HSA 7157: Research Foundations in Health Policy

Syllabus
Spring 2015

INSTRUCTOR: Allyson Hall, PhD
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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 15th, 22nd, 29th 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 19th 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
**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.

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**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.

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**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


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


Current Policy Environment


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


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.


January 22

An Overview US Health Care (I)

- Spending and Cost
- Quality
- Access

**Spending and Cost**


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


January 29
An Overview of US Health Care (II)

Access and Health Insurance


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, Grumback K (2002) Improving Primary Care for Patients with Chronic Illness 288:1775-1779


February 5
The Process of Policymaking and Political Institutions

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

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


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


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


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


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

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](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](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](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/home/rsds.asp) Follow the link to Research – especially note the MCBS (Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services)


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.


**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*