

Department of Health Policy and Management
College of Public Health
University of Georgia

HADM8400
Advanced Topics in Health Policy
Fall Semester, 2007

Course Information

Instructor: Phaedra Corso, Ph.D., M.P.A.
Office Location: N125 Paul Coverdell Building
Phone: (706) 583-8926
Email: pcorso@uga.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:30; or by appointment

Course Meeting Time and Location

Building: Paul Coverdell Building
Room: 141
Day: Tuesdays and Thursdays
Time: 11:00am – 12:15pm

Textbooks and Other Required Reading

1. Gill Walt. *Health Policy: An Introduction to Process and Power*. Johannesburg, South Africa: Witwatersrand University Press, 1994.
2. Eugene Bardach. *A Practical Guide for Policy Analysis: The Eightfold Path to More Effective Problem Solving, second edition*. Washington DC: CQ Press, 2005.
3. Course Packet available at BelJeans: Includes articles and several chapters from the following texts:
 - a. [SZ] Edith Stokey and Richard Zeckhauser. *A Primer for Policy Analysis*. New York, NY: WW Norton & Company, Inc., 1978.
 - b. [WV] David Weimer and Aidan Vining. *Policy Analysis: Concepts and Practice, fourth edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2005.
 - c. [PS] Carl Patton and David Sawicki. *Basic Methods of Policy Analysis and Planning, second edition*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1993.
 - d. [HTC] Anne Haddix, Steven Teutsch, and Phaedra Corso (eds.). *Prevention Effectiveness: An Introduction to Decision Analysis and Economic Evaluation*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2003.
 - e. [MS] Rakesh Mohan and Kathleen Sullivan (guest eds.). Promoting the Use of Government Evaluations in Policymaking. Special Supplement in *New Directions for Evaluation*, 2006;112.

It is also expected that each student will follow key health policy issues discussed in class in the popular press (e.g., New York Times, Washington Post) and in leading medical and public health

journals (e.g., *JAMA*, *NEJM*, *AJPH*). One of the best ways to do this is to subscribe to the Kaiser Family Foundation's Weekly Health Policy Report. You can register at www.kaisernetwork.org.

Course Description

HADM8400 will provide students with an in-depth understanding of the major health policy issues confronted by the broad spectrum of public and private sectors. This course will provide a detailed and systematic analysis of the health policy environment that shapes health care policymaking, and will examine the role played by key actors in the health field.

Pre-requisite: HADM7400: Introduction to Health Policy and Management or Equivalency

Course Learning Objectives

Students will be able to:

1. Summarize the historical context for health policy issues in the United States;
2. Discuss contemporary issues in health policy;
3. Apply a rational 9-step approach for conducting a policy analysis;
4. Analyze a health policy topic from the perspective of efficiency, equity, fiscal effects, and political feasibility;
5. Evaluate the outcomes of a policy analysis using a number of quantitative tools; and
6. Develop and present a final policy analysis report.

These course learning objectives tie to the core competencies outlined for the health policy track of the MPH and DrPH programs:

- A. Appraise PH problems in terms of magnitude, person, time, and place.
- B. Apply the core functions of assessment, policy development, and assurance in the analysis of public health problems and their solutions.
- C. Analyze the effects of political, social and economic policies on public health systems at the local, state, national and international levels.
- D. Assess evidence-based principles and the scientific knowledge base to critical evaluation and decision-making in public health.

Course Assignments and Grading Policy

Masters Students:

1. 6 written homework assignments – 10% each
2. Policy Analysis – 40% (includes 15-page maximum written report (30%) and 20-minute oral presentation (10%))

Doctoral Students:

1. 5 written homework assignments – 10% each
2. Policy Analysis – 30% (includes 15-page maximum written report)
3. Group Project – 20% (includes two group oral presentations)

Homework assignments will be provided to students 10-14 days in advance of the due date, and will consist of 1-5 short answer questions. Homework assignments are expected to be completed individually and will not be accepted after the due date. Masters students will be required to complete homework assignments #1 – #6 and Doctoral students will be required to complete homework assignments #1 – #5.

The policy analysis includes a 15-page analysis of a policy topic of your choosing. All students are strongly encouraged to discuss their policy topic with the Instructor early in the preparation of the written report. An oral presentation of the report is also required of the Masters students. The presentation will occur at a pre-determined time (see class schedule for possible dates), not to exceed 20 minutes. More information on the policy analysis will be provided by the Instructor in class.

