

Health & Social Policy

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Sarah Maxwell, Assistant Provost & Associate Professor

PHONE

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OFFICE LOCATION

Online Course

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays, 4:00-5:30 Teams. Students may email for an appointment sarah.maxwell@utdallas.edu

COURSE OVERVIEW

PA/SOC 4386 Health and Social Policy (3 semester hours) Examines the history and complexities of the American healthcare system and social welfare provision. Particular emphasis is placed on the U.S., exploring healthcare and social welfare in a public policy framework. This course begins by describing the basic machinery of policymaking and the legal processes that underpin the healthcare and public health systems, and then turns to an exploration of many of the fundamental problems and contemporary issues in health policy and law. Students will learn to think systematically about these issues and the various methods available to public and private policymakers to solve them. Finally, this course describes the methods of writing a policy analysis and engaging in health advocacy, allowing students to apply analytic writing and advocacy skills to policy and legal problems in health care and social policy.

REQUIRED TEXT

Open Educational Resources: Teitelbaum, J. B., & Wilensky, S. E. (2017). *Essentials of health policy and law 5th edition*. Sudbury, Mass: Jones and Bartlett. **This text is available online at the UT Dallas Library at no cost.** Under the license agreement, twelve students have access at any given time. Students may download individual chapters or read online. A hard copy for purchase is available through the UTD bookstore. Additional readings and lectures are also required and can be found in your Elearning course modules.

RESOURCES

All UT Dallas Syllabus Information & Policies <https://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> Need Help? Student Services & Support Information: <https://www.utdallas.edu/campus-life/student-services-support/> Virtual Care: <https://timelycare.com/utdallas/>

GRADING

This class is designed with student schedules and hectic lives in mind. The course is set up for your success, allowing students to earn points, even if a due date is missed. How does it work? For many of the quizzes and assignments, there is a main due date, similar to syllabi you have had throughout your college career. This course allows students the opportunity for “make-up” assignments and quizzes until the end of the semester.

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATES	POINTS (BY DUE DATE/LATE)
Syllabus Quiz	10/10 5:00 pm	Required, 0 points
Discussion Assignment 1	10/23 5:00 pm	5 by due date [late, by 12/11 5:00 pm max points = 2]
Evidence Based Public Health & Practice Quiz	10/23 5:00 pm	10 [Two attempts by due date and time; this quiz does not have any late attempts]
Community Mental Health Centers Case Study	10/30 5:00 pm	20 by due date [late, by 12/11 5:00 pm max points = 12]
Public Policy Basics & Public Policy Understanding Check	11/6 5:00 pm	15 by due date [late, by 12/11 5:00 pm max points = 10]
Midterm -Textbook & Lectures	11/20 5:00 pm	25 by due date [by 12/11 5:00 pm max points = 15]
Final Exam- Textbook & Lectures	12/11 5:00pm	25 by due date, no late attempts
Total		100 points for the course

Grades are based on the following scale: +=97-100, A=94-96, A-=90-93; B+=87-89, B=84-86, B-=80-83, C+=77-79, C=74-76, C-=70-73, D+=67-69, D=64-66, D-=60-63, F=0-59. Please note that there is no extra credit work available in this class (unless otherwise announced).

