Professor Jeffrey Backstrand, Ph.D.
backstjr@rutgers.edu
Office: 128 CPS
Phone: 973-353-3800
Office Hours: by arrangement

Health Systems & Policy
PHCO 0501 / 20:834:581
Spring 2013
W 5:30-8:10 pm
Classroom: xxxx

HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICY

Course Description

Against the background of changes in population health, this course introduces the history, organization, financing and regulation of medical and public health services in the United States. Special emphasis is placed on the social and behavioral factors that shape health, and inequalities in health and health services. A central theme in this course is the tension between the need for health care organizations to position themselves for success in the changing economic environment and the basic public health principles of access, equity, quality care, health promotion and prevention.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, the students will be able to:

1. Analyze how social, economic and cultural factors impact health care access and utilization;
2. Employ research skills to identify the pros and cons of current health policy issues;
3. Compare and analyze health services options for vulnerable population groups;
4. Identify how historical and current political factors influence health care access and population health in the U.S. and developing countries
5. Apply systems thinking to analyze health system and related policy issues; and
6. Explain public health methods of ensuring community health safety and preparedness.

Required Text

- Barr, Donald A. *Introduction to U.S. Health Policy: The Organization, Financing and Delivery of Health Care in America*. 3rd edition. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011 [$39.63 at Amazon.com;]

Other Readings

The textbook will be supplemented with numerous journal articles as assigned by the instructor.

Course Requirements

• Two online midterm exams:	35%
• Extensive Annotated Bibliography:	20%
• Health policy student paper (based on annotated bibliography):	35%
• Participation:	10%

Course Policies

Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings before class and to be ready to discuss them.

Students are expected to attend class and be punctual. All cells phones must be turned off or put on silent mode during class.

All assignments must be submitted by the due dates specified on the syllabus, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Grades will be adversely affected if work is submitted late without prior approval.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. ***Plagiarism is using other people's words, ideas, opinions or theories without making proper attribution to that person or reference. In particular, students must not cut-and-paste materials text from the internet or elsewhere without appropriate use of quotation marks and attribution. This policy applies to all products created by students, including papers, annotated bibliographies, Powerpoints, etc.*** Rutgers University policies on plagiarism can be found at: http://spaa.newark.rutgers.edu/home/programs/phd/university-policy-on-plagiarism.html.

Moodle (online course site)

This course is "web-enhanced." Students will be required from time to time to log onto the Moodle, and print and download course materials. Learning activities may also be posted on Moodle. You can access Moodle via:

https://moodle.umdnj.edu

To enable downloading and viewing of documents, you will need to use Microsoft Word Viewer and Adobe Reader. Both are available for free on the Web.

- Word Viewer: http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=4
- Adobe Reader: http://get.adobe.com/reader/

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part One: Introduction to U.S. Health Systems & Policies

Week 1 (Jan 23) : Introduction to the Course

Readings: None

Week 2 (Jan 30): Is There a Right to Health Care?

Textbook Readings:

- *None*

Other Readings:

- Grad FP. The "Preamble of the World Health Organization," and "Constitution of the World Health Organization." *Bull WHO* 2002;80:981-84.
- Gostin LA and Powers M. What does social justice require for the public's health? Public health ethics and policy imperatives. *Health Affairs* 2006;25:1053-1060.
- Marchand S, Wikler D, and Landesman B. Class, health, and justice. *Milbank Quarterly* 1998;76:449-467.
- Mechanic D and Tanner J. Vulnerable people, groups, and populations: societal view. *Health Affairs* 2007;26:1220-1230.

Week 3 (Feb 6): Social Conditions & Health

Textbook Readings:

- None

Other Readings:

- Marmot M. Social determinants of health inequalities. *Lancet* 2005;365:1099-1104.
- Krieger N. Does Racism Harm Health? Did Child Abuse Exist Before 1962? On Explicit Questions, Critical Science, and Current Controversies: An Ecosocial Perspective. *American Journal of Public Health* 2003;93:194-199.
- Rose G. Sick individuals and sick populations. *International Journal of Epidemiology* 1985;14:32-38.