Doctoral students are required to participate in a group project that is worth 20% of their grade. For this semester, students will be required to make two oral presentations, summarizing the health policy initiatives being proposed by the leading 2008 presidential candidates. The oral presentations will occur on Wednesday, November 28th. The first presentation will be from 10:30am-12:00pm for the Health Communications class being taught by Dr. Patricia Thomas (room 203, Journalism Building). The oral presentation will include 1-hour of presenting the health policy initiatives of the leading presidential candidates, followed by 30 minutes of “press-type” inquiries. The second oral presentation will be from 12:20-1:15pm for the College of Public Health seminar series (S175 Coverdell Building). The oral presentation will include 45 minutes of presenting the policy initiatives of the leading presidential candidates, followed by 10 minutes of Q&A from the seminar participants. More information on the group project will be provided by the Instructor during class.

Topical Outline and Schedule

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the Instructor may be necessary.

8/16: Course Introduction

8/21: Background on the US Healthcare System (Patel and Rushefsky: Chapter 2; Bodenheimer articles on why costs are rising)

8/23: Daniel Callahan audiotaped lecture on technology advancements vs. equal access

8/28: The Process and Politics of Setting Health Policy (Walt: Chapters 1–4)

8/30: Policy Analysis vs Advocacy; Ethics; Policy Analysis in a non-Governmental Setting

9/4: The Rational vs Incremental and Prospective vs Retrospective Approaches for Conducting Policy Analysis (Bardach: Part I; MS: Chapter 6; WV: Chapter 14)

9/6: GAPHA – Class canceled

9/11: Step 1: Define the Problem (PS: Chapter 4)

9/13: Step 2: Assemble Some Evidence (Bardach: Part II)

9/18: Nuts and Bolts of Assembling Evidence (SZ: Chapters 4, 6, 7)

9/20: HW #1 DUE

9/25: Step 3: Construct the Alternatives (PS: Chapter 6; WV: 15)

9/27: The Role of Government in Health Policy (WV: Chapter 10; Bardach: Appendix B) – Guest Lecturer: Lisa Dawson, Director, *Injury Prevention Section, Division of Public Health, Georgia Department of Human Resources*

10/2: Step 4: Select the Evaluation Criteria (PS: Chapter 5)

10/4: HW #2 DUE

10/9: Step 5: Project the Outcomes, Defining Preferences (SZ: Chapter 8)

10/11: Mental Health Policy in Georgia (*AJC* investigative series available at: www.ajc.com/hiddenshame) – Guest Lecturer: Ellyn Jeager, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, *Mental Health America of Georgia*

10/16: Step 6: Confront the Tradeoffs-Evaluate Policy Alternatives (PS: Chapter 7; MS: Chapter 1)

10/18: HW #3 DUE

10/23 – Aging Policy in the US (Readings TBA) – Guest Lecturer: Anne Glass, Assistant Director, *Institute of Gerontology, College of Public Health, UGA*

10/25: FALL BREAK – No Class

10/30: Benefit-Cost Analysis, Sensitivity Analysis, Discounting (HTC: Chapters 6, 8)

11/1: HW #4 DUE

11/6 – Immunization Policy in the US (Readings TBA) – Guest Lecturer: Mark Messonnier, Senior Health Economist, *National Immunization Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

11/8 – Immunization Policy in Georgia (Readings TBA) – Mark Messonnier

11/13: Step 7: Decide (HTC: Chapter 7)

11/15: HW #5 DUE

11/20: Step 8: Tell Your Story (Bardach: Part III; MS: Chapter 3-4)

11/22: THANKSGIVING – No Class

11/27: Step 9: Implement and Monitor (Walt: Chapters 8-9; WV: Chapter 11)

11/28: DrPH Presentations

11/29: HW #6 DUE (MPH Students only)

12/4: MPH Presentations

12/6: MPH Presentations

12/11: Final Policy Paper Due and MPH Presentations (if necessary)

Make-Up Policy

Any known scheduling problems should be brought to my attention as soon as possible. If a homework assignment needs to be turned in late, the student must contact me before the day that the homework is due. A half letter grade will be deducted for each day that the homework is turned in late. The final policy paper is required of all students. If a student does not do the final paper, a grade of zero will be given for that assignment.

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is expected of all students. If for some medical or personal reason you cannot attend class, please discuss with Instructor in advance. Homework assignments and the final policy paper will not be accepted past the due date.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the Instructor during regular office hours or by appointment.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "Culture of Honesty", which can be found at <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>. Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Plagiarism, collaborating with fellow students on the writing of the papers assigned for the course, or completion of the papers by others outside of the course, are all examples of academic dishonesty.