

Health Policy 707 – Issues & Trends in Health Policy

Thursdays, 5:00 - 8:00pm

September 2 - December 16, 2004

Glasser #203

3 Credit Hours

Syllabus

Instructor:

Steve Metraux, PhD

Floor

Phone: (215) 596 7612

Office hours: by appointment

Office: Glasser Hall #410; 4500 Woodland Ave. 4th

email: s.metraux@usip.edu

Course Description:

This course provides an orientation to various analytical and substantive components that are fundamental to becoming familiar with health policy. Specifically, students will gain an awareness of the complexities of health policy issues, the historical evolution of issues and themes, and the nature of how different interests and actors interact. Students will learn commonly used frameworks for policy analysis and then apply them to a range of prominent, contemporary health care issues.

Course Objectives:

After this course, students will:

- 1) gain familiarity with an array of topics that are currently receiving attention in the (broadly defined) arena of health policy;
- 2) be aware of ongoing developments related to major health-related issues;
- 3) recognize the elements of particular health-related topics that are important to the formulation and dissemination of policy;
- 4) apply general tools and frameworks used in policy analysis to specific topics;
- 5) understand how different perspectives lead to different positions on health issues.
- 6) write and orally present overviews on a particular topic related to health policy.

Course Grading:

The following criteria will be used to determine your final grade:

Class Participation – 25%

Oral Presentation – 25%

Paper – 25%

Final Exam – 25%

Class participation is based on attendance and preparedness for class. Key to the latter will be familiarity with the assigned readings and the ability to contribute to the class as we work out matters related to different topics and policy analysis techniques.

Each student will select a class and prepare an **oral presentation** that provides an overview of the substantive topic that will be covered in that class. This is designed to be a briefing for the rest of the class that provides background material and presents key information on the specific topic that goes beyond the assigned readings. It is expected that each presentation also utilize some type of audio-visual material (such as a PowerPoint presentation) to assist in presenting the

material. The instructor will work with each student in laying out more specific expectations for this presentation.

A 10-12 page **paper** addressing a particular facet of a health policy-related topic will be due at the last class. The paper may cover the same topic as the oral presentation, and should incorporate a policy analysis component (other than the component discussed in class) in conjunction with the particular issue. More specific instructions will be provided in class.

A **final exam** will be given during USP's final exam period after regular classes end and at a specific time and place to be announced. The exam will be open book/notes and will require short answers and two longer essays.

Course Readings:

For each class, one chapter from Deborah Stone's book *Policy Paradox* will be assigned, as will one or more readings focusing on a particular health policy topic.

The Stone book is NOT available at the USP bookstore and is widely available through other bookstores (real and online). The other readings are posted on Blackboard (<http://blackboard.usip.edu>), where you can access them under the subheading "Course Documents" and print them out. Instructions for accessing Blackboard will be given in the first class.

Finally, each student will be expected to subscribe to and follow one of the free electronic health policy news services listed below for the duration of the semester.

<http://www.healthleaders.com/>
http://www.kaisernetwork.org/email_alert/email.cfm

Class Format

Classes will typically be organized in the following format.

- 1) Some time at the beginning of each class will be devoted to discussing health policy-related issues that have received attention in the media since the previous class. This material will come from the on-line news services. The object here is for the students to become more aware of current health policy-related issues and to informally use developing policy analysis skills. All students, in order to partake in this, will be expected to have read and to be familiar with at least two or three articles/reports that the student considers to be important.
- 2) The next portion of the class will focus on one of the chapters in the Stone book. Each chapter features a different policy analysis component, and this part of the class will focus on understanding, applying and critiquing the specific component. To be prepared for each class, it is expected that students will have read the corresponding Stone chapter assigned for the class date. The name of the featured component is in the first part of each class title on the course calendar (see below).
- 3) The third portion of the class will feature a particular substantive issue in health policy. Either the instructor or one of the students will present an overview of the issue, and the other readings assigned for each class will be discussed and critiqued. To be prepared for this, it is expected that students will a) have read the assigned readings given for each class date and b) on the date assigned, give an informative and well-organized presentation. The name of the featured health policy issue is in the second part of each class title on the course calendar (see below).

