

**HSA 7157: Research Foundations in Health Policy  
Syllabus  
Spring 2015**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Allyson Hall, PhD  
Room: HPNP 4137  
Phone: 352 273 5129  
Email: hallag@phhp.ufl.edu

**CLASS MEETINGS:** Thursdays: 1:55-4:55

**OFFICE HOURS:** By Appointment

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course is designed to provide doctoral students with historical, theoretical, and analytic foundations to conduct research in health policy. The course is organized as a seminar. I will likely do very little lecturing. The expectation is that students will come to class fully prepared to engage in meaningful dialogue and discussion. It is assumed that students are familiar with health services and are aware of the major policy issues facing the US health care system today. In addition, students are expected to be knowledgeable of health services research methods (HSA 6911).

Through assigned readings, presentations, and completion of written and oral assignments each student will:

- Understand the linkages between health services research and health policy;
- Develop a working understanding of federal and state health policy legislative processes;
- Develop an understanding of the history of health policy in the US, and the political, economic, and social forces that led to development of the health care system;
- Understand key issues facing health service delivery in the US: cost, quality, and access
- Be able to describe recent health care reforms to US health care including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- Be able to generate and articulate policy related research questions
- Be able to outline a strategy for conducting health policy research including:
  - Describing and applying appropriate theoretical or conceptual frameworks
  - Identifying and understanding limitations of data sources to conduct policy research
  - Use sound methodologies for conducting policy related research
- Develop and deliver a lecture on a health policy topic

## Course Assignments

**Lead Class Discussions (15 percent).** A group of 2-3 students will prepare and present a summary of the readings to the class. In essence, the group will be leading the class discussion for that day. Discussants should: provide an overview of the topic; develop questions to help facilitate discussion among participants, provide critiques of articles if needed, and suggest alternative readings if warranted. Of course, everyone is expected to read the assigned articles and be prepared to participate in the discussion. **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and February 5**

**Presentation on US Health and Health Care Policy Issues (30 percent).** Student groups of 2 (or 3) will prepare a presentation on a current US health policy/health delivery issues. ***I would like for at least one group to discuss the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.*** Each group will identify articles for the class to read and deliver a lecture on the topic. and will prepare a written synopsis (no more than 10-15 pages) of the issue. The lecture will include background and history of the issue, current policy and strategies, reform proposals, and future outlook. Discuss possible research and evaluation questions on your topic. Assume that everyone in class has a basic foundation and knowledge of the issues. Your goal is not to just report the facts, but rather to provide an analysis and synthesis of key issues within your topic. ***Students must consult with me on selection of readings and topics to be covered. In addition, I will want to see your presentation before it is delivered.*** **February 12th and 19th**

**Conceptual framework and research question brief document (25 percent).** On **March 19<sup>th</sup>** we will discuss two previous qualifying integrative exam questions. A policy issue will be presented. In class we will discuss the implications of the policy and approaches to evaluating the policy (research question/hypotheses; conceptual model, data sources; statistical analyses). Individually you will prepare a short document (about 5 pages ) that describes your research questions, conceptual framework, and resulting hypotheses for one of the policy topics. **Due March 30th**

**Policy Research Paper (30 percent).** The final project is a research proposal for a policy-related topic (not more than 15 pages). This paper will demonstrate the student's ability to identify a policy related research question, and to use a conceptual or theoretical framework to guide an analysis. The paper will include the following sections: background and introduction to the issue; the specific question to be addressed; a description and rationale of the framework that will guide the research; possible data sources and their limitations; and identification of key variables. ***Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor on the content of their papers. Students may wish to use the policy presentation as a basis for the research paper.*** **Due April 24th**

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**Students with Disabilities** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student. The student should then provide this documentation to me.

**STATEMENT OF UNIVERSITY'S HONESTY POLICY**

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Graduate Student Handbook for details). Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

**We, the members of the University of Florida community,  
pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the  
highest standards of honesty and integrity.**

**January 8th**

**Course Introduction, Defining Health Policy, Moral Significance of Health Care, Research matter in public policymaking? (Allyson)**

- What is health policy?
- Making the case for health policy and government's role
- Does health policy impact health?
- Role of health services research in health policy

Brown L (1991) *Knowledge and Power: Health Services Research as a Political Resource* in Ginzberg E ed Health Services Research. Key to Health Policy Harvard University Press: Cambridge MA.

