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| **M.P.S. in Legislative Affairs** |
| Summer 2022 |
| May 17 – June 23 |
|  |
| **Congress and Health Care Policy** |
| LGAF6267 |
|  |
| Tuesday & Thursday 6:00pm to 8:00pm |
| <https://gwu.webex.com/meet/whitlock> or  <https://gwu.webex.com/meet/jp5580> |

**BASIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

**Instructors**

Rodney L. **Whitlock**, Ph.D. James (JP) **Paluskiewicz**

Adjunct Faculty Adjunct Faculty

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**Communication**

The best means of communication is email. Please don’t hesitate to contact either of us as you need and we’ll get back to you as quickly as possible. Further, if for some reason we don’t get back to you, please don’t hesitate to contact either of us a second time.

**Academic Integrity**

All members of the university community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in their academic work. Students have a special responsibility to acquaint themselves with, and make use of, all proper procedures for doing research, writing papers, and taking exams. Members of the community will be presumed to be familiar with the proper academic procedures and will be held responsible for applying them. Deliberate failure to act in accordance with such procedures will be considered academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is defined as “cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” Acts of academic dishonesty are a legal, moral, and intellectual offense against the community and will be prosecuted through the proper university channels. The University Code of Academic Integrity can be found at <http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>.

**Support for Students with Disabilities**

GW’s Disability Support Services (DSS) provides and coordinates accommodations and other services for students with a wide variety of disabilities, as well as those temporarily disabled by injury or illness. Accommodations are available through DSS to facilitate academic access for students with disabilities. Please notify your instructor if you require accommodations. Additional information is available at <http://www.gwu.edu/disability-support-services>.

**In the Event of an Emergency or Crisis during Class**

If we experience an emergency during class time, we will try to stay at this location until we hear that we can move about safely. Please refer to Campus Advisories for the latest information on the University’s operating status: <http://www.campusadvisories.gwu.edu/>.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is expected but not mandatory. Life is going on around this class. That said, your ability to adequately answer questions on the exams will benefit considerably from being in class.

**Classroom Conduct Policy**

This class provides an opportunity to practice proper skills and decorum for use in the professional world after you leave GSPM, which means you should behave in class as if you are in a professional setting. Use of electronic devices for purposes other than classwork (e.g. texting, social media) is not permitted. Students causing other disruptions, such as carrying on a conversation with another student, typing loudly, or having devices emit audible alerts, will also not be tolerated. A student who has been warned about this behavior and persists in this conduct will be asked to immediately leave the class. You would not do these things in the presence of a client or another business situation. Finally, do not approach the instructor during class time to discuss issues regarding your assignments. Class time is for group work, not the discussion of individual issues.

**Course Evaluation**

At the end of the semester, students will be given the opportunity to evaluate the course through GW’s online course evaluation system. It is very important that you take the time to complete an evaluation. Students are also encouraged to provide feedback throughout the course of the semester by contacting any/all of the following:

Casey Burgat

Assistant Professor and Director, Legislative Affairs

Graduate School of Political Management

The George Washington University

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Director of Academic Administration, GSPM

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**THE COURSE**

**Legislative Affairs Program Objectives**

Upon completion of the Master’s degree in Legislative Affairs, students will:

1. Gain both theoretical and practical knowledge related to the U.S. Congress, general issues in the legislative arena, and how to effectively advance legislation;
2. Hone their oral and written communication skills in both theoretical and technical aspects of legislative affairs;
3. Be able to conduct cutting-edge research and engage in effective problem solving by learning critical thinking skills;
4. Learn how to work effectively with others, the value of collaborative work, and will understand ethical issues involved in the legislative arena.

**Course Description and Overview**

This course will focus, as extensively as can be done in a few weeks, on critical topics in health care coverage. We will explore both the policy and politics of each important issue. During each session we will discuss jurisdiction, the role of various political actors, the statutory origins, and the future of the issue. In keeping with the spirit of the legislative affairs program, we will be approaching the topics from a legislative perspective, trying to decipher the legislative consequence of potential policy changes in the various topics.

**Course Learning Objectives**

The objective of this class is to raise the level of expertise of the student so that he or she could take on the role of health legislative assistant for a Member of Congress, health policy specialist for an association, or health policy advisor for a campaign.