- Murray CJ, Kulkarni SC, Michaud C, Tomijima N, Bulzacchelli MT, Iandiorio TJ, Ezzati M. Eight Americas: Investigating Mortality Disparities across Races, Counties, and Race-Counties in the United States. *PLoS Medicine* 2006;3:e545

Week 4 (Feb 5): The Evolution of American Public Health Systems

Textbook Readings:

- None

Other Readings:

- _____. The History of the Public Health System. IN: *The future of public health*. Institute of Medicine, Committee for the Study of the Future of Public Health, 1988.
- _____. Improvements in Workplace Safety — United States, 1900–1999. *MMWR* 1999;48: 461-469.
-

Week 5 (Feb 20): Federal Regulatory Power: Food Safety & Occupational Health

Textbook Readings:

- None

Readings:

- Backstrand JR. The history and future of food fortification in the United States: a public health perspective. *Nutrition Reviews* 2002;60: 15-26.
- Brownell KD and Frieden TR. Ounces of prevention—the public policy case for taxes on sugared beverages. *New England Journal of Medicine* 2009;360:1805-1808.
- *Building a Healthy America: A Profile of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.* United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Research and Analysis, April 2012 (**read pp. 1-26)**
- Olson ED. Protecting food safety: more needs to be done to keep pace with scientific advances and the changing food supply. *Health Affairs* 2011;30:915-923.
- Schaub J and Marian M. Reading, writing, and obesity: America's failing grade in school nutrition and physical education. *Nutrition in Clinical Practice* 2011;26:553-564.

Week 5 (Feb): Federal Power: Surveillance

Textbook Readings:

- None

Readings:

- Thacker SB, MD1 Qualters JR, Lee LM. Public Health Surveillance in the United States: Evolution and Challenges. MMWR 2012; 61: 3-9.

Part Two: Organization and Financing of Health Care in the U.S.

Week 7 (Mar 6): The American Health Care "System"

Textbook Readings:

- Preface
- Chapter 1. The Affordable Care Act and the Politics of Health Care Reform
- Chapter 2. Health, Health Care, and a Market Economy

Other Readings:

- Rheinhardt UE. The United States Health Care System: Recent History of Prospects. Presented to the Commonwealth Fund's 2001

Week 8 (Mar 13): The Organization of Health Care

Textbook Readings:

- Chapter 3. Health Care as a Reflection of Underlying Cultural Values and Institutions
- Chapter 4. The Health Professions and the Organization of Health Care

Other Readings:

-

MAR 20 SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (Mar 27): The Business of American Health Care

Textbook Readings:

- Chapter 5. Health Insurance, HMOS, and the Managed Care Revolution
- Chapter 8. The Increasing Role of For-Profit Health Care

Week 10 (Apr 3). Medicare

Textbook Readings:

- Chapter 6. Medicare

Other Readings:

-

Week 11 (April 10). Medicaid

Textbook Readings:

- Chapter 7. Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program

Week 12 (Apr 10) The Quality of Health Care

Textbook Readings:

- None

Other Readings:

- Disparities in treatment

Week 13 (Apr 17). Long Term Care and Special Populations

Textbook Readings:

- Chapter 10. Long-term Care

Week 14 (Apr 24): Access to Health Care

Textbook Readings:

- Chapter 11. The Uninsured
- Chapter 12. Factors Other than Health Insurance that Impede Access to Health Care

Other Readings:

- Hawkins D and Groves D. The future role of community health centers in a changing health care landscape. *Journal of Ambulatory Care Management* 2011;34:90-99.

MAY 8 READING DAY

Week 6 (Feb 27): Regulation of Medicines and Medical Devices

Textbook Readings:

- Chapter 9. Pharmaceutical Policy and the Rising Cost of Prescription Drugs

Other Readings:

- Thaul S. How FDA approves drugs and regulated their safety and effectiveness. June 25, 2012. CRS Report for Congress. Congressional Research Service. 7-5700.