



**American Health Policy
HSOC-150
Spring 2011
MW 11:00-11:50AM, Friday sections
402 Cohen Hall**

**Professor Beth Linker
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Office hours: M 1:00-3:00, or by appointment**

Course description: This lecture course will introduce students to a broad range of topics that fall under the heading of American health policy. Its main emphasis will be on the history of health care in America from the U.S. Civil War to Obama care. The primary objective of the course will be to consider why the United States, until very recently, remained one of the only industrialized nations to have a private, non-nationalized health care system. Some of the themes addressed include: private health insurance (such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield), industrial health and workmen's compensation, the welfare state (in Europe, Canada, and the U.S.), women's health, especially maternal and infant care programs, Medicare/Medicaid, the Clinton Health Plan of 1993, injured soldiers, the Veterans Administration, and Obama care.

Course Objectives: The goal of this course will be to answer the following questions:

- | What is the difference between socialized and private-market medicine?
- | Why is the United States one of the *only* industrialized nations to, until recently, have a private, non-nationalized, non-federalized health care system?
- | Why has U.S. health insurance historically been a benefit given through places of employment, rather than a universal birth-right available to every citizen?

Course Format:

- | Lecture, Monday and Wednesday, 402 Cohen Hall, 11:00-11:50AM
- | Section Meetings with:
 - o TA, Whitney Laemmli, Friday 11-noon, MCNB 410 (section 402)
 - o TA, Whitney Laemmli, noon-1pm, Cohen 392 (section 403)

Course Assignments and Grading:

Participation (20%): Attendance in lecture and Friday sections is required. A large portion of this grade will be determined by the degree to which you come to Friday sections prepared and ready to discuss the assigned readings from the week.

Midterm exam (20%): In-class bluebook exam. You will be tested on information discussed in your readings, lecture, and Friday sections. Format of exam: identification and essays, both long and short. **Wednesday, March 2, 11:00-11:50AM**

History and Health Policy Essay (30%): For this assignment, you will need to read Lawrence R Jacobs and Theda Skocpol, *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2010). This book summarizes Obama's health care plan. Your job for this assignment is to write an essay that answers the following question: Is Barak Obama's health care plan an improvement over what preceded it? Why or why not? Whether you answer this question in the affirmative or not, you will need to explain your rationale using HISTORICAL evidence. Most of your evidence will come from class lectures, discussions, and readings. However, you will also be asked to reference **at least two sources** from a short health care policy history bibliography that will be handed out in class. The essay should be approximately 2000 words in length. All papers should be double-spaced, one-inch margins, and 12-point font, with the word count printed at the end of the paper. This essay is **Due Monday, April 25th at the beginning of class**. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. For an explanation of what constitutes plagiarism, please refer to the university's **Academic integrity policy**

(<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>). Students who violate these policies risk failing the course.

Final exam (30%) In-class bluebook exam. You will be tested on information discussed in your readings, lecture, and Friday sections. Format of exam: **Cumulative**, identification and essays, both long and short. **Tuesday, May 3, 9:00-11:00AM**

Student Conduct: Laptops are NOT permitted in lecture. Smart phones should be stowed away so as to not present a distraction to me, you, or the other students.

Readings:

The following books* and materials are **required**:

Abbreviation:

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|---|----------------|
| 1. Laurie Kaye Abraham, <i>Mama Might be Better off Dead</i> (Chicago, 1993). | LKA |
| 2. Thomas Bodenheimer and Kevin Grumbach, <i>Understanding Health Policy</i> , fifth edition (McGraw Hill, 2009). | B&G |
| 3. Alan Derickson, <i>Health Security for All</i> (Johns Hopkins, 2005). | AD |
| 4. Jonathan Engel, <i>Poor People's Medicine</i> (Duke, 20067). | JE |
| 5. Susan Sered and Rushika Fernandopulle, <i>Uninsured in America</i> (California, 2007). | S&F |
| 6. "course pack" readings available on Penn's Blackboard | CP |
| 7. Lawrence R Jacobs and Theda Skocpol, <i>Health Care Reform and American Politics</i> (Oxford, 2010). | |

*Books can be found at Penn Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street, 215-222-7600.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments (please refer to abbreviation key above):

Week 1

W Jan. 12 **Why Health Policy?**

F Jan. 14 Discussion sections: **Introduction and the Experience of being Uninsured**
 Readings: *S&F: Prologue, introduction, and Appendix 1; pp. xv-20, 217-226.*
 S&F: chpt. 1 & 7; pp. 21-39, 122-139.

Week 2

M Jan. 17 NO CLASS; MLK DAY

W Jan. 19 **The American Medical Profession: 19th to early 20th century**
 CP: Paul Starr (1982) The Social Transformation of American Medicine
 pp. 79-112.

F Jan. 21 Discussion sections: **"Paying for Health Care, Then and Now"**
 B&G, chpts. 1, 2, & 4.
 CP: George Rosen (1946) "Fees and Fee Bills: Some Economic Aspects of Medical Practice in 19th Century America" pp. 1-24.

