

**University of the Sciences in Philadelphia**  
**HP890 Health Services and Policy**  
**Fall 2008**  
**Syllabus**

**Credits:** 1 semester hour

**Meeting Time:** Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Meeting Place:** McNeil Science and Technology Center, room 337

**Prerequisites:** None

**Course Goal:** To provide students with an overview of the basic skills and tools needed to complete graduate-level work in health policy and to expose students to current issues in health policy through presentations by outside experts.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

- ✍ To understand and apply the basic skills needed to conduct graduate-level work in health policy.
- ✍ To understand the process of scholarly research in health policy.
- ✍ To understand important aspects of a current health policy issue.
- ✍ To critically analyze material presented by outside experts in a field.

**Course Format:** Lectures by members of the Health Policy faculty, discussion, and presentations by outside speakers.

**Instructors:** Robert I. Field, J.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.  
Professor of Health Policy  
215-596-7618  
[r.field@usip.edu](mailto:r.field@usip.edu)

Members of the health policy faculty

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

Attend class regularly and participate in discussion	50%
Written assignments	50%

**Assignments:** As presented on class schedule. To be explained further in class.

**Course Website:** [angel.usip.edu](http://angel.usip.edu). Additional information on speakers and on topics related to the semester's theme may be posted.

**Academic Integrity:**

Academic integrity is at the center of the educational experience at USP. Students are, therefore, expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and not engage in nor tolerate academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, fabrication, cheating or plagiarism. Any violation of academic integrity will be investigated, and, where warranted, the student will receive appropriate sanctions through the University's Student Conduct Process. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the current USP Student Handbook. In particular, adherence to the Student Conduct Policy and Academic Integrity Policy will help to ensure that the learning experience is founded on integrity.

**Students with Disabilities:**

USP supports the educational endeavors of all students, including students with disabilities. The American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a disability as a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. If you believe you have a disability that may impact your ability to fulfill your course or degree requirements, and you would like more information on applying for an accommodation, please contact the Assistant Dean of Students who serves as the Student Disability Support Services (SDSS) Coordinator at 215-596-8950.

**Schedule of Classes:**

**Theme for the Semester: Health and Health Care in Philadelphia**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Instructor</b>	<b>Assignment*</b>
<b>Aug. 27</b>	Introduction to the course	Robert Field	
<b>Sept. 3</b>	Library resources and search skills <b>Note: Class meets in STC-148</b>	Library Staff	
<b>Sept. 10</b>	What is a literature review	Steve Metraux	Read three articles on an assigned topic.
<b>Sept. 17</b>	What is analytical writing	Robert Field	One-page statement of a position on a current policy issue.
<b>Sept. 24</b>	How to read a research article	Harold Glass	Read assigned article and present one criticism in no more than one paragraph.
<b>Oct. 1</b>	What is a research question	Harold Glass	Written summary of a research question. Not more than one paragraph.
<b>Oct. 8</b>	What is a policy issue – dissection of a current issue	Vivian Valdmanis	Written summary of a policy issue. No more than one paragraph.
<b>Oct. 15</b>	How to read a dissertation	Stephen Metraux	Read assigned dissertation
<b>Oct. 22</b>	Preparation for speakers	Amy Jessop	Read assigned articles.
<b>Oct. 29</b>	Academic integrity – plagiarism, attribution, citation, acknowledgement of collaborators	Ruth Schemm	Read student handbook.
<b>Nov. 5</b>	Speaker		Ask questions**
<b>Nov. 12</b>	Speaker		Ask questions
<b>Nov. 19</b>	Speaker		Ask questions
<b>Nov. 26</b>	<b>No class - Thanksgiving</b>		
<b>Dec. 3</b>	Speaker		Ask questions
<b>Due Dec. 10</b>			Revised written assignments.

\* All written assignments will be handed back to students with comments. They must be revised and resubmitted by Dec. 10.

\*\* Each student must ask at least two questions over the course of the four outside speaker presentations.