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Course Unit 1	Course Unit 2
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the concepts of policy and policymaking. 2. Describe the basic function, structure, and powers of the legislative branch of government. 3. Describe the basic function, structure, and powers of the executive branch of government. 4. Explain the role of federal and state governments in the policymaking Process. 5. Explain the role of interest groups in the policymaking process. 6. Describe the role of law in everyday life. 7. Identify the various sources of law. 8. Describe key features of the legal system. 9. Describe generally the important role played by policy and law in the health of individuals and populations. 10. Articulate several different definitions of public health. 11. Describe the origins and evolutionary themes of public health in the US. 12. Trace the development of the public health system in the United States. 13. Broadly characterize the contributions and value of the public health field. 14. Describe public health as a system, emphasizing the role of the three core functions and 10 Essential Public Health Services. 15. Identify the key players who provide and finance health care . 16. Identify common characteristics of the uninsured. 17. Understand the effect of insurance on access to care and on health status. 18. Identify barriers to accessing health care. 19. Understand concerns regarding the quality of health care provided in the US 20. Describe differences in how health care is delivered in various countries. 21. Describe the meaning and importance of the "no-duty-to-treat" principle. 22. Explain generally how the U.S. approach to health rights differs from that of other high-income countries. 23. Describe the types and limitations of individual legal rights associated with health care. 24. Describe the balancing approach taken when weighing individual rights against the public's health. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the significance of structural and social drivers on individual and population health. 2. Describe how law can create or perpetuate health-harming social, economic and environmental conditions. 3. Explain how law can be used to ameliorate health-harming social, economic, and environmental conditions. 4. Understand how innovative interventions to improve health, such as medical-legal partnership, can help address health-harming social, economic, and environmental conditions at the individual and population levels. 5. Understand how the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act alters Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare. 6. Discuss key health policy questions and themes relating to public programs. 7. Understand why national health reform has been difficult to achieve. 8. Analyze why national health reform succeeded in 2010 when so many previous attempts had failed. 9. Understand the key components of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). 10. Understand the core rulings of multiple U.S. Supreme Court decisions related to the ACA. 11. Discuss how the coronavirus pandemic has affected the U.S. healthcare. 12. Describe the scope and causes of medical errors. 13. Identify and explain certain state-level legal theories under which healthcare professionals and entities can be held liable for medical negligence. 14. Explain the role of public health in emergency preparedness. 15. Describe the role of state and local governments in preparedness. 16. Describe the Incident Command System (ICS) and the importance of a centralized command structure during response operations. 17. Articulate the premise of the "whole community" approach to preparedness and response. 18. Describe key legal considerations in emergency preparedness planning. 19. Understand the concept of policy analysis. 20. Analyze a health policy issue and understand how to write a health policy analysis

COURSE POLICIES

- Students may not request re-takes or late assignments. The course is structured for student success. If a quiz or test is missed (before 12/11 5:00 pm) the student can take most (not all) missed quizzes or test and still earn points. The course is open the entire semester. Contacting the instructor at the end of the semester asking for the course to be reopened will not be considered. Any emergencies must be reported promptly.
- Tests will not be re-opened. Once a test is open, it must be completed in one sitting. Tests will not be re-opened after a student has opened it. Some quizzes or tests may have more than one attempt. Refer to Elearning for information.
- Students are expected to watch all lectures and take notes.
- Students are expected to read all required textbook chapters or assigned articles.
- The assignments, quizzes, and tests are open note. Preparation is key. Sharing answers, quizzes, and tests is considered academic dishonesty and students who violate this policy will be referred to the Office of Community Conduct and Standards.
- **All assignments, quizzes, and tests are due on Mondays by 5:00 pm.**

COURSE SCHEDULE

COURSE UNIT 1	READINGS & LECTURES
Public, Health, & Social Policy	
Understanding the role of and Conceptualizing Health Policy & Law	Chapter 1
Policy and the Policymaking Process	Chapter 2
Public Policy Basics	Lecture, no assigned reading
American Social Welfare Policy/Public Assistance Programs	Lecture + Reading on Elearning
Public Health & Healthcare	
Overview of the Healthcare System	Chapter 4
What is Public Health	Chapter 5
Individual Rights in Healthcare and Public Health	Chapter 6
Health & Human Services	Radin, B.A. The Department of Health and Human Services, PDF on Elearning
Structural and Social Drivers of Health and the Role of Law in Optimizing Health	Chapter 7
Public Health Emergency Preparedness	Chapter 13
Community Mental Health Centers Case Study	Lectures, Readings, & Video on Elearning
Public Health Practice	Lecture
Evidence Based Public Health	Lecture
Midterm	All Textbook Readings & Lectures Unit 1
COURSE UNIT 2	
READINGS & LECTURES	
Structural Drivers, Government Programs, & Practical Skills	
Law & the Legal System	Chapter 3
Health Insurance	Chapter 8
Government Health Insurance Programs	Chapter 10
Health Reform	Chapter 11
Structuring and Writing Health Policy Analysis	Chapter 14
Final Exam	All Textbook Readings & Lectures Unit 2