- 4) The final portion of the class will connect the policy analysis component from Stone's book with the substantive material from the health policy issue of the week. As part of preparing for class, students should reflect on how the policy analysis component can be applied to the issue. In some classes this connection may be more apparent than others, and "grounded creativity" in making these connections will be valued more than giving the "right" answer. The instructor may provide questions at the end of class to facilitate making such analysis-issue connections for the material to be covered in the next class.

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. Please familiarize yourself with the current USP Student Handbook. In particular, adherence to the Student Conduct Policy and Academic Integrity Policy will help to ensure that your learning and living experiences are founded on integrity.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Statement

USP supports the educational endeavors of all students, including students with disabilities. ADA defines a disability as a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

If you believe that 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 under ADA, please contact the Assistant Dean of Students who serves as the ADA Coordinator at 215-596-8980.

Course Calendar

This calendar provides a schedule for the course. Dates are subject to revision as needed.

Week 1: Introduction and Overview (Sep. 2)

Readings: Stone – Introduction and Chapter 1 (1-34)

Week 2: Equity – The Uninsured (Sept. 9)

Stone, Chapter 2

Miller et al., "Covering the Uninsured: What is it Worth?"

Blendon et al., "Americans' View of the Uninsured: An Era for Hybrid Proposals"

Week 3: Efficiency – Managed Care & Managed Competition (Sept. 16)

Stone, Chapter 3

Light, "The Origins and Rise of Managed Care"

Barr, "The Managed Care Revolution"

Week 4: Security – Medicare and Medicaid (Sept. 23)

Stone, Chapter 4

Moniz & Gorin, "Medicare & Medicaid"

Moon, "Medicare"

Rosenbaum, "Medicaid"

Week 5: Liberty – Malpractice (Sept. 30)

Stone, Chapter 5

Mello, "Malpractice Liability and Medical Error Prevention: Strange Bedfellows?"

Week 6: Symbols – Quality (Oct. 7)

Stone, Chapter 6
Donald Berwick, “Escape Fire”
Institute of Medicine, “Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century – Executive Summary”

Week 7: Numbers – Homelessness and Public Health (Oct. 14)

Stone, Chapter 7
Rossi, “No Good Applied Social Research Goes Unpunished”
Power et al., “Health, Health Promotion & Homelessness”

Week 8: Causes – Socioeconomic, Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Outcomes (Oct. 21)

Stone, Chapter 8
Steinbrook, “Disparities in Health Care – From Politics to Policy”
AHRQ – “National Healthcare Disparities Report” (Executive Summary)
Williams – “Race, socioeconomic status, and health - The added effects of racism and discrimination.”

Week 9: Interests: HIV/AIDS (Oct. 28)

Stone, Chapter 9
Gent – “Needle Exchange Policy Adoption in American Cities: Why Not?”
Gow – “The HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Africa: Implications for US Policy”

Week 10: Decisions – Mental Health and Illness (Nov. 4)

Stone, Chapter 10
Iglehart, “The Mental Health Maze and the Call for Transformation”
President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, “Achieving the Promise: Transforming Mental Health Care in America” (Executive Summary)

Week 11: Inducements – Obesity (Nov. 11)

Stone, Chapter 11
Hill et al., “Obesity and the Environment: Where Do We Go From Here?”
Kersh & Morone, “The Politics of Obesity: Seven Steps to Government Action”

Week 12: Rules – Illegal Drug Use (Nov. 18)

Stone, Chapter 11
Grossman, Chaloupka & Shim – “Illegal Drug Use and Public Policy”
Korf, Riper & Bullington – “Windmills in Their Minds – Drug Research and Drug Policy in the Netherlands”

Thanksgiving – No class (Nov. 25)

Week 13: Facts – Direct-to-Consumer Marketing of Pharmaceuticals (Dec. 2)

Stone, Chapter 13
GAO, “FDA Oversight of Direct-to-Consumer Advertising has Its Limitations”
PhRMA, “Direct-to-Consumer Advertising Strengthens Our Health Care System”
Allen & Ross, “Health Watch Position Paper on Direct to Consumer Advertising of Prescription Medicines”

Week 14: Rights – Smoking (Dec. 9)

Stone, Chapter 14
Thomas-Buckle & Buckle (2001). “Shifting Frames, Enduring Foe – Tobacco as a State Health Policy Problem.”

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