

## **U.S. Health Care Crisis: Politics and Policies**

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI  
Spring 2007

**Course Numbers:** HST, NUR, POL 536

**Room, Day and Time:** TBA

**Number of Credits:** 3 credits

**Faculty:** Professor Donna Shalala  
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**Course Description:** This course will explore key health policy issues within the U.S., along with the politics and interest groups that shape them. Fundamental concerns within the health care system such as: cost, quality, and access to care will be analyzed. Major topics of discussion will include: Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance, the nursing shortage, and prescription drugs. The politics and policies surrounding issues such as: bioethics, globalization, and infectious disease will also be considered.

**Teaching Methods:** Lectures, case studies, films and class discussions

<b>Evaluation:</b>	Exam 1	30%
	Exam 2	30%
	Exam 3	30%
	Attendance	10%

**Required Texts:** Course Reader will contain articles and case studies and will be available at the campus bookstore.

Additional readings will also be posted on Blackboard

**Attendance:** Regular and punctual attendance at each class session is mandatory.

**Examinations:** Students are required to be present for all examinations. If a student, for sufficient cause, is unable to attend an examination, *the Teaching Assistant must be notified prior to the administration of the exam.* The professor will determine the format and scheduling of all make-up exams.

**Honor Code:** Students are expected to be familiar with and to comply with the University of Miami's Honor Code. These Codes are established for the student body to protect the academic integrity of the University of Miami, to encourage consistent ethical behavior among students, and to foster a climate of fair competition. While a student's commitment to honesty and personal integrity is assumed and expected, these Codes are intended to provide an added measure of assurance that, in fulfilling the University's requirements, the student will never engage in falsification, plagiarism, or other deception regarding the materials he/she presents. Each student is responsible for completing the academic requirements of each course in the manner indicated by the faculty.

**Information for Students with Disabilities:** You are advised and encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible to provide the necessary documentation in order to obtain academic accommodations. Faculty cannot provide accommodations without a letter from the Office of Disability Services. You may contact that office at:

University Center  
Room N201  
(305)- 284-2374  
TDD (305)-284-3401

## COURSE SCHEDULE

1	1/17	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ideology, Politics, and Health Policy</b></p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>World-Class Healthcare: Why Isn't the U.S. the Best?</i>  <b>Film:</b> <i>Managing Care, Managing Dollars</i></p>
2	1/24	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Healthcare Crisis: Private Insurance</b></p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Healthcare Crisis: Who's at Risk?</i></p>
3	1/31	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Healthcare Crisis: Public Insurance</b></p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Medicare and Medicaid at 40</i></p>
4	2/7	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public Opinion</b></p> <p>Guest Speaker: <b>Molly Brodie, PhD</b>  Vice President, Director of Public Opinion and Media Research  Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation  <b>Film:</b> <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i> (during the second half of class).</p>
5	2/14	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Climate Crisis</b></p> <p>In-class discussion and screening of Al Gore's talk from 2/12/07 delivered at the Bank United Center at UM.</p>
6	2/21 Ash Wedn.	<b>EXAM 1</b>
7	2/28	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Uninsured/Prescription Drugs</b></p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>ER in Crisis: Turning Away the Uninsured</i>  <b>Film:</b> <i>Importing Drugs: The Canadian Connection</i></p>
8	3/7	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nursing &amp; Healthcare Quality</b></p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Remaking American Medicine: Silent Killer</i></p>
No Class: Spring Break 3/10 – 3/18		
9	3/21	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Politics of Public Health I: Natural Disasters</b></p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Voices of the Storm: Healthcare After Katrina</i></p>
10	3/28	<b>EXAM 2</b>
11	4/4 Passover	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Politics of Public Health II: Infectious Disease</b></p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Rx for Survival: A Global Health Challenge</i></p>
12	4/11	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Politics of Public Health III: Shaping Public Priorities</b></p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>Critical Condition: America's Obesity Crisis</i>  <b>Film:</b> <i>Food Fight: Childhood Obesity and the Food Industry</i></p>
13	4/18	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Healthcare Reform: Part I</b></p> <p><b>Film:</b> <i>The Great Healthcare Debate</i></p>
14	4/25	<b>Healthcare Reform: Part II</b>
15	TBA	<b>FINAL</b>

