USC Price
Sol Price School of Public Policy

PPD 205: INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH POLICY AND LAW
FALL 2024 (2 UNITS)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course presents an introduction to health policy and lawmaking. Students will hear first-hand from government, policy, and academic experts as they discuss key regulatory and legal issues concerning health and health care. Course topics will be updated each year to reflect events in the news and current policy debates. Included in this year's list of topics are drug pricing, the role of patient advocacy groups, and pandemic policy. This course does not require any background in health, the biomedical sciences, or policy. This course and its companion course, PPD 202 (Health and Health Care in America Today), are an ideal introduction to health care issues for students considering the BS in Public Policy program and its health policy and management track; an excellent supplemental course for students in pre-med, public health, biological sciences, and biomedical engineering programs; and an engaging elective for all non-majors interested in health.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:
- Describe the policymaking process in the US and identify the governmental entities responsible for health and health care issues
- Describe how federal, state, and local policymakers and stakeholders (e.g., patient advocacy groups, hospitals) approach key health issues
- Review and evaluate evidence related to current health policy issues such drug pricing and the corporatization of health care

PREREQUISITE(S): None.
CO-REQUISITE(S): None.
CONCURRENT OR PRIOR ENROLLMENT: None.
This course fulfills a requirement for the BS in Public Policy (Health Policy and Management Track) program. In conjunction with the companion course PPD 202 (Health and Health Care in America Today), this course fulfills a requirement for the Price School health policy minor. This course may also be used to fulfill requirements in the Minor in Health Care Studies and the Minor in Health Innovation.

REQUIRED READINGS AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Required readings will be drawn from mainstream periodicals, policy briefs, medical and health policy journal articles, and blog posts, as specified in the schedule. Supplementary materials may include videos and podcasts. All materials will either be available publicly, available through USC Libraries, or made available through Blackboard.

COURSE NOTES

The course meets once a week for sessions that include core faculty lectures and guest lectures and interviews. Students are expected to complete required readings and tasks prior to class, and should come to class ready to ask questions and engage with the speakers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The course grade will be based on a midterm exam, a final exam, regular feedback forms, and class participation and exercises. The distribution of assignment weights is as follows:

ASSIGNMENT	% OF GRADE
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	35%
Q&A Lead	20%
Feedback forms	12%
Class participation and exercises	8%
TOTAL	100%

DESCRIPTION OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1. MIDTERM EXAM

There will be midterm exam, worth 25% of the course grade, administered during class on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. Exam questions will be a combination of true-false, multiple choice, and short answer questions.

2. FINAL EXAM

There will be a final exam, worth 35% of the course grade, administered during Final Exam week. Exam questions will be a combination of true-false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. The final exam is cumulative, with an emphasis on material covered in the second half of the class.

3. Q&A LEAD

Students must sign up to be Q&A leads for 2 of the guest lectures. For the lectures for which they are leads, students must submit a 1-page summary of the readings and a list of 5 questions prior to class. They must also lead the Q&A session with a question for the lecturer.

4. FEEDBACK FORMS

Students must submit short feedback forms after each class session. There will be 12 feedback forms, 8 of which will count towards the course grade. Each feedback form is worth 1.5% of the course grade.

5. CLASS PARTICIPATION AND CLASS EXERCISES
Students will be asked, on occasion, to participate in class exercises and polls. Class participation accounts for 8% of the course grade.

GRADING SCALE
Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

GRADE	PERCENT
A	≥ 93
A-	≥ 90 & < 93
B+	≥ 87 & < 90
B	≥ 83 & < 87
B-	≥ 80 & < 83
C+	≥ 77 & < 80
C	≥ 73 & < 77
C-	≥ 70 & < 73
D+	≥ 67 & < 70
D	≥ 63 & < 67
D-	≥ 60 & < 62
F	< 60

CLASSROOM NORMS
Students are asked to maintain a respectful, constructive classroom environment. To this end, please remember to listen actively and attentively; ask questions if you do not understand a point raised or are curious about a related issue; and engage respectfully with the ideas presented in class, with the speakers, and your classmates. Please use phones, notebook computers, and laptops during class (breaks excepted) only for class-related activities.

TECHNOLOGICAL PROFICIENCY AND HARDWARE/SOFTWARE REQUIRED
Students will need access to and proficiency in the use of Blackboard.

USC TECHNOLOGY RENTAL PROGRAM
If you need technology resources—such as a laptop or an internet hotspot—to successfully participate in this course, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program. For further information, please see: USC Computing Center Laptop Loaner Program.

USC TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT LINKS
- Zoom information for students
- Blackboard help for students
- Software available to USC Campus

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in

contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the USC Student Handbook. All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the student handbook or the Office of Academic Integrity's website, and university policies on Research and Scholarship Misconduct.

In this course, unless otherwise instructed, all of your work in this course should represent your own completely independent work. Any student found to have committed acts of misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, mis-representing AI-generated text as your own work, misconduct of research, breach of confidentiality, or illegal or unlawful acts) will be subject to the sanctions and procedures as decided by Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

STUDENTS AND DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS
USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS
Counseling and Mental Health - *(213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call*
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline - *988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call*
The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number

makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - *(213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call*
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - *(213) 740-5086*
Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - *(213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - *(213) 740-0776*
OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - *(213) 740-0411*
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - *(213) 740-2101*
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*
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) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call*
Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - *(213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)*
A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - *(323) 442-2850 or* otfp@med.usc.edu
Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.

TENTATIVE CLASS TOPICS

TOPIC
Introduction to Health Policy
The Policymaking Process
Health Care and Federal Policymaking CMS, FDA, CDC
State and Local Health Policy
Patient Advocacy Groups
Consumer Protection and Health Law
Health Care Fraud, Waste, and Abuse
Medical Malpractice and Regulation of Physicians
Drug Prices and Medicare Drug Price Negotiations
Pandemic Policy and Covid-19