Illingworth P and Sandler R (2012) Moral significance of health care in Kronenfeld JJ, Parment WE, and Zezza MA Debates on US Health Care Sage Reference: Thousand Oaks, California

Lavis JN, Ross SE, Hurley JE, et al (2002) Examining the Role of Health Services Research in Public Policymaking *The Milbank Quarterly* 80(1) pp125-154

Navarro V (2006) et al Politics and Health Outcomes *Lancet* 368:1033-37.

Meier BM and Bhattacharya D (2012) Health Case as a Human Right in Kronenfeld JJ, Parment WE, and Zezza MA Debates on US health care Sage Reference: Thousand Oaks, California

**January 15**

**Historical Foundations for Current State of US Health Care Policy**

- Historical precedents for current US health care policy
  - Physicians, Hospitals, and Public Health
  - Role of Health Insurance
- Today's health policy environment

Historical Precedents

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 1, Chapter 3. The Consolidation of Professional Authority pp. 29-144

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 2, Chapter 2. The Reconstitution of the Hospital pp. 145-179

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 2, Chapter 1. The Mirage of Reform pp 198-234.

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 2, Chapter 2. The Triumph of Accommodation 290-334.

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 2, Chapter 1. The Mirage of Reform pg 235-289.

Starr P *The Social Transformation of American Medicine*. Book 2, Chapter 2. The Triumph of Accommodation 290-334.

Current Policy Environment

Rothman J *A Century of Failure: Health Care Reform in America* in Conrad P The Sociology of Health and Illness. Critical Perspectives (7<sup>th</sup> edition) (pages 292-300) Worth Publishers: New York, New York, 2005

Peterson MA *From Trust to Political Power. Interest Groups, Public Choice and Health Care* in Lee PR and Estes CL The Nation's Health (pages 183-198) Jones and Bartlett Publishers: Sudbury, MA, 2003.

Barr DA, Lee PR and Benjamin AE *Health Care and Health Care Policy in a Changing World* in Lee PR and Estes CL The Nation's Health (pages 199-212) Jones and Bartlett Publishers: Sudbury, MA, 2003.

Barr DA Introduction to US Health Policy - Chapter 2 *Health Care as a Reflection of Underlying Cultural Values and Institutions* (page20-51)

Oberlander J. (2012). Unfinished Journey – A Century of Health Care Reform in the United States. NEJM 367(7):585-590, <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMp1202111>

Navarro V Why some countries have national health insurance, others have national health services, and the US has neither *Social Science and Medicine* 1989; 28(9):887-898.

Navarro V The Politics of Health Care Reforms in US Presidential Elections (2008) *International Journal of Health Services* Volume 38 (4):597-606

**January 22**

### **An\_Overview US Health Care (I)**

- Spending and Cost
- Quality
- Access

#### Spending and Cost

Kaiser Family Foundation *Health Care Costs. A Primer.* May 2012 <http://kff.org/health-costs/issue-brief/health-care-costs-a-primer/>

NIHCM (2012). U.S. Health Care Spending: The Big Picture  
[http://www.nihcm.org/images/stories/Data\\_Brief\\_1\\_-\\_Big\\_Picture\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nihcm.org/images/stories/Data_Brief_1_-_Big_Picture_FINAL.pdf)

NICHM (2012) The Concentration of Health Care Spending  
[http://www.nihcm.org/images/stories/DataBrief3\\_Final.pdf](http://www.nihcm.org/images/stories/DataBrief3_Final.pdf)

White C, Cubanski J, Neuman T December 2014 How Much of the Medicare Spending Slowdown Can be Explained ? Insights and Analysis from 2014 The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation <http://files.kff.org/attachment/issue-brief-how-much-of-the-medicare-spending-slowdown-can-be-explained-insights-and-analysis-from-2014>

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation July 2014 The Facts on Medicare Spending and Financing.  
<http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2014/07/7305-08-the-facts-on-medicare-spending-and-financing.pdf>

Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation February 2014 Medicaid Per Enrollee Spending: Variation Across States

Hartman M, Martin AB, Lassman D, Catlin A, and the National Health Expenditure Accounts Team (2014) National Health Spending in 2013: Growth Slows, Remains in Step with the Overall Economy *Health Affairs* published ahead of print doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2014.1107

Sisko AM, Keehan SP, GA Cuckler, Madison AJ et al (2014) National Health Expenditure Projections, 2013-2023: Faster Growth Expected with Expanded Coverage and Improving Economy *Health Affairs* published ahead of print doi:10.1377/hlthaff.2014.0560

Altman D Our Fragmented Approach to Health-Care Costs *The Wall Street Journal* December 4, 2014 <http://kff.org/health-costs/perspective/our-fragmented-approach-to-health-care-costs/>

Emanuel E. et al (2012). A Systemic Approach to Containing Health Care Spending. *NEJM* <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMs1205901>

Antos J.R. et al (2012). Bending the Cost Curve through Market-Based Incentives. *NEJM* <http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMs1207996>

Thorpe KE (2005) The Rise in Health Care Spending and What to do About It. *Health Affairs* vol 24 (6): 1436-1445.