Week 3

- M Jan. 24 **America's "First Social Security" System**
CP: Theda Skocpol (1992) Protecting Mothers and Soldiers, pp. 102-130.
- W Jan. 26 **The Birth of National Health Insurance in Germany and Great Britain**
CP: Theda Skocpol (1992) Protecting Mothers and Soldiers, pp. 131-151.
- F Jan. 28 Discussion sections: **"Access to Health Care, Then and Now"**
CP: C.E.Rosenberg (1974) "Social Class and Medical Care in 19th-century America," pp. 32-54.
B&G: chpt. 3.
S&F: chpt. 2, pp. 40-56.

Week 4

- M Jan. 31 **Health Insurance in Progressive-Era U.S.: The AALL Plan**
AD: preface and chpt. 1, pp.ix-24.
- W Feb. 2 **The AMA and the Politics of Health**
AD: preface and chpt. 2, pp.25-48.
- F Feb. 4 Discussion sections: **"Health Insurance as a Public Health Issue"**
B&G: chpt. 11.
CP: Warren and Sydenstricker (1916) "Health Insurance: Its Relation to the Public Health," pp. 45-68.

Week 5

- M Feb. 7 **Committee on the Costs of Medical Care**
AD: chpt. 3, pp. 49-71
CP: Lewis Weeks and Howard Berman (1985) Shapers of Health Care Policy: An Oral History, Appendix A-C, 269-276.
- W Feb. 9 **New Deal Medicine: Social Security for Whom?**
CP: Michael R. Grey (1994), "The Medical Care Programs of the Farm Security Administration," pp. 1678-1686.
- F Feb. 11 Discussion sections: **"From the Mouths of Policy Makers"**
CP: Lewis Weeks and Howard Berman (1985) Shapers of Health Care Policy: An Oral History, "Introduction" & "The Committee on the Costs of Medical Care," pp. 3-25.

Week 6

- M Feb. 14 **America's Welfare State: the Role of Gender and Race**
CP: Linda Gordon, Pitied But Not Entitled, (1994) chpt. 1 and 6; pp. 1-13, 145-181.
- W Feb. 16 **A Case of the Blues: The Rise of the Modern Hospital and Private Insurance**
CP: Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner (1991) "Seeking Common Ground: A History of Labor and Blue Cross," pp.695-715.

- F Feb. 18 Discussion sections: **“Health and the Working Class”**
S&F: chpt. 5, pp. 86-106.
- Week 7
M Feb. 21 **What’s Happening in the Great White North?**
CP: H.E. Sigerist, Report (1944) Intro. and Recommendations, pp. 3-4,12.
CP: Jacalyn Duffin, (1992) “The Guru and the Godfather,” pp.191-218.
- W Feb. 23 **Truman and Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill**
AD: chpt. 4, pp. 72-100.
- F Feb. 25 Discussion sections: **“The Prospects of National Health Insurance in North America in the 1940s”**
CP: Antonia Maioni (1995) “Nothing Succeeds Like the Right Kind of Failure: Postwar National Health Insurance Initiatives in Canada and the United States,” pp. 5-27.
CP: J. Duffin, (1992) “Lessons from the North,” 1,3,5-6.
- Week 8
M Feb. 28 **Hill-Burton Act**
AD: chpt. 5, pp.101-130.
CP: Lewis Weeks and Howard Berman (1985) Shapers of Health Care Policy: An Oral History “The Hospital Survey and Construction Act,” pp.27-46.
- W Mar. 2 **Midterm Examination**
- F Mar. 4 Sections Cancelled: No Class
- Week 9
Mar. 7-11 NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK
- Week 10
M Mar. 14 **Separate but Equal? Race and Mid-century Health Care**
CP: David Barton Smith (1999) Health Care Divided, chpt. 2, pp. 32-63.
- W Mar. 16 **Medical McCarthyism**
CP: Jane Brickman (1994), “Medical McCarthyism,” pp. 380-415.
- F Mar. 18 Discussion sections: **“Precursors to Medicare and Medicaid”**
JE: Preface-chpt. 2, pp. ix-43.
B&G: chpt. 12.
- Week 11
M Mar. 21 **“The Golden Age of Medicine”**
CP: J.C. Burnham (1982), “American Medicine’s Golden Age,” pp.1474-1479.

- W Mar. 23 **Medicare**
AD: chpt. 6, pp.131-156.
CP: David Rothman (1997) "Medicare for the Middle Class," pp. 68-86.
CP: John K. Iglehart, (1999) "The American Health Care System: Medicare"
- F Mar. 25 Discussion sections: **Inner-City Health Care**
LKA: preface, Introduction-chpt. 1, chpt. 3; pp. vii, 1-24,44-59.
B&G: chpt. 13. [Suggested reading, but not required]
CP: Lisa Levenstein "A Hospital of Their Own" in A Movement Without Marches, 157-180
- Week 12
- M Mar. 28 **Medicaid**
JE: chpt. 3-4, pp. 44-91.
CP: John K. Iglehart, (1999) "The American Health Care System: Medicaid," pp. 327-332; 403-403.
- W Mar. 30 **The Civil Rights Movement and Health Policy**
CP: P. Preston Reynolds,(1997) "The Federal Government's use of Title VI and Medicare to Racially