

**Health Policy Challenges
(Public Policy 1700K, Section 01)
Fall 2009**

Syllabus

Class Hours:	Fridays, 1:00-3:20 PM
Class Location:	Downstairs Seminar Room (#103), 67 George Street
Instructor:	Edward Alan Miller, Ph.D., M.P.A. edward_a_miller@brown.edu 734-883-7449 (cell phone)
Office Hours:	Fridays, 3:30– 5:30 PM, and by appointment

Course Description

How healthy is our health care system? What can we do to improve it? In this course, students will examine the tradeoffs involved in ensuring access, containing costs, improving quality, and achieving equity in the delivery of health care in the United States. In doing so, they will strengthen their understanding of major health policy issues and the challenges involved in achieving health care reforms. They will also enhance their ability to analyze policy issues from multiple perspectives, learn where to find key sources of information pertaining to health policy, and practice presenting persuasive arguments (written and oral).

We will start with an overview of health spending and health status, the organization and financing of the health care system, and the policy making process. We will then examine several current health policy issues, including topics related to private insurance, Medicare and Medicaid, covering the uninsured, quality of care, health information technology, social disparities, long-term care, alternative therapies, public health and obesity.

Enrollment is limited to 20 students.

Course objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe key health policy issues currently under discussion at the national and state levels
- Discuss the historical context, conflicting values, and political forces that gave rise to them
- Conduct scholarly research to identify and assess policy options for addressing them
- Advocate for one or more of these options through persuasive oral presentations and clear, concise, well-written papers

Course Format

The general format is a weekly seminar during which all students are expected to participate actively in the discussion. By 9:00 a.m. the day of each class, students are expected to have read the required texts and articles and posted two discussion questions to their classmates and instructor on MyCourses.

During each class, the instructor will provide a brief presentation of background material on the topic. This presentation will be followed by class discussion and group activities. Guest instructors with expertise in particular topics may occasionally attend the seminar to present and lead our discussion.

There will be six written assignments: a values exercise, a reaction paper, a group policy memo, a policy analysis, research proposal, and a final paper. Students will also participate in an in-class debate, and will perform a brief in-class presentation of findings from their research paper. The assignments are described in greater detail below.

Required Texts

The following books are required and are available at Brown Bookstore:

Bodenheimer, T.S., and Grumbach, K. 2009. *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach, Fifth Edition*. New York, NY: Lange Medical Books, McGraw-Hill.

Morone, J.A., Litman, T.J., and Robins, L.S. 2008. *Health Politics and Policy, Fourth Edition*. Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Cengage Learning.

Gawande, A. 2002. *Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*. New York: Picador.

Some additional readings will be included in a course packet, available at Allegra Copy Center, located at 102 Waterman St. (close to the corner of Waterman and Thayer Streets, second floor). Most additional readings, however, will be posted as PDFs on MyCourses. Where available, web-links will also be provided on the syllabus for future reference.

Recommended Texts

The following texts are recommended. They will also be available at the Brown Bookstore.

Feldstein, P.J. 2007. *Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective, Fourth Edition*. Chicago, IL: Health Administration Press.

Williams, S.J and Torrens, P.R. 2008. *Introduction to Health Services, Seventh Edition*. Clifton Park, New York: Delmar Cengage Learning.

Cutler, D.M. 2004. *Your Money Or Your Health: Strong Medicine for America's Healthcare System*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Mechanic, D, Rogut, L.B, Colby, D.C, and Knickman, J.R. 2005. *Policy Challenges in Modern Health Care*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Gawande, A. *Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance*. New York: Picador, 2007.

Course Requirements

Course grades will be based on class preparation and participation (20%), a values exercise (5%), a reaction paper (10%), a team policy memo (10%), participation in an in-class debate (10%), a policy analysis (15%), a final research paper (20%), and presentation (10%).

Class participation (20%). Students are expected to attend the weekly seminar and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings. By 9 a.m. on the day of class, students will post two questions on MyCourses for review by their classmates and the instructor. In class, students are expected to make thoughtful contributions to the discussion. They are also expected to elicit, listen to, and respectfully respond to classmates' contributions. Class participation grades will be determined by attendance, thoughtfulness of the questions turned in each week, and intellectual contribution to discussions. Unless *prior* approval is given by the instructor, absences will reflect negatively on students' grades.

