

POLI 306 Health Politics and Policies

Course credits:

3

Prerequisites:

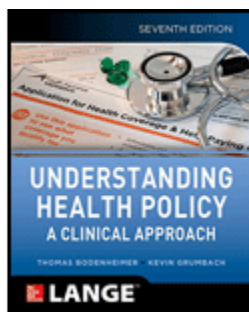
None

Course Description

This course is designed to provide you with an overview of the U.S. health system, its components, and the players that challenge the health policies. My goal is to present broad perspectives for understanding the U.S. health system within historical, social, political, and economic contexts that shape the health of Americans. Broadly, we will discuss the five aspects of U.S. health politics and policies throughout the course. First, we begin by discussing the major characteristics and the beliefs and values underpinning U.S. health politics and policies. Second, we delve into the history of the system, describing the initial development and evolution of the system (**Foundations**). Next, we focus on the structure and process of the U.S. health care system, addressing the types of care and special populations for special care (**Process**). Third, we learn about each of the components of the system, including human resources and nonhuman resources such as finance and reimbursement (**Resources**). Fourth, we devote some time to discussing the issues and concerns about U.S. health politics and policies (**Outcomes**). We end the course by discussing the future of our healthcare system (**Outlook**).

Required Course Materials

- *Understanding Health Policy* by Thomas Bodenheimer. 7th Edition (2016). Prepaid book via the UWSP Textbook Rental Program. ISBN 9781259584756.



Course Learning Objectives

- Explain the components and workings of the U.S. health care system and the U.S. public health infrastructure.
- Understand the evolution of the U.S. health system and the influencing factors for the changes.
- Analyze the connections and interconnections between the components of the health care system.
- Identify the role of many players that have shaped the health politics.
- Scrutinize the complex socio-ecological issues that surround health and healthcare in America which create health disparities.
- Evaluate the existing health policies and recommend options for policy change.

Course Overview

TOPIC	ACTIVITIES
Course Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus Quiz • Introduce Yourself Forum • Peer Reviews
Understanding Health Politics & Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Define Health Forum • Peer Reviews
The Foundation & Historical Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Patient vs Consumer Forum • Peer Reviews
Structure of Health Care System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Medicaid Eligibility • Peer Reviews
Access to Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Health Disparity Data Analysis • Peer Reviews
Prevention of Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Prevention & Cancer Statistics • Peer Reviews
Long-Term Care (LTC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • News Story Analysis • Peer Reviews
Midterm Exam	
Paying for Health Care & Health Care Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Analysis of Payment Methods • Peer Reviews

Controlling Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Effectiveness of Cost Control Strategies • Peer Reviews
Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Analyze Shortage & Underrepresentation • Peer Reviews
Medical Technology & Medical Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • New Story Analysis • Peer Reviews
Film Presentation Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch the film • Write a film analysis paper
Quality of Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Quality Measurements • Peer Reviews
Health Care in Other Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Learning Materials • Comparative Analysis of Health Care Systems • Peer Reviews
Final Exam	

Evaluation Methods

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

1. 12 Modules Activities (10 pts each; 120 pts in total)
2. 12 Sets of Peer Reviews (10 pts each set; 120 pts in total)
3. 2 Exams (90 pts each; 180 pts total)
4. 1 Film Analysis Paper (30 pts)

Module Activities (120 points)

Each module asks you to complete a brief activity by Saturday. It could be answering the discussion questions or submitting the assignment featuring the class topic. It does NOT require any outside research. Reviewing lecture videos and reading the textbook chapter are sufficient to complete this task. Each module will have a different task. More information will be provided in each module. It is worth 10 points. You must incorporate class materials to complete these exercises.

Peer Reviews (120 Points)

For each module activity, you are also invited to review two other students' assignments. It is designed to promote in-depth class discussion and "in-person feeling" of interaction between peers. Once you submit the original activity by the deadline, you will be automatically assigned to TWO peers to review their work. Canvas may need a few hours to complete the automatic assignment, so it would be safe for you to check the course site the next morning to see your assigned peers. Peer reviews need to be completed by the following Tuesday. Each set of peer reviews is worth 10 points. Read the "Information about Peer Reviews" page for more details on the peer reviews.

TWO Exams (180 Points)

You will take TWO exams throughout the semester. Exams are NOT cumulative. Each exam will be open at 9 AM on Thursday and close at 11:59 PM on Friday during the scheduled week. It will be open for two days, but you will be given one attempt for two hours. Once you start the test, you are not allowed to take a break to return. If you need accommodation for the exam, please contact the UWSP Disability Resource Center (DRC) and arrange for your official letter to be delivered to me by the third week of the semester. The format of exams is a combination of multiple-choice and short identification questions. There will be 45 questions (2 points per question), and each exam is worth 90 points. I will share a study guide for each exam. After the grading is over, the exam will be reopened for you to review the questions. Because it is an online exam that is open for a day, no re-takes or make-up exams are offered.

Film Analysis Paper (30 Points)

You will watch the film in light of the lecture materials and assigned readings for this course. After watching the film, you are asked to write a brief analytic essay. Please keep in mind that this assignment is NOT a film review. You should NOT discuss if you like or dislike the film. Instead, you will find the theme that is relevant to our class topics and develop the thesis statement to lay out your thoughts on many pressing questions about American Politics. You are free to write on any topic related to American politics addressed in the films, as long as they are able to incorporate and demonstrate your thorough understanding of the different assigned course readings.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale for each assignment is as follows:

Points Range	Letter Grade
423-450	A
405-422	A-

392-404	B+
373-391	B
360-372	B-
346-359	C+
328-345	C
315-327	C-
301-314	D+
283-300	D
232 and under	F

Spring 2024 - 15 Week Course Calendar

Week	Topic(s)	Tasks	Due Dates
1 Jan. 22 - Jan. 28	Introduction to POLI 306	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus Quiz • Module 1 Discussion 	1/27/2024
2 Jan. 29 – Feb. 4	Understanding Health Politics and Policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 2 Discussion 	2/3/2024
3 Feb. 5 – Feb. 11	The Foundation & Historical Developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 3 Discussion 	2/10/2024
4 Feb. 12 – Feb. 18	Structure of Health Care System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 4 Discussion 	2/17/2024
5 Feb. 19 – Feb. 25	Access to Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 5 Discussion 	2/24/2024
6 Feb. 26 - March 3	Prevention of Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 6 Discussion 	3/2/2024
7 March 4 – March 10	Long Term Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 7 Discussion 	3/9/2024
8 March 11 – March 17	Midterm Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Exam 	3/15/2024
9 March 25 – March 31	Paying for Health Care & Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 9 Discussion 	3/30/2024
10 April 1 – April 7	Controllint Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 10 Discussion 	4/6/2024
11 April 8 – April 14	Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 11 Discussion 	4/13/2024
12 April 15 – April 21	Medical Technology & Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 12 Discussion 	4/20/2024
13 April 22 – April 28	Film Presentation Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start Film Analysis Paper 	5/17/2024
14 April 29 – May 3	Quality of Health Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 14 Discussion 	5/4/2024
15 May 6 – May 12	Health Care in Other Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 15 Discussion 	5/11/2024
16 May 13-May 17 Note: 5 Days	Final Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assignment: Film Analysis Paper • Final Exam 	5/17/2024