

**Department of Health Policy and Management
College of Public Health
University of Georgia**

**HPAM 7600
Introduction to Health Policy and Management
Fall 2009 Syllabus**

Course Information

Instructor: Angela R. Fertig, Ph.D.
Office Location: Paul Coverdell Building, Room N120
Contact Information: 706-542-9332, afertig@uga.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11-noon, or by appointment
Course webpage: <http://afertig.myweb.uga.edu/healthpolicy.html>

Course Meeting Time and Location

Location: Ramsey Room 231
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30am – 10:45am

Textbooks and Other Required Course Material

- *An Introduction to the Health Care System, 6th edition (2007)*. By Steven Jonas, Raymond L. Goldsteen and Karen Goldsteen. Springer Publishing Company.
- Sign up for “First Edition” and “Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report” by clicking “KHN Subscriptions” on kaiserhealthnews.org.
- Other readings assigned will be handed out or can be downloaded from the internet.

Course Description

This course is an introductory survey of health policy and management issues. Topics will include the organization of the health system, health care financing, the policy process in the US, laws and ethics related to health policy and management, the essential features of a policy analysis, and public health communication. Students completing this course will gain a basic understanding of the mission, function and practices of public health efforts in the complex health system of the United States.

Course Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the basic organization and financing of the US public health and health care systems.
2. Explain the biological, social, environmental, and economic determinants of population health.
3. Discuss factors behind rising costs and approaches to health reform.
4. Explain the public health policy process in terms of legal, ethical and diversity considerations.
5. Evaluate the effects of policies at the local, state, national, and international levels.
6. Demonstrate leadership and communication skills for building partnerships.

Course Requirements for Grading Policy

The course requirements will contribute to your grade as follows:

Class Participation	10%
Group Presentation	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

The integrated project:

News Release	10%
Media Interview	10%
Policy Memo	20%

Class participation:

Class participation will be defined by two things: (1) class attendance and (2) informed participation. Please see attendance policy for details about (1). Your informed participation should demonstrate that: you are paying attention and listening; you are completing the reading and assignments in a timely fashion; and you are thinking about the course material, as demonstrated by your comments and questions. Perfect attendance in the absence of informed participation is a “C” grade. You may feel free to email me comments and questions that demonstrate these criteria as evidence of your informed participation. These emails should be sent to fertighealth@gmail.com.

Group presentation:

There will be one group presentation each month on the status of national health reform. There will be 4 presentations so we will divide the class into 4 groups. The first presentation will bring the class up to speed on the various bills and issues of contention. For the other 3 presentations, students will work together to scan the past month’s news for any events, speeches, studies, or opinion pieces relevant to the health reform debate. Sources should include kaiserhealthnews.org, nytimes.com (Paul Krugman’s column and David Lionhart’s column, in particular), wsj.com, content.nejm.org, content.healthaffairs.org. The presentations should be 30 minutes long. Powerpoint or other visual aides should be used.

The grade for the group presentation will be based on three things:

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|--------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------|
| 1) my own evaluation of the group | } | all members of group
receive same grade |
| 2) the students’ evaluations of the group | | |
| 3) the group members’ evaluation of each student | | |

Exams:

There will be one midterm and one final exam. The exams will be cumulative. Expect a combination of multiple choice, short answer, analytic and essay questions.

The integrated project:

You will be working on an analytic project throughout the semester. We will discuss details about the integrated project in class and I will handout specific guidance about how to complete each element, and how it will be evaluated.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is required and will contribute to the class participation portion of your grade. Any known scheduling problems should be brought to my attention by email. I strongly discourage students who are ill from attending class. If you are sick, simply send an email indicating that you are ill and that you will miss class. If there is some other reason you must miss class (for example, due to a family situation or planned professional event), please send me an email and I will notify you of whether the absence will be excused. You may not be excused from class to fulfill requirements for some other class or regular work responsibilities (e.g., a field trip, proctoring an exam, etc.), or for discretionary activities on your part (e.g., travel dates, road trips, etc.)

Make-Up Policy

Any known scheduling problems should be brought to my attention as soon as possible. If it is necessary to miss the midterm exam, the student must contact me (before the exam if possible). If a student misses the midterm exam with an official excuse, the midterm exam grade will be based on the final exam grade. If the midterm exam is missed without an official excuse, the midterm exam grade will be based on the final exam grade minus 10 points. The final exam is required of all students. If a student does not take the final exam, a grade of zero will be given for that exam.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work (<http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/procedures.html>).

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact me during regular office hours or by appointment.

Topical Outline

Date	Topic	Reading	Due
Tue, Aug 18	Introduction		
Thu, Aug 20	History of PH and Health Policy	JGG 1	
Tue, Aug 25	Policy Process & Law	OnlineTalk	Assignment #1
Thu, Aug 27	<i>Presentation & Discussion</i>		Group 1 Presentation
Tue, Sep 1	Health Care Providers-Workforce	JGG 2	
Thu, Sep 3	Health Care Providers-Firms	JGG 3,4	
Tue, Sep 8	Federal, State & Local Governments	JGG 5	Assignment #2
Thu, Sep 10	Policy Analysis		
Tue, Sep 15	Communications-News Releases		
Thu, Sep 17	Health Care Providers-Long-Term Care		
Tue, Sep 22	*Public Health Law		News Release
Thu, Sep 24	<i>Presentation & Discussion</i>		Group 2 Presentation
Tue, Sep 29	<i>Review</i>		
Thu, Oct 1	Midterm		
Tue, Oct 6	Communications-Media Interviews		
Thu, Oct 8	Determinants of Population Health		Assignment #3
Tue, Oct 13	Financing-Rising Costs	JGG 6	
Thu, Oct 15	Financing-Insurance	JGG 8	
Tue, Oct 20	Financing-Employers		Media Interview
Thu, Oct 22	Financing-Medicare		
Tue, Oct 27	Financing-Medicaid & CHIP		
Thu, Oct 29	<i>Presentation & Discussion</i>		Group 3 Presentation
Tue, Nov 3	Emergency Preparedness & Disaster Management		
Thu, Nov 5	Disparities		
Tue, Nov 10	Quality of Care	JGG 7	
Thu, Nov 12	*Human Resource Management		
Tue, Nov 17	*Pharmaceutical Industry		
Thu, Nov 19	<i>Presentation & Discussion</i>		Group 4 Presentation
Tue, Nov 24	NO CLASS		
Thu, Nov 26	NO CLASS		
Tue, Dec 1	Global Health Care Systems		Memo Final
Thu, Dec 3	Reform	JGG 9	
Tue, Dec 8	<i>Review</i>		
Tue, Dec 15	Final Exam (8-11am)		

*These lectures are tentative and may change.

General Disclaimers

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.