Values Exercise (1 page) (5%). The purpose of this assignment is to illustrate the role of values in health policy making. At the end of class on September 11th (Week 1), an article will be handed out in class describing a tragic health event. The assignment should be no longer than one page. It is due September 19th (Week 2).

Reaction Paper (3 pages) (10%). On the first day of class (9/11) each student will sign up to write one 3 page reaction paper or think piece chosen from among six possible due dates (9/25, 10/2, 10/16, 10/30, 11/6, 11/20). This essay is to be a critical piece that reflects your understanding of the reading assignments of that week. In writing this paper, you may decide to compare and contrast a given weeks selections, indicating how they complement or stand in opposition to one another. You may opt to focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments with which you are presented or make connections with previous week's selections or recent news media reports (think health reform). Alternatively, you may utilize the assigned readings to formulate your own ideas or theories regarding a particular health policy phenomenon. In short, this paper allows you to write about some aspect of the readings that stimulate your thinking and strike you as most interesting.

Team Policy Memo (5 to 7 pages) (10%). A 5 to 7 page policy memo will be prepared as a team assignment. The purpose of this assignment is to help students prepare for a debate that will be held in class on October 9th (Week 5). It will be discussed at the end of class on September 18th (Week 2), at which point students will be asked to choose to participate in one of four teams. Team 1 will prepare a policy memo describing the issue of the uninsured and the politics of health care reform. This memo should describe why the uninsured has become a widely recognized problem in the U.S., outline arguments for and against the likelihood of health reform in the current environment, and make a statement about why, ultimately, they believe reform will or will not take place and to what extent if it does. Teams 2, 3, and 4 will be assigned to support one of three options to cover the uninsured: individual/employer mandates, Medicaid expansion, and tax subsidies. Each memo should briefly describe the issue of the uninsured, outline arguments for and against the specific policy approach that the team has been assigned to support, and make a statement about why, ultimately, the team supports this approach. Team memos will be due the day of the debate, October 9th (Week 5). Each student's grade on the policy memo assignment will be determined by the team grade (80%) and by peer evaluation to be completed in class on October 9th (Week 5) (20%).

In-Class Debate (10%). At the end of the session on September 18th (Week 2), students will join one of four teams which will participate in a debate on the options for covering the uninsured.

- Team 1 will be responsible for presenting background on the uninsured and the politics of health care reform
- Team 2 will advocate for the merits of combining individual and employer mandates
- Team 3 will advocate for the merits of Medicaid expansion, perhaps as a step toward a single payer system
- Team 4 will advocate for the merits of tax subsidies

Within teams 2, 3, and 4, one or two students should plan to present, one or two students should prepare to respond to questions posed by the other teams, and one or two students should prepare to critique and question the alternatives presented by the other teams. Within team 1, one or two students should plan to present background on the uninsured; one or two students should plan to discuss the politics of health care reform; and one or two students should prepare to critique and question the proposals of other teams. Some class time will be allotted on September 25th (Week 3) to choose individual roles for the debate. Some class time will be allotted on October 2nd (Week 5) to allow each team to discuss progress and to strategize.

During the debate on October 9th (Week 5), teams 2, 3, and 4 will be given 30 minutes—15 minutes to present and 15 minutes to respond to questions and critiques from other teams. Team 1 will also be given 20 minutes—10 minutes to present background on the uninsured and 10 minutes to discuss the politics of health care reform. Each student will be expected to contribute verbally during the debate.

Policy Analysis (5 pages) (15%). This summer a health reform bill, the 1,018 page America's Affordable Health Care Choices Act of 2009 (H.R. 3200), was submitted for consideration before the U.S. House of Representatives (http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/20090714/aahca.pdf). The purpose of this assignment is to analyze parts of the latest health reform bill(s) submitted before the House and Senate. Identify an aspect of health policy work with which you are interested (e.g., health disparities, quality improvement, medical education, vaccines for children). Do a keyword search or look through the table of contents to identify those parts of the bill that address this issue, say, by establishing a program or initiative or providing funding. Write a paper that: (1) describes the nature of the problem that these provisions are intended to address; and (2) contrasts the approaches identified to at least one other potential strategy for addressing the issue. Compare strategies using the following criteria: effectiveness, efficiency, fairness/equity, administrative burden, and political feasibility. Based on your analysis, recommend a preferred solution. Keep in mind that you may use the same general topic as the basis for a research project due at the end of term. The policy analysis assignment will be handed out October 16th (Week 6). It will be due November 13th (Week 10). It should be no longer than 5 pages.

