mechanics of Policy Environmental Assessments	<b>HP-US</b> Ch. 2, 8
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*Supplemental Readings for 10/6:*

Cook, K. et al. "A Theory of Organizational Response to Regulation: The Case of Hospitals." Academy of Management Review. Vol. 8, No. 2, pp. 193-205.

Bigelow, B., Arndt, M. and Stone, M.M. "Corporate Political Strategy: Incorporating Management of Public Policy Issues into Hospital Strategy." Health Care Management Review. Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 53-63.

*Homework Assignment for 10/6:*

TBA

10/13	Policy Modification – Roles and Responsibilities The Role of Evaluation in Policy Modification Methods for Policy/Program Evaluation Cost-Benefit Analysis Cost Effectiveness Analysis	<b>HP-US</b> Ch. 7
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*Supplemental Readings for 10/13:*

Palumbo, D.J. "Evaluation: Determining the Effectiveness of Public Policy." Abstracted from Public Policy in America: Government in Action. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. (1994)

Santerre, R.E. and Neun, S.P. "Cost and Benefit Analysis." Abstracted from Health Economics: Theories, Insights, and Industry Studies. Thomson-Southwestern Publishing.

Neumann, P.J. and Johannesson, M. "From Principle to Public Policy: Using Cost-Effectiveness Analysis." Health Affairs. Summer 1994. pp. 206-214.

Scheffler, R.M. et al. "Prevention: The Cost-Effectiveness of the California Diabetes and Pregnancy Program." American Journal of Public Health. Vol. 82, No. 2, pp. 168-175.

Lindqvist, K. and Lindholm, L. "A Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Community-Based Injury Prevention Programme in Motala, Sweden – A WHO Safe Community." Public Health. Vol. 115 (2001), pp. 317-322.

*Homework Assignment for 10/13:*

CBA/CEA assignment – TBA

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10/20	Domains of Health Policy Medicare and Medicaid Policy Historical Evolution Current Policy Issues	<b>CHP</b> Ch. 7, 20, 21
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*Supplemental Readings for 10/20:*

Scully, T.A. "Policy High Points: Medicare and Medicaid in the New Millennium." Health Affairs. Web Exclusive. Retrieved on 7/26/05 from [www.healthaffairs.org](http://www.healthaffairs.org).

Holahan, J. and Ghosh, A. "Understanding the Recent Growth in Medicaid Spending, 2000-2003." Health Affairs. Web Exclusive. Retrieved 8/6/05 from [www.healthaffairs.org](http://www.healthaffairs.org).

McClellan, M., Spatz, I.D. and Carney, S. "Designing a Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit: Issues, Obstacles, and Opportunities." Health Affairs. Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 26-41.

*Homework Assignment for 10/20:*

TBA

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10/27      Health Policy Lecture (3:00 – 5:00P)  
Dr. Lester Crawford, FDA Commissioner  
AASU Fine Arts Auditorium  
No regular class meeting

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11/3      Domains of Health Policy      **CHP Ch. 9, 19**  
Uninsured Policy  
Determinants of uninsurance  
Health System Reform Policy

*Supplemental Readings for 11/3:*

Feldstein, P.J. “Why are Those who Most Need Health Insurance Least Able to Buy It?” Abstracted from Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. (2002)

Gilmer, T. and Kronick, R. “It’s the Premiums, Stupid: Projections of the Uninsured Through 2013.” Health Affairs. Web Exclusive. Retrieved 8/8/05 from [www.healthaffairs.org](http://www.healthaffairs.org).

Hall, M.A. “The Political Economics of Health Insurance Market Reform.” Health Affairs. Summer 1992. pp. 108-124.

Oberlander, J. “The Politics of Health Reform: Why do Bad Things Happen to Good Plans?” Health Affairs. Web Exclusive. Retrieved 8/8/05 from [www.healthaffairs.org](http://www.healthaffairs.org).

Santerre, R.E. and Neun, S.P. “Health System Reform.” Abstracted from Health Economics: Theories, Insights, and Industry Studies. Thomson-Southwestern Publishing.

*Homework Assignment for 11/3:*

TBA