## **January 29**

### **An Overview of US Health Care (II)**

#### Access and Health Insurance

Kaiser Family Foundation (2012). The Uninsured and the Difference Health Insurance Makes <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/1420-14.pdf>

Majerol M, Newkirk V, and Garfield R December 5, 2014 The Uninsured: A Primer – Key Facts About Health Insurance and the Uninsured in America. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation <http://kff.org/uninsured/report/the-uninsured-a-primer/>

Stephens J, Gates A, Newkirk V, Snyder L Health Coverage and Care in the South: A Chartbook

#### Quality

National Committee on Quality Assurance *The State of Health Care Quality Report* 2014

Bodeheimer T Coordinating care – A Perilous Journey Through the Health Care System *New England Journal of Medicine*

Bodenheimer T, Wagner EH, Grumbach K (2002) Improving Primary Care for Patients with Chronic Illness 288:1775-1779

Institute of Medicine Crossing the Quality Chasm: A new Health System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Brief Report <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2001/Crossing-the-Quality-Chasm-A-New-Health-System-for-the-21st-Century.aspx>

## February 5

### The Process of Policymaking and Political Institutions

- Stages in the public policymaking
- Theories on the policy process
- The Presidency
- Interest Groups
- Bureaucracy

Weissert CS and Weisser WG Governing Health. The Politics of Health Policy 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012

- Chapter 1 Congress
- Chapter 2 The Presidency
- Chapter 3 Interest Groups
- Chapter 4 Bureaucracy

Feldstein PJ *Chapter 2 An Economic Version of the Interest Group Theory of Government in The Politics of Health Legislation. An Economic Perspective.* (pp 301-342) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Health Administration Press, Chicago Ill, 2001

Kingdon JW *Agendas, Alternatives, and Public Policies* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Longman, 2003

Craig RL, et al 2010 Public Health Professionals as Policy Entrepreneurs: Arkansas's Childhood Obesity Policy Experience *American Journal of Public Health* vol 100, no 11: 2047-2051

Stone R *Policy Paradox. The Art of Political Decision Making – Chapter 1 The Market and the Polis* (pp 17-34) WW Norton and Company, NY, NY, 2002

Zahariadis N *The Multiple Streams Framework. Structure, Limitations, Prospects* in Sabatier PA Theories of the Policy Process (pp 65-93) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Westview Press, Boulder CO

True JL, Jones BD, Baumgartner FR *Punctuated-Equilibrium Theory. Explaining Stability and Change in Public Policymaking in Sabatier PA Theories of the Policy Process* (pp155- 188) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Westview Press, Boulder CO

## Case Study in the Use of Research to Inform Policy: The Rand Health Insurance Experiment

- Overview and description of the Rand HIE
- Implications of the HIE on health reform efforts past and present
- Discussion of why a research study does or does not impact policy

Manning et al 1987 Health Insurance and the Demand for Medical Care: Evidence from A Randomized Experiment *The American Economic Review* 77(3):251-277.

Newhouse JP 2004 Consumer-Directed Health Plans and the RAND Health Insurance Experiment *Health Affairs* 23(6):107-113.

Newhouse JP *Controlled Experimentation as Research Policy* in Ginzberg E Health Services Research. Key to Health Policy. Harvard University Press, Cambridge MA, 1991

RAND Health: Research Highlights *The Health Insurance Experiment. A Classic Rand Study Speaks to the Current Health Care Reform Debate.*

### **Other examples: Link between research and policy**

What if this article got lots of press: Kronick R 2009, Health Insurance Coverage and Mortality Revisited *Health Services Research* 44(4):1211-31

Hinchcliff R, Ivers RQ, Poulos R, Senserrick T 2010 Utilization of Research in Policymaking for Graduated Driver Licensing *American Journal of Public Health* vol 100 (11):2052-2057

### **February 12**

**Current Issues in US Health Policy: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ; Student suggested topic**

Consider Weissert and Weissert Chapter 7 – Problem to Policy

### **February 19**

**Current Issues in US Health Policy : In-depth exploration ; Student suggested topic**

### **February 26**

**Spring Break**

### **March 5**

**Policy Analysis, Evaluation, and Research (Allyson)**

- Definitions: HSR vs Policy Research vs Program Evaluation
- Introduction to Program Evaluation
- Study Designs
- Steps in inquiry