Research Project. Because we cannot possibly cover all of the health policy issues that may be of interest, each student will conduct a research project consisting of (1) a one-page proposal, (2) a final paper, and (4) an in-class presentation. The purpose of this assignment is to give students the opportunity to research potential policy options for addressing the issue they have chosen. Guidelines for the research project will be handed out on October 16^h (Week 6).

- (1) *Proposal (1 page):* No later than the start of class on October 23rd (Week 7), students will submit a one-page proposal to the instructor describing the health care issue they have chosen and the general policy approach(es) they intend to research.
- (2) *Final paper (10 to 12 pages) (20%):* The final paper should be 10 to 12 pages in length, not including references. Further guidelines will be provided, but generally the paper should consist of an introduction, a literature review, a policy analysis section, and a conclusion. Sources of information should be properly cited. Students will submit their final research paper at the start of class on December 11th (Week 14).
- (3) *Presentation (10%):* Students will present the highlights of their research project in class either on December 4th (Week 13) or December 11th (Week 14). Students will sign up for a particular date on November 20th (Week 11). The presentations will be 8 to 10 minutes in length, followed by 4 to 6 minutes of questions from other students and the instructor.

Grading

The system for grading oral presentations and written work is as follows:

- **Style:** In written work, this includes spelling, grammar, clarity (keep the jargon to a minimum), concision, organization, and persuasiveness. In oral presentations, the same criteria apply: Slides should also be free of spelling and grammar errors, and your presentation should be clear, concise, well-organized, engaging, and persuasive.

- Substance: Substance will be assessed based on your mastery of the concepts discussed, your understanding of what others have written about the topic, your contribution of new knowledge and insights, and the clarity of your policy recommendations.
- Timeliness: Papers are due in class on the date indicated in the syllabus. Extensions are only given under extenuating circumstances. Otherwise, late papers will not be read and will be assigned a grade of zero.
- Formatting: All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in Times New Roman/12-point font. Assignment, title, name, class, section, instructor, and date must be put on a separate cover page. Up to 10 points will be removed for deviations from this format. Pages beyond the page limit will not be read.

The Writing Center can help you to improve your writing and boost your grade. Even if you are an excellent writer you may still benefit from showing them a draft of your paper.

http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Writing_Center/

All students are expected to abide by the principles of academic honesty.

http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/orientation/planning/documents/academic_code.pdf

All materials used in your writing must be properly referenced. Please see the Writing Center's website for more information on what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

http://www.brown.edu/Student_Services/Writing_Center/resources_writers/on_plagiarism.html



Schedule of Topics and Assignments

	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	9/11	Overview, Health Status, Health Spending, and Health Policy Making in U.S. Health Care	<i>Values exercise is handed out, Sign up for reaction paper</i>
2	9/18	Values, Organization and Financing of Health Care in the U.S.	<i>Values exercise is due (1 page), Choose debate team and receive policy memo assignment</i>
3	9/25	Private Insurance and the Role of Markets and Government in Health Care Reform	<i>Reaction paper is due (selected students, 3 pages), Students meet to assign roles for debate</i>
4	10/2	Public Insurance and the Role of Federalism in Health Care Reform	<i>Reaction paper is due (selected students, 3 pages), Students meet to discuss progress and strategize</i>
5	10/9	Health Care Reform in the U.S.—Covering the Uninsured (Debate)	<i>Participate in debate and turn in team policy memo (5-7 pages)</i>
6	10/16	Quality of Care and Patient Safety	<i>Reaction paper is due (3 pages), Policy analysis assignment is handed out, Guidelines for final research project is handed out</i>
7	10/23	Health Information Technology and Electronic Health Records	<i>Proposal for research project is due (1 page)</i>
8	10/30	Disparities in Health and Health Care	<i>Reaction paper is due (selected students, 3 pages)</i>
9	11/6	Long-Term Care and the Elderly	<i>Reaction paper is due (selected students, 3 pages)</i>
10	11/13	Complementary and Alternative Medicine	<i>Policy analysis assignment is due (5 pages)</i>
11	11/20	Public Health and Obesity	<i>Reaction paper is due (selected students, 3 pages), Sign up for one of two presentation dates</i>
12	11/27	NO SEMINAR (Thanksgiving)	
13	12/4	<i>Student presentations</i>	
14	12/11	<i>Student presentations</i>	<i>Final research paper is due (10-12 pages)</i>

