



PPD 325: FUNDAMENTALS OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

4 Units

Spring 2021

Mondays and Wednesdays 12pm

Location: Online

Instructor: Alice Chen

Office Hours: Monday 2-3pm Zoom

Contact Info: alicejc@usc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a gateway to the Minor in Health Policy and to the Health Policy and Management track of the B.S. in Public Policy. The course will be devoted to:

- Learning key areas of healthcare delivery and management
- Evaluating key health policy issues from an economic and behavioral vantage point
- Understanding and using economic, statistical, and mathematical tools as ways to inform health policy issues.

The class will consist of a mixture of asynchronous lectures, discussion boards, in class interactive assignments, quizzes, and papers always with an emphasis on topical health policy questions.

REQUIRED READINGS

- Paul J. Feldstein. Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective. 7th Edition, 2019. Chicago, Illinois: Health Administration Press. (ISBN-10: 1640550100; ISBN-13: 978-1640550100).
 - This is available in the University Bookstore. Alternatively, you can rent it from Amazon for \$17.
- Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard. Some of these will be required reading in preparation for the lectures; others will be optional material.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course consists of asynchronous lectures and Zoom class discussions. Recorded lectures will be available during the week prior to a scheduled synchronous class. Students are expected to come to class having viewed the lectures.

Synchronous class time will start on Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. PST. Although synchronous class time will usually end early, students should plan on being available until 1:50 p.m. PST as needed.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

To participate fully in class, students are required to have internet access and a device with a video camera. Using a phone device is not recommended, and requires approval from the professor. Students will also need access to and proficiency in the use of Blackboard.

USC technology rental program

If you need technology resources to successfully participate in your classes, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program. To apply, please submit an application: <https://studentbasicneeds.usc.edu/resources/technology-assistance/>.

USC Technology Support Links

- [Zoom information for students](#)
- [Blackboard help for students](#)
- [Software available to USC Campus](#)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND FINAL GRADE DETERMINATION

Grades will be determined based on student performance in the following areas:

1. Class Participation: 10%
2. Quizzes: 30%
3. Policy Debates: 20%
4. Policy project presentation: 20%
5. Final paper: 20%

Grading Scale

A	93-100	C+	77-79
A-	90-92	C	73-76
B+	87-89	C-	70-72
B	83-86	D	60-69
B-	80-82	F	59 and below

All individual graded assignments are due and must be posted on Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. PST on the following dates:

ASSIGNMENT	DUE DATE	% OF GRADE
Quiz 1	2/21	10%
Debates	3/7	20%
Quiz 2	3/21	10%
Project Presentations	4/11	20%
Quiz 3	4/18	10%
Final paper	5/4	20%
Class Participation (including discussion boards)	Variable	10%
TOTAL		100%

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS DESCRIPTIONS

1. PARTICIPATION (AND EXPECTATIONS FOR SYNCHRONOUS SESSIONS)

Attendance with live videos on is *expected*. In order to ensure privacy, students may wish to use virtual backgrounds and earphones or headsets to improve audio quality. If a student has special circumstances that make video camera participation difficult, accommodations are available by contacting the instructor. Further, if synchronous sessions take place in the student's time zone outside of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., accommodations are also available by contacting the instructor.

In addition to these baselines, participation will be measured by three components: (1) your active in-class engagement and discussion, (2) viewing of recorded asynchronous lectures before class, and (3) **discussion board posts**. Discussion board posts will be based around a news article or reading that will be posted on Blackboard. The discussion board on Blackboard will be threaded and you will contribute to the discussion.

2. QUIZZES

There will be three quizzes administered asynchronously through Blackboard. Quizzes are open book. Students will have one week to complete the quiz. Within that week, there is no time limit for completion.

3. POLICY DEBATES

Each health policy debate will be about 12 minutes. Participants will give prepared remarks for 3 minutes. Prepared remarks will be followed by rebuttals, responses, and Q&A. The instructor will moderate the debate. Potential debate topics include; (a) Medicare should negotiate drug prices, (b) We should increase taxes on soda, and (c) We should make USC a tobacco free workplace. Debate topic preferences will be administered via Blackboard by Sunday **January 24**.