## READING LIST

<b>January 17</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IDEOLOGY, POLITICS AND HEALTH POLICY</b></p> <p>Litman, T.J. (1984). Government and health: The political aspects of health care – A sociopolitical overview. In T.J. Litman &amp; L.S. Robins (Eds.). <i>Health politics and policy</i> (pp. 3-40). New York: John Wiley and Sons.</p>
<b>January 24</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE HEALTHCARE CRISIS: PRIVATE INSURANCE</b></p> <p>Claxton, G. (2002). <i>How private insurance works: A primer</i>. Kaiser Family Foundation. Retrieved from: <a href="http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/How-Private-Insurance-Works-A-Primer-Report.pdf">www.kff.org/insurance/upload/How-Private-Insurance-Works-A-Primer-Report.pdf</a>.</p> <p><b>Case Studies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Recipe for Trouble? Navigating the Private Health Insurance Market.</i></li> <li>- <i>Issue Brief: The ABC's of Managed Care, HMOs, PPOs, POS, and Everything in Between</i></li> </ul>
<b>January 31</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PUBLIC INSURANCE</b></p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation. (May, 2006). Fact Sheet: The Medicaid program at a glance.</p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation. (May, 2003). Fact Sheet: Medicaid and long-term care.</p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation. (May, 2006). State fiscal conditions and Medicaid.</p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation. (July, 2006). Fact Sheet: Medicare at a glance.</p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation. (June, 2006). Fact Sheet: The Medicare prescription drug benefit.</p> <p>Vladeck, B. (2004). The struggle for the soul of Medicare. <i>The Journal of Law, Medicine &amp; Ethics</i>. 32:3, pp. 410-415.</p> <p>Winakur, J. (2005). What are we going to do with dad? <i>Health Affairs</i>. 24:4, pp. 1064-1072.</p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <i>Catastrophic Health Insurance for the Elderly</i></p>
<b>February 7</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PUBLIC OPINION</b></p> <p><b>Guest Speaker:</b> Mollyann Brodie, PhD Vice President, Director of Public Opinion and Media Research at the Kaiser Family Foundation</p> <p>Altman, D., Brodie, M.A., (2002). Opinions on public opinion polling. <i>Health Affairs</i>, w276-w279.</p> <p>Blendon, R., Brodie, M.A., Benson, J.M., Altman, D., Buhr, T. (2006). American's views of health care costs, access and quality. <i>The Millbank Quarterly</i>, 84(4), pp.623-657.</p>

<b>February 14</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE CLIMATE CRISIS</b></p> <p>In-class screening of Former Vice President Al Gore's talk given on February 12, 2007 at the Bank United Center at the University of Miami.</p>
<b>February 21</b>	<b>EXAM 1</b>
<b>February 28</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE UNINSURED/PRESCRIPTION DRUGS</b></p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation. (2005). Myths about the uninsured.  Kaiser Family Foundation. (March, 2005). Policy challenges and opportunities in closing the racial/ethnic divide in healthcare.  Kaiser Family Foundation. (October, 2006). The uninsured and their access to health care.  Kaiser Family Foundation. (August, 2006). Who are the uninsured: A consistent profile across national surveys.  Kaiser Family Foundation. (2006). Prescription drug trends.  Kaiser Family Foundation. (2006). Prescription drug costs.</p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <i>Uninsured and Unable to Breathe</i></p>
<b>March 7</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NURSING AND HEALTHCARE QUALITY</b></p> <p>Aiken, L. (2005). Improving quality through nursing. <i>Policy Challenges in Modern Health Care</i>. Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick, NJ.  Leape, L., Berwick, D. (2005). Five years after To Err is Human. <i>JAMA</i>, 293:19, pp. 2384-2390.  Needleman, J., Buerhaus, P., Stewart, M., Zelevinsky, K., Mattke, S. (2006). Nurse staffing in hospitals: Is there a business case for quality? <i>Health Affairs</i>, 25:1, pp. 204-211.</p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <i>Understanding Surgical Errors</i></p>
<b>March 21</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE POLITICS OF PUBLIC HEALTH I: NATURAL DISASTERS</b></p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation. (2006, January). A pre-Katrina look at the health care delivery system for low-income people in New Orleans.  Kaiser Family Foundation. (2005, October 10). Health coverage for individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina: A comparison of different approaches to extend Medicaid Coverage.  Kaiser Family Foundation. (2006). The state of public health preparedness.  Lambrew, J., Shalala, D. (2006). Federal health policy response to Hurricane Katrina: What it was and what it could have been. <i>JAMA</i>, 296:11, pp. 1394-1397.  Shalala, D. (2006, September 24, 2005). For fast federal action on the Katrina health crisis. <i>The Washington Post</i>.</p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <i>Responding to an Ultra-Catastrophe in New Orleans</i></p>
<b>March 28</b>	<b>EXAM 2</b>