Required Readings

Week 1 (9/11): Health Status, Spending, and Policy Making in U.S. Health Care

What is the current health status of the U.S. population? What contributes most to health? How much do we/should we spend on health care as a nation? How is health policy made?

Overview

Bodenheimer & Grumbach. Chapter 1: Introduction: The Paradox of Excess & Deprivation. pp. 1-3.

Morone, J.A. 2008. Introduction: Health Politics and Policy. In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 1-22.

Davis, K., Schoen, C., and Haran, C. 2008. Aiming High for the U.S. Health System: A Context for Health Reform. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 36(4):629-643.

Spending

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009, March. *Trends in Health Care Costs and Spending*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/7692_02.pdf.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009, March. *Health Care Costs: A Primer*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/7670_02.pdf.

Health

Starfield, B. 2000. Is US Health Really the Best in the World? *Journal of the American Medical Association* 284 (4):483-485.

Cutler, D.M. 2004. Chapter 1: The Health of the Nation: A History. *Your Money or Your Life*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 1-9. <Coursepack>

Health Policy Making

Longest, B.B. 2006. Chapter 5: Policy Formulation: Agenda Setting. *Health Policymaking in the United States, Fourth Edition*. Chicago, IL: Health Administration Press. pp. 161-201. [Skim] <Coursepack>

Week 2 (09/18): Values, Organization and Financing of Health Care Services in the U.S.

What values inform health policy? How is the US health care system organized? How do consumers access health care services? How do consumers pay for health care services? How is health care delivered? How are providers reimbursed? Is health care different from other commodities? What strategies are used to control health care costs? How does the U.S. health care system compare to other nation's systems?

Values

Stone, D. 2008. Chapter 1: Values in Health Policy: Understanding Fairness and Efficiency. In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 24-36.

Morone, J.A. 2008. Chapter 3: Morals and Health Policy. In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 49-60.

Donabedian, A. 1973. I: Social Values. *Aspects of Medical Care Administration: Specifying Requirements for Health Care*. Cambridge, MA. pp. 24-27. <Coursepack>

Organization

Bodenheimer & Grumbach. Chapter 2: Pay for Health Care. pp. 5-16.

Bodenheimer & Grumbach. Chapter 3: Access to Health Care. pp. 17-30.

Bodenheimer & Grumbach. Chapter 4: Reimbursing Health Care Providers. pp. 31-41.

Bodenheimer & Grumbach. Chapter 5: How Health Care is Organized—I. pp. 43-57.

Bodenheimer & Grumbach. Chapter 6: How Health Care is Organized—II. pp. 59-69.

Controlling Costs

Bodenheimer & Grumbach. Chapter 8: Painful Versus Painless Cost Control. pp. 87-98.

Bodenheimer & Grumbach. Chapter 9: Mechanisms for Controlling Costs. pp. 99-109.

Other Nations

White, J. 2008. Chapter 19: American Health Care in International Perspective. In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 416-430.

Week 3 (9/25): Private Insurance (Employer-Sponsored/Individually Purchased) and the Role of Markets and Government in Health Care Reform

How did health insurance in the U.S. become primarily employer-based? How many people are covered by employer-sponsored insurance? How many people purchase insurance on their own? What do these markets look like? What are problems in these markets? What are the key issues? What are recent trends/proposals to address these issues? What should the relative balance be between market competition and government regulation in health care reform?

Overview

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2008, April. *How Private Health Coverage Works: A Primer 2008*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/7766.pdf>.

Employer-Sponsored Insurance

Hacker, J.S. Chapter 9: Privatizing Health Politics. In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 202-221.