**Course Requirements**

Students will write a final exam. Students will write one paper. Students will make at least one presentation. Students will be expected to attend class regularly and participate in class conversations.

**Evaluation and Grading**

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| **Assignment** | **Learning Objective(s) Addressed** | **Due Date** | **Weight** |
| Briefing Paper | Extensive consideration of a health care issue not discussed in class | June 14 | 30% |
| Final Exam | Evaluation of all class material | Distributed June 23; Due June 27 | 30% |
| Class Presentation | Comprehensive and concise analysis of an assigned health care issue |  | 30% |
| Participation | Active involvement in class |  | 10% |
| **Total** |  |  | **100%** |

**Following is the grade scale for all GSPM classes:**

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| **Grade\*** | | **Grading Standard** |
| A | 94-100 | Your work is outstanding and ready for submission in a professional environment. Your material, effort, research, and writing demonstrate superior work. |
| A- | 90-93 | Represents solid work with minor errors. Overall, excellent work. |
| B+ | 87-89 | Very good. Represents well-written material, research, and presentation, but needs some minor work. |
| B | 83-86 | Satisfactory work, but needs reworking and more effort. Note that although not a failing grade, at the graduate level, anything below a “B” is viewed as unacceptable. |
| B- | 80-82 | You’ve completed the assignment, but you are not meeting all of the requirements. |
| C+ | 77-79 | Needs improvement in content and in effort. Shows some motivation and concern. |
| C | 73-76 | Needs reworking, improved effort, and additional research. Shows minimal motivation and concern. |
| C- | 70-72 (lowest grade to pass) | Poor performance. Major errors, too many misspellings, problems with accuracy, etc. |
| F | Below 70 | Unacceptable performance, or inability to submit the assignment. |

\*Please note that you may be penalized for late submission of assignment(s).

**Text and Learning Materials**

While not required we recommend the following books for understanding health care generally and the Affordable Care Act:

“Healthcare Politics and Policy in America.” Patel, Kant and Mark E Rushefsky. (2019) ISBN 9780367027742

“The Ten Year War: Obamacare and the Unfinished Crusade for Universal Coverage.” Cohn, Jonathan (2021) ISBN : 978-1250270931

Throughout the course, there will be extensive references made to secondary sources that we recommend you familiarize yourself with including the Congressional Budget Office, Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.rwjf.org), Commonwealth Fund (www.cmwf.org), and numerous others.

**Tentative Course Calendar\***\*The instructor reserves the right to alter course content and/or adjust the pace to accommodate class progress. Students are responsible for keeping up with all adjustments to the course calendar.

**Session 1** (May 17) Introduction: Class Overview and Objectives. Introductory Conversation about Health Care Policy and Politics.

**Session 2** (May 19) Topic 1: Understanding the current structure of the Health Care Coverage System

**Session 3** (May 24) Topic 2: Private Insurance

**Session 4** (May 26) Topic 2: Private Insurance (continued)

**Session 5** (May 31) Topic 2: Private Insurance (continued)

**Session 6** (June 2) Topic 3: Medicare

**Session 7** (June 7) Topic 3: Medicare (continued)

**Session 8** (June 9) Topic 4: Supplementing Medicare with Prescription Drug Coverage

**Session 9** (June 14) Topic 4: Medicaid

*Paper Due*

**Session 10** (June 16) Topic 4: Medicaid (continued)

**Session 11** (June 21) Topic 5: Drugs

**Session 12** (June 23) Conclusion: The Future of Health Care in America

*Final Exam Distributed*

**Copyright Statement**

*Unless explicitly allowed by the instructor, course materials, class discussions, and examinations are created for and expected to be used by class participants only.  The recording and rebroadcasting of such material, by any means, is forbidden.*