<p><b>April 4</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE POLITICS OF PUBLIC HEALTH II: INFECTIOUS DISEASE</b></p> <p>CDC Fact Sheet. (2006). <i>Public health infrastructure</i>. Retrieved October 31, 2006 from: <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/fs020514.htm">www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/fs020514.htm</a>.</p> <p>Garrett, L. (July/August, 2005). The lessons of HIV/AIDS. Retrieved on November 15, 2006 from: <a href="http://www.foreignaffairs.org">http://www.foreignaffairs.org</a></p> <p>Garrett, L. (July/August, 2005). The next pandemic? Retrieved on November 15, 2006 from: <a href="http://www.foreignaffairs.org">http://www.foreignaffairs.org</a>.</p> <p>Tilson, H., Berkowitz, B. (2006). The public health enterprise: Examining our twenty-first century policy challenges. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 25:4, 900-910.</p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <i>The West Nile Virus Outbreak in New York City</i></p>
<p><b>April 11</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE POLITICS OF PUBLIC HEALTH III: SHAPING PUBLIC PRIORITIES</b></p> <p>Daviglus, M. (2005). Health care costs in old age are related to overweight and obesity earlier in life. <i>Health Affairs</i>, W5-R97.</p> <p>Lambert, C. (May-June, 2004). The way we eat now. <i>Harvard Magazine</i>.</p> <p>Ryan, K., Card-Higginson, P., McCarthy, S., Justus, M., Thompson, J. (2006). Arkansas fights fat: Translating research into policy to combat childhood and adolescent obesity. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 25:4, pp. 992-1000.</p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <i>Facing the Problem of Second-hand Smoke</i></p>
<p><b>April 18</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HEALTHCARE REFORM: PART I</b></p> <p>Heclo, H. (1995). The Clinton health plan: Historical perspective. <i>Health Affairs</i>. 14:1, pp. 86-93.</p> <p>Marmor, T. (1994). The politics of universal health insurance: Lessons from past administrations. <i>Political Science and Politics</i>, 27:2, pp. 194-201.</p> <p>Moran, D.W. (2005). Whence and whither of health insurance? A revisionist history. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 24(6), pp.1415-1425.</p> <p>Skocpol, T. (1995). The rise and resounding demise of the Clinton health plan. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 14:1, pp. 66-77.</p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <i>The Battle Over the Clinton Health Care Proposal</i></p>
<p><b>April 25</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>HEALTHCARE REFORM: PART II</b></p> <p>Fuchs, V., Emanuel, E. (2005). Health care reform: Why? What? When? <i>Health Affairs</i>, 24(6), 1399-1414.</p> <p>Haislmaier, E., Owcharenko, N. (2006). The Massachusetts approach: A new way to restructure state health insurance markets and public programs. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 25(6), pp. 1581-1590.</p> <p>Kaiser Family Foundation (2006). Massachusetts health care reform plan. Taken from: <a href="http://www.kff.org/uninsured/7494.cfm">http://www.kff.org/uninsured/7494.cfm</a>.</p> <p>Locke, L. (2006). San Francisco's latest innovation: Universal health care. <i>Time Magazine</i>, June 23, 2006.</p> <p>McDonough, J., Rosman, B., Phelps, F., Shannon, M. (September 14, 2006). The</p>

third wave of Massachusetts health care access reform. *Health Affairs*, W420-431.

Nathan, R. (2005). Federalism and health policy. *Health Affairs*, 24(6), pp.1458-1466.