Kaiser Family Foundation/Health Research and Educational Trust. 2008. *Employer Health Benefits: 2008 Summary of Findings*. Washington, DC: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://ehbs.kff.org/images/abstract/7791.pdf>.

Enthoven, A.C., and Fuchs, V.R. 2006. Employment-Based Health Insurance: Past, Present, and Future. *Health Affairs* 25(6):1539-1547.

Robinson, J.C., and Ginsburg, P.B. 2009. Consumer-Driven Health Care: Promise and Performance. *Health Affairs* Web-Exclusive (January 27):w272-w281.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2006, November. *National Survey of Enrollees in Consumer Directed Health Plans*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/7594.pdf>.

Individually-Purchased Insurance

Kaiser Family Foundation/eHealthInsurance. 2004, August. *Update on Individual Health Insurance*. Washington, DC: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/Update-on-Individual-Health-Insurance.pdf>.

Doty, M.M. et al. 2009, July. *Failure to Protect: Why the Individual Insurance Market Is Not a Viable Option for Most U.S. Families*. New York: The Commonwealth Fund. Available at: http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2009/Jul/Failure%20to%20Protect/1300_Doty_failure_to_protect_individual_ins_market_ib_v2.pdf

Buntin, M.B., Marquis, M.S., and Yegian, J.M. 2004. The Role of the Individual Health Insurance Market and Prospects for Change. *Health Affairs* 23(6):79-90.

Harrington, S., and Miller, T. 2002. Competitive Markets for Individual Health Insurance. *Health Affairs* Web Exclusive (October 23):w359-w362.

Chollet, D. 2002. Expanding Individual Health Insurance Coverage: Are High-Risk Pools the Answer? *Health Affairs* Web Exclusive (October 23):W349-W352.

Young, D.A., Wildsmith, T.F. 2002. Expanding Coverage: Maintain A Role for the Individual Market. *Health Affairs* Web Exclusive (October 23):w391-w394.

Market Competition v. Government Regulation

Rice, T. 2008. Chapter 2: Markets and Politics. In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 37-48.

Rosenthal, M.B. 2009. What Works in Market-Oriented Health Policy? *New England Journal of Medicine* 360(21):2157-2160.

Butler, S.M. 2004. A New Policy Framework for Health Care Markets. *Health Affairs* 23(2):22-24.

Schoenbaum, S.C., Audet, A.M.J., and Davis, K. 2003. Obtaining Greater Value from Health Care: The Roles of the U.S. Government." *Health Affairs* 22(6):183-190.

Stone, D. 2008. Protect the Sick: Health Insurance Reform in One Easy Lesson. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics* 36(4):652-659.

Week 4 (10/2): Public Insurance (Medicare/Medicaid/CHIP) and the Role of Federalism in Health Care Reform

How are public programs designed and financed? What are the most important issues these programs currently face? What are recent trends and proposals to address these issues? What is the role of the states in health policy? What is the role of federalism in health policy? Should further responsibilities be devolved to the states?

Medicare

Overview

Oberlander, J. 2008. Chapter 14: Medicare: The Great Transformation. In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 310-327.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009. 2008, October. *Medicare Now and in the Future*. Washington, D.C. The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/7821.pdf>.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009. *Medicare: A Timeline of Key Developments*. Washington, DC: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicare/medicaretimeline.cfm>.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009, January. *Medicare: A Primer 2009*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicare/7615.cfm>.

Managed Care and Private Plans

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009, April. *Medicare Advantage*. Washington, DC: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/2052-12.pdf>.

Kronick, R. 2009. Medicare and HMOs—The Search for Accountability. *New England Journal of Medicine* 360(20):2048-2050.

Biles, B., Pozen, J, and Gutterman, S. 2009, May. *The Continuing Cost of Privatization: Extra Payments to Medicare Advantage Plans Jump to \$11.4 billion 2009*. New York: The Commonwealth Fund. Available at: http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2009/May/1265_Biles_Extra_Payments_54_v2.pdf. pp. 1-8.

Gold, M. 2009, June. *Strategies for Simplifying the Medicare Advantage Market*. Washington, D.C.: Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/7935.pdf>. pp. i-iv, 1-4.

