

Master of Professional Studies in Legislative Affairs
LGAF6260.LH-US HEALTH CARE POLICY

FIRST SUMMER SEMESTER 2013
Monday and Wednesday, 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Hall of the States
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OVERVIEW

Without doubt, health care is one of the most complex and controversial subjects facing Washington policy makers and politicians. At the core, health care is the provision of health care services to a patient in need. We used to call this the doctor-patient relationship. Today, the relationships in health care are far more intricate involving numerous actors whose roles greatly impact the quality of care a patient receives. These complex interrelationships make up a broader field of greater political consequence we will term, health care coverage.

This course will focus, as extensively as can be done in a few weeks, on several 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. The goal 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 LA, health policy specialist for an association, or health policy advisor for a campaign.

GRADING

There are four types of assignments for which you will be graded.

- You are responsible for making one or two class presentations inclusive of an explanatory document. The class presentation is worth 30% of your final grade. During each topic session, students will make at least

one presentation to the class of up to twenty minutes on a question about the topic. You will produce a handout for the presentation to be distributed in class. You are encouraged to use as many outside sources as appropriate in an effort to fully explain the question.

- You are responsible for writing one eight-page paper discussing an aspect of any health care topic *not discussed in class* in greater depth. The paper is worth 30% of your grade. The paper should provide a thoughtful explanation of the topic describing issues of structure, controversy, and future possibilities. It is due at the beginning of class on Monday, June 18th.
- There will be a take-home final exam covering the entirety of the course. It is worth 30% of your final grade. It is due Friday, June 29th at 5:00pm.
- You are responsible for regularly attending class and actively participating in class discussions. Class contribution is worth 10% of your final grade.

READINGS

There is no formal text for this course. Throughout the course, there will be extensive references made to secondary sources that I will provide including Congressional Research Service, Congressional Budget Office, Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.rwjf.org), Commonwealth Fund (www.cmwf.org), and numerous others.

SYLLABUS

Session 1 (May 20)	<u>Introduction</u> : Class Overview and Objectives. Introductory Conversation about Health Care Policy and Politics.
Sessions 2 (May 22)	<u>Topic 1</u> : Understanding the current structure of the Health Care Coverage System
Sessions 3 (May 29)	<u>Topic 2</u> : Private Insurance
Sessions 4 (June 3)	<u>Topic 2</u> : Private Insurance (continued)
Sessions 5 (June 5)	<u>Topic 2</u> : Private Insurance (continued)
Sessions 6 (June 10)	<u>Topic 3</u> : Medicare
Sessions 7 (June 12)	Topic 3: Medicare (continued)
Session 8 (June 17)	<u>Topic 4</u> : Supplementing Medicare with Prescription Drug Coverage Paper Due
Session 9 (June 19)	<u>Topic 4</u> : Medicaid
Session 10 (June 24)	<u>Topic 4</u> : Medicaid (continued)
Session 11 (June 26)	<u>Conclusion</u> : The Future of Health Care in America Final Exam Distributed