4. POLICY PROJECT PRESENTATION AND FINAL PAPER

Students will work on a project about a timely health policy issue. Students will be required to prepare a policy memorandum and make a classroom presentation. Example topics of the policy memorandum include: (a) How can we reduce opioid addiction? (b) How can we reduce medical errors? (c) How can we improve mental health care? The policy memorandum and presentations should cover the following subtopics.

- Description of the problem and its consequences
- The reasons why it arises
- Pros and cons of potential policy solutions to address the problem
- Your preferred approach for solving the problem

The topics for the policy project need to be approved by the instructor no later than Sunday **February 7**; if your topic is received late, 1 point will be deducted from your participation score. Please submit your topic to blackboard.

The final paper is expected to be at least 3,000 words and the class presentation is expected to be about 15 minutes long including Q&A. Policy memos are due on **May 4**.

COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICIES

- All students are required to consult Blackboard and email regularly for class updates.
- Turn in all work in 12-point Times New Roman, single spaced, one-inch margins.

POLICY ON LATE AND MISSED SUBMISSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Students who have reason to need to extra time for submission of an assignment should contact the instructor in advance of the deadline.
- Quizzes and final papers received within one week past the due date will receive a 20% deduction. After the one-week due date, submissions will not be accepted.

SESSION RECORDING NOTICE

Per USC policy, synchronous sessions will be recorded and provided to all students asynchronously.

Students are reminded that USC policy prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment: *Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code.*

COURSE OUTLINE

WK	DATE	TOPIC	DATE	TOPIC	READING	ASSIGNMENT
1	Jan 18	MLK Holiday	Jan 20	Spending 1	Chpt 1, 2	Select debate topic
2	Jan 25	Spending 2	Jan 27	Economics 1	Chpt 5	DB Post 1*
3	Feb 1	Economics 2	Feb3	Behavioral Econ		Select policy topic
4	Feb 8	Health demand	Feb 10	Health insurance	Chpt 6, 7	
5	Feb 15	President's Day	Feb 17	Private Insurance	Chpt 23	Quiz 1 (wk 1-4)
6	Feb 22	Medicare	Feb 24	Medicaid	Chpt 8, 9	DB Post 2*
7	Mar 1	ACA	Mar 3	New Policies		<i>Debate prep</i>
8	Mar 8	Debates	Mar 10	Debates		
9	Mar 15	Provider markets	Mar 17	Provider pay	Chpt 4,10	Quiz 2 (wk 5-8)
10	Mar 22	Hospitals	Mar 24	Integration	Chpt 15, 13	DB Post 3*
11	Mar 29	Competition	Mar 31	New Policies	Chpt 16, 21	<i>Presentation prep</i>
12	Apr 5	Pharmaceutical	Apr 7	Wellness Day	Chpt 25, 27	
13	Apr 12	Presentations	Apr 14	Presentations		Quiz 3 (wk 9-12)
14	Apr 19	Presentations	Apr 21	Presentations		<i>Final paper prep</i>
15	Apr 26	Final review	Apr 28	No class		<i>Complete paper</i>

* Refers to Discussion Board (DB) posts on Blackboard

GENERAL RESOURCES

Some useful resources on health policy include:

- [USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy](#) aims to inform the national health care debate with rigorous, evidence-based analysis leading to practical recommendations using the collaborative strengths of USC and Brookings.
- The [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) produces issue briefs and reports on current health policy topics.
- The [Congressional Budget Office](#) evaluates many health care reform proposals using their in-house economic models.
- [Health Affairs](#) is the leading health policy journal and publishes peer reviewed research on health policy .
- The [General Accountability Office \(GAO\)](#) publishes a large number of reports with detailed background information on Federal policy issues.
- The [Medicare Payment Advisory Commission \(MedPAC\)](#) summarizes current financing problems and reform options for the Medicare program.
- The [National Center for Health Statistics](#) publishes reports regularly related to the health, health care, health insurance, and health behavior of the U.S. population.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Diversity Statement:

Our classroom offers an environment where individuals of varying opinions, experiences, and backgrounds are able to learn without fear of being silenced. Inclusion authentically brings traditionally excluded individuals and/or groups into processes, activities, and decision/policy making. We will hold one another accountable for maintaining the goals of respect for diversity in opinions, experiences, and backgrounds.

Support Systems:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421

studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.