Weimer DL and Vinig AR Policy Analysis. Concepts and Practice Chapters 2, 3, 13, 14

Aday LA, Begley CE, Lairson DR, Balkrishnan R Evaluating the Healthcare System. Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Equity, Chapter 1(pp1-49), Health Administration Press, Chicago, ILL

Aday LA, Begley CE, Lairson DR, Balkrishnan R Evaluating the Healthcare System. Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Equity, Chapter 9 (pp 301-333), Health Administration Press, Chicago, ILL

Rossi PH, Lipsey MW and Freeman HE Evaluation: A Systematic Approach Chapter 3: Identifying issues and formulating questions (pp 67-99)

## **March 12**

### **Using Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks to Drive Policy Research (Allyson)**

- Link between theory and research
- Application of models and theories to policy research questions

Babbie E The Practice of Social Research. Chapter 2: Paradigms, Theory, and Social Research Wadsworth: Belmont CA, 2001 (page 41-67).

Glanz K, Rimer BK, Lewis FM Health Behavior and Health Education. Theory Practice and Research. Chapter 2: Theory, Research, and Practice in Health Behavior and Health Education

Glanz K, Rimer BK, Lewis FM Health Behavior and Health Education. Theory Practice and Research. Chapter 3: The Health Belief Model

Ricketts TC and Goldsmith LJ 2005 Access in Health Services Research: The Battle of the Frameworks. *Nursing Outlook* 53:274-280.

Flood AB and Fennell ML 1995 Through the Lens of Organizational Sociology: The Role of Organizational Theory in Conceptualizing and Examining our Health Care System *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* Spec 154-69

Rossi PH, Lipsey MW and Freeman HE [Evaluation: A Systematic Approach](#) Chapter 5: Expressing and Assessing Program Theory (pp 133-168)

**Informal Assignment: Suggest other possible theories, frameworks, conceptualization for discussion**

### Data Sources for Policy Research (Allyson)

- Survey Data
- Administrative and Claims Data
- Counting the Uninsured
- Qualitative/Case Study Research

Become familiar with surveys conducted by the Federal Government. Visit:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/default.htm> on the left hand bar is a link to surveys and data collection systems. (National Center for Health Statistics)
- <http://www.ahrq.gov> follow the link for data and surveys.(Agency for Health Care Quality and Research)
- <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/rsds.asp> Follow the link to Research – especially note the MCBS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services)
- 

Summary of Surveys and Data Systems, National Center for Health Statistics, June 2004  
[www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/NCHS\\_Survey\\_Matrix.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/NCHS_Survey_Matrix.pdf)

Iezzoni LI 2002 Using Administrative Data to Study Persons with Disabilities *The Milbank Quarterly* 80(2): 347-379.

Iezzoni I LI 1997 Assessing Quality Using Administrative Data *Annals of Internal Medicine* 127(8 pt 2): 666-74.

Kincheloe J, Brown ER, Frates J, Call KT, Yen W, Watkins J 2006 Can We Trust Population Surveys to Count Medicaid and the Uninsured? *Health Affairs* 25(4):1163-1167.

Chattopadhyay A and Bindman AB 2006 The Contribution of Medicaid Managed Care to the Increasing Undercount of Medicaid Beneficiaries in the Current Population Survey *Medical Care* 44(9):822-826.

Davern M, Rodin H, Beebe TJ, Call KT 2005 The Effect of Income Question Design on Health Surveys on Family Income, Poverty, Eligibility Estimates *Health Services Research* 49(5 part I):1534-1552.

Call KT, Davidson G, Hall A, Kincheloe J, Blewett LA, Brown ER *Administrative Data case Study Report: Sources of Discrepancy between Survey-based Estimates of Medicaid Coverage and State Administrative Counts* State health Access Data Assistance Center, University of Minnesota, July 2006.

**Informal Assignment: What are the data sources you will use to answer your policy research question? Are there any limitations associated with using this data?**

**March 19**

**Case Study in Developing a Research Proposal: Discussion on an integrative qualifying exam Question**

**March 26**

**Operationalizing Your Policy Research Question**

Students should be prepared to discuss their final project ideas using a theory/framework to demonstrate or propose relationships and concepts

**Informal Assignment: What are the data sources you will use to answer your policy research question? Are there any limitations associated with using this data?**

**April 2**

**Consultations on Research Paper; Critiquing Policy Evaluation Studies**

**April 9**

**Student Presentations – Policy Research Proposal**

**April 16**

**Student Presentations – Research Proposals**