Prescription Drug Coverage

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009, March. *The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/7044-09.pdf>.

Hoadley, J., Thompson, J., Hargrave, E., Cubanski, J., and Neuman, T. 2008, November. *Medicare Part D 2009 Data Spotlight: The Coverage Gap*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/7707.pdf>.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2008, February. *Low-Income Assistance Under the Medicare Drug Benefit*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/7327_03.pdf.

Neuman, P., and J. Cubanski. 2009. Medicare Part D Update—Lessons Learned and Unfinished Business. *New England Journal of Medicine* 361(14):406-414.

Slaughter, L.M. 2006. Medicare Part D—The Product of a Broken Process. *New England Journal of Medicine* 354(22):2314-2315.

Reform

AARP. 2008, December. *Controlling Costs in Medicare: What Works and What Doesn't*. Washington, D.C.: AARP Public Policy Institute. Available at: http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/health/inb165_medicare.pdf.

AARP. 2007, May. *In Brief: Future of Medicare: Report on Expert Views*. Washington, D.C.: AARP Public Policy Institute. Available at: http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/health/inb144_medicare.pdf.

Medicaid/Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Overview

Grogan, C.M. 2008. Chapter 15: Medicaid: Health Care for You and Me? In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 329-354.

Medicaid

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009. *Medicaid: A Timeline of Key Developments*. Washington, DC: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: http://www.kff.org/medicaid/medicaid_timeline.cfm.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009, January. *Medicaid: A Primer 2009*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7334-03.pdf>.

Holahan, J., and Weil, A. 2007. Toward Real Medicaid Reform. *Health Affairs* Web-Exclusive (February 23):w254-w270. [w254-w259, w265-w268]

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009, February. *Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization of 2009 (CHIPRA)*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7863.pdf>.

Oberlander, J.B., and Lyons, B. 2009. Beyond Incrementalism? SCHIP and the Politics of Health Reform. *Health Affairs* Web-Exclusive (March 17):w399-w410.

Spending/State Fiscal Crises

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009, January. *State Fiscal Conditions and Medicaid*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/7580_04.pdf.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2009, January. *Rising Unemployment Medicaid and the Uninsured: A Multi-Year Snapshot of State Financing Efforts*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7850_FS.pdf.

Rowland, D. 2009. Health Care and Medicaid—Weathering the Recession. *New England Journal of Medicine* 360(13):1273-1276.

Federalism

Overview

Thompson, F.J., and Fosset, J. 2008. Chapter 7: Federalism. In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 153-172

Leichter, H.M. 2008. Chapter 8: State Governments: E Pluribus Multa. In *Health Politics and Policy*. Marone, Litman, and Robins (eds). pp. 187-192.

The Massachusetts Example

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2008, May. *Massachusetts Health Care Reform: Two Years Later*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7777.pdf>.

Kingsale, J. 2009. Implementing Health Care Reform in Massachusetts: Strategic Lessons Learned. *Health Affairs* Web-Exclusive (May 28):w588-w594.

Week 5 (10/9): Health Care Reform in the U.S.—Covering the Uninsured (Debate)

Who lacks health insurance in the U.S.? What are the personal and social consequences of not having insurance? What are the main policy approaches for expanding coverage to the uninsured? On what criteria should approaches to expand health care coverage be evaluated? Why has universal coverage yet to be enacted?

Comprehensive list of resources to inform your team policy memo and debate preparation.

The Uninsured

Profiling the Uninsured

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2008, October. *The Uninsured: A Primer: Key Facts about American's without Health Insurance*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7451-04.pdf>.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2008, September. *Five Basic Facts on the Uninsured*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/7806.pdf>.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2005, April 28. *Myths About the Uninsured*. Washington, DC: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.amsa.org/uhc/MythsAboutUninsured.pdf>.

Kaiser Family Foundation. 2004, January. *Lack of Coverage: A Long-Term Problem for Most Uninsured*. Washington, D.C.: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Available at: <http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/Lack-of-Coverage-A-Long-Term-Problem-for-Most-Uninsured.pdf>.

Dubay, L., Holahan, J., and Cook, A. 2006. The Uninsured and the Affordability of Health Insurance Coverage. *Health Affairs* Web-Exclusive (November 30):w22-w30.

