

HPAA 351
ISSUES IN HEALTH SERVICES DELIVERY
Fall 2007

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Class Meetings: Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:50
(Location TBA – first class in Hooker 0001)
Office Hours: M-T, 2:00 – 3:00; Th, 11:00-12:00; and by appointment
Teaching Assistant: Corey Ford
E-mail: fordce@email.unc.edu
Office Hours: Monday 2:00 – 3:00, and by appointment

Course Overview and Objectives:

The course is designed to provide undergraduate students with policy perspectives on current issues in the field of health services organization and delivery. These issues may vary from year to year to reflect the dynamic changes in the healthcare field. We will deal with several primary subject areas and will utilize occasional practitioner and student involvement interactively in approaching these issues. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to understand and articulate current health policy concerns in the U.S. healthcare system, know in general how and by whom health policy is “made,” have some familiarity with specific policy issues, and develop a greater awareness of how policy and administration impact each other. Among the objectives of the course is students’ ability to:

- be more alert to health policy issues through both experience and the media and be able to connect them to current events.
- be more informed about healthcare payment reform, including current concerns about billing practices, charity care, pricing, and the implications for further Medicare/Medicaid changes.
- understand the critical and “suddenly” urgent problem of healthcare quality and patient safety and the implications this issue has for the cost and delivery of health services in general.
- relate various healthcare reforms proposed by states to the current debate at the national level approaching the next presidential election.
- perceive healthcare reform as a pivotal issue in presidential politics at approximately 20-year intervals.
- identify key health policy issues that have the greatest sensitivity to public opinion in an election year, e.g., public vs. private (or a combination) solutions.

Grading and Assignments:

Group Activities	50%
Final Exam	30%
Class Participation	20%

The class will be offered using several policy issues preceded by a brief discussion about the context and process of health policymaking, then presentation of three of the policy topics by a guest speaker/practitioner and a class response by individual small groups. This year (and next year) is unique in the opportunity we have also to look at health policy in the context of health reform as we approach another presidential election in 2008. Other groups will, therefore, have the opportunity to examine both state and federal reform ideas being proposed and report to the class on their findings. These groups will, where possible, have the same composition as in HPA 350. The intent of these assignments is for groups to analyze each of the issues and synthesize a policy position of their own in a response that can be reported to the class as a panel discussion, debate, report, or some other format the group feels is most effective. Grading will be based upon preparation, content, comprehension, quality and thoroughness of the presentations. The final exam will be a take-home essay question format and will test overall understanding of the policymaking process and issues considered in the course.

Course Evaluation:

The Department of Health Policy and Administration is participating in the Carolina Course Evaluation System (CES), the university's new on-line course evaluation tool, enabled at the end of each semester. Your responses will be anonymous, with feedback provided in the aggregate; open-ended comments will be shared with instructors but not identified with individual students. Your participation in CES is a course requirement, as providing constructive feedback is a professional expectation. Such feedback is critical to improving the quality of our courses, as well as providing input to the assessment of your instructors.

Academic Disruption Exercise:

Health Policy and Administration is committed to developing and testing alternatives for continuing classes in the event of unexpected disruptions in instruction. Such a test may occur during the semester. If the course participates, you will be informed in advance about the nature of the exercise and actions to take. Your full cooperation in this important endeavor is appreciated.

UNC Honor Code:

It is expected that all students enrolled at UNC are familiar with the University's Honor Code and its stipulations. The principles of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship govern the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University as they have during the long life of this institution. Your acceptance of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in the

Code of Student Conduct and a respect for this most significant Carolina tradition. Your reward is in the practice of these principles.

Your participation in this course comes with the expectation that your assignments will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable, because any breach in academic integrity, however small, strikes destructively at the University's life and work.

If you have any questions about your responsibility or the responsibility of faculty members under the Honor Code, please consult with someone in either the Office of the Student Attorney General (966-4084) or the Office of the Dean of Students (966-4042).

Text and Suggested Readings:

Longest, Beaufort B. 2006. Health Policymaking in the United States, 4th ed., Chicago: Health Administration Press. This book is not required but is highly recommended for a good overall treatment of health policy and politics.

Davidson S. 1997. "Politics Matters! Health Care Policy and the Federal System." Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law 22 (3): 879-96.

Oliver T. and Paul-Shaheen P. 1997. "Translating Ideas into Actions: Entrepreneurial Leadership in State Health Care Reforms." Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law 22 (3): 721-88.

Potter M. and Longest B. 1994. "The Divergence of Federal and State Policies on the Charitable Tax Exemption of Nonprofit Hospitals." Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law 19 (2): 393-419.

Oberlander J. 2003. "The Politics of Health Reform: Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good Plans." Health Affairs (web exclusive), August 27.

Benko L. 2007. "Chains weigh in on access." Modern Healthcare 37 (9): 6, 7, 16.

Wachter R. 2004. "The End Of The Beginning: Patient Safety Five Years After 'To Err is Human'." Health Affairs Web Exclusive, 30 November: W4-534-545.

Spear S. 2005. "Fixing Health Care from the Inside, Today." Harvard Business Review 83 (9): 78-91.

Long B. 2006. "Financial Accountability: Why Hospitals and Health Systems Need to Own this Issue." VHHA Review July: 8-9.

Jaklevic M. 2004. "Well-kept secret." Modern Healthcare 34 (25): 6, 7, 16.

Zigmond Z. and Evans M. 2006. "Transparency with a catch." Modern Healthcare 36 (19): 6, 7, 16.

Ferman J. 2006. "Price Transparency." Healthcare Executive 21 (4): 48-50.

Evans M. 2007. "True to form." Modern Healthcare 37 (23): 6, 7, 16.

Sloane T. 2007. "A new definition of transparency." Modern Healthcare 37 (26): 56.

Other readings from the current literature may be assigned during the semester.

Class Schedule:

August 23, 2007 Session 1	Introduction and course overview; group assignments
August 30, 2007 Session 2	Health Policy Considered Longest, Chapter 1-4
September 6, 2007 Session 3	Some Current Health Policy Issues
September 13, 2007 Session 4	Topic: Financial Accountability in Health Services Kathe Hoots, Dixon Hughes LLP
September 20, 2007 Session 5	Topic: Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety Jeff Spade, NCHA
September 27, 2007 Session 6	Group Presentation on Session 4
October 4, 2007 Session 7	Group Presentation on Session 5
October 11, 2007 Session 8	HPAA 601 (Tuesday, 10/9, 12:30-1:45) Healthcare Reform, Jon Oberlander PhD, HPAA
October 18, 2007	Fall Break
October 25, 2007 Session 9	Group Presentation on Session 8
November 1, 2007 Session 10	State Healthcare Reforms: A Model? Group Presentations
November 8, 2007 Session 11	Federal Healthcare Reforms Group Presentations

November 15, 2007
Session 12

Federal Healthcare Reforms
Group Presentations

November 22, 2007

Thanksgiving Break

November 29, 2007
Session 13

Feedback and discussion of issues raised in the course

December 10, 2007
Session 14

Final Examination Due