| # | Topic | Question | Date | Name |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | System Structure | How does ‘health care’ differ from ‘health care coverage’? | May 20 | Cohen, Dahvi T. |
| 2 | System Structure | Who pays for health care? | May 20 | Homovich, Erik M. |
| 3 | System Structure | We pay for sick care rather than health care. Explain. | May 20 | Matthews, Sj J. |
| 4 | System Structure | How does the US differ from the rest of the world? | May 20 | Patel, Deepa |
| 5 | Private Insurance | Who was uninsured prior to the ACA and why were they uninsured? Who were the uninsured after the passage of the ACA? Who are the uninsured today? | May 25 | Chowdhury, Sunny |
| 6 | Private Insurance | How does the tax code effect how you get coverage? | May 25 | Svirnovskiy, Elliot I. |
| 7 | Private Insurance | What is the individual and small group market and why is it hard to get coverage? | May 25 | Manousos, Avery S. |
| 8 | Private Insurance | What is a Marketplace? What are platinum, gold, silver, and bronze (and other precious metals)? | May 27 | Guthrie, Trevor |
| 9 | Private Insurance | What is the individual mandate and how did it work? What is continuous coverage? What is auto enrollment? | May 27 | Brochu, Joseph R. |
| 10 | Private Insurance | What are the premium and cost-sharing subsidies? How do they differ from tax credits? | May 27 | Homovich, Erik M. |
| 11 | Private Insurance | What is the coverage requirement for employers? How do employers approach purchasing insurance and what are the differences? | May 27 | Rapposelli, Nena M. |
| 12 | Private Insurance | What are the ACA insurance market rules? | May 27 |  |
| 13 | Private Insurance | What is medical-loss ratio and why is it such a big deal? | June 1 | Kowatch, Troy |
| 14 | Private Insurance | How was the ACA funded? | June 1 | Gardner, John H. |
| 15 | Private Insurance | Why did health plans struggle with the Marketplace? Do they now? | June 1 | Cohen, Dahvi T. |
| 16 | Private Insurance | Medicare for All/Public Option | June 1 | Draper, Jimmy W. |
| 17 | Private Insurance | Why is cost a problem in health care? For example, surprise billing. | June 1 | Matthews, Sj J. |
| 18 | Medicare | Who and what does Medicare cover? | June 3 | Patel, Deepa |
| 19 | Medicare | What are the financial stresses on the Medicare program? | June 3 | Chowdhury, Sunny |
| 20 | Medicare | What is Medicare Advantage? | June 3 | Svirnovskiy, Elliot I. |
| 21 | Medicare | Explain how Medicare supplemental coverage works. | June 3 | Manousos, Avery S. |
| 22 | Medicare | What is CMMI? What are APMs? What is the PTAC? How are they connected? | June 8 | Guthrie, Trevor |
| 23 | Medicare | Discuss comparative effectiveness and VBPs. | June 8 | Brochu, Joseph R. |
| 24 | Medicare | What is an ACO? How does it differ from managed care? | June 8 | Draper, Jimmy W. |
| 25 | Medicare | Why were so many people angered by the proposed Part B demo of 2018? | June 8 | Rapposelli, Nena M. |
| 26 | Rx Drugs | Describe how the Part D benefit works for seniors. | June 10 | Root, Alex P. |
| 27 | Rx Drugs | What is the role of risk in the design of a drug benefit? | June 10 | Kowatch, Troy |
| 28 | Rx Drugs | What is non-interference and why is it controversial? | June 10 | Gardner, John H. |
| 29 | Rx Drugs | What is/was the donut hole? | June 10 | Cohen, Dahvi T. |
| 30 | Medicaid | How does Medicaid work? | June 15 | Homovich, Erik M. |
| 31 | Medicaid | What does it mean to say Medicaid is countercyclical and why is the FMAP so important? | June 15 | Matthews, Sj J. |
| 32 | Medicaid | What is a state waiver? | June 15 | Patel, Deepa |
| 33 | Medicaid | Who are duals? | June 15 | Chowdhury, Sunny |
| 34 | Medicaid | What are per capita caps and block grants? | June 17 | Svirnovskiy, Elliot I. |
| 35 | Medicaid | What is the CHIP program? | June 17 | Manousos, Avery S. |
| 36 | Medicaid | What is a benchmark benefit plan and why is it important? | June 17 | Guthrie, Trevor |
| 37 | Medicaid | What is DSH and where does the money go? How should it change after the ACA? | June 17 | Brochu, Joseph R. |
| 38 | Medicaid | What was the CLASS Act? | June 17 | Draper, Jimmy W. |
| 39 | Drugs | What is ‘Hatch-Waxman’? | June 22 | Rapposelli, Nena M. |
| 40 | Drugs | What is a PBM? What do they do? | June 22 | Root, Alex P. |
| 41 | Drugs | What is an UFA? | June 22 | Kowatch, Troy |
| 42 | Drugs | What is a biosimilar? | June 22 | Gardner, John H. |