Gilmer, T., and Kronick, R. 2009. Hard Times and Health Insurance: How Many Americans Will Be Uninsured by 2010? *Health Affairs* Web-Exclusive (May 28):w573-w577.

Consequences of Being Uninsured

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Week 6 (10/16): Quality of Care and Patient Safety

How should quality of care be defined and measured? In what ways is quality of care lacking in the U.S. health care system? What affects quality of care the most? What can be done to improve quality? What are the biggest barriers to quality improvement? How effective is public reporting of provider performance? Why is it difficult to compare providers and plans? To what extent do medical errors occur? Why do Medical errors occur? What should be done to reduce errors? What protections do patients have against medical errors? What should be done to improve the medical malpractice system?

Overview

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Week 7 (10/23): Health Information Technology and Electronic Health Records

What is health information technology? What are electronic health records? In what contexts have they been applied? What are the implications for cost, quality, and access? Why are electronic health records not yet the norm? How has the Internet transformed medicine? What barriers preclude further use of e-health on the part of providers and patients? What are the implications of the Internet for physician hegemony?

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Week 8 (10/30): Disparities in Health and Health Care

How extensive are racial and ethnic disparities? Do disparities in health stem primarily from race, socioeconomic status, or both? What explains unequal access and treatment across racial and ethnic groups? What are the main policy approaches for reducing or eliminating disparities? Are some approaches likely to be more effective than other? What should be the role of government?

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Week 9 (11/6): Long-Term Care and the Elderly

What is long-term care? How is it different from acute care? How should long-term care financing be reformed? Why do so few people purchase long-term care insurance? Is home- and community-based care more cost effective than institutional services? Should access to long-term care services be consumer-directed? What problems arise due to the lack of integration between acute and long-term care services? How can care for Medicare-Medicaid dual eligibles be better integrated?

Overview

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Week 10 (11/13): Complementary and Alternative Medicine

What is alternative medicine? How is it different from conventional medicine? Do alternative therapies work? How do they work? What is the significance of the placebo effect? Why do individuals turn to alternative therapies? Should use of alternative therapies be discouraged? Can alternative medicine be integrated with conventional medicine? What strategies do alternative therapists employ to become more "mainstream"?

Overview

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Gaylord, S.A., and Mann, D. 2007. Rationales for CAM Education in Health Professions Training Programs. *Academic Medicine* 82(10):927-933.

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Evidentiary Base

Miller, F.G. et al. 2004. Ethical Issues Concerning Research in Complementary and Alternative Medicine. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 291(5):599-604.

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Benson, H. et al. 2006. Study of the Therapeutic Effects of Intercessory Prayer (STEP) in Cardiac Bypass Patients: A Multicenter Randomized Trial of Uncertainty and Certainty. *American Heart Journal* 151(4):934-942.

Week 11 (11/20): Public Health and Obesity

What is public health? How is it different from medical care? How has the relationship between public health and medicine evolved over time? What factors underlie the obesity epidemic? How would you allocate responsibility for the epidemic, to individuals or society? Should obesity be tackled in the same manner as tobacco?

Overview

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The Obesity Epidemic

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Bassett, M., and Perl, S. 2004. Obesity: The Public Health Challenge of Our Time. *American Journal of Public Health* 94(9):1477.

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Powell, L.M., and Chaloupka, F.J. 2009. Food Prices and Obesity: Evidence and Policy Implications for Taxes and Subsidies. *The Milbank Quarterly* 87(1):229-257. [pp. 229-236, 246-251]

Learning from Tobacco

Mello, M.M., Rimm, E.B., and Studdert, D.M. 2003. The McLawsuit: The Fast-Food Industry and Legal Accountability for Obesity. *Health Affairs* 22(6):207-216.

Brownwell, K.D., and Warner, K.E. 2009. The Perils of Ignoring History: Big Tobacco Played Dirty and Millions Died. How Similar Is Big Food? *The Milbank Quarterly* 87(1):259-294.

Week 12 (11/27): NO SEMINAR (THANKSGIVING)

Week 13 (12/4): Student Presentations

Week 14 (12/11): Student Presentations (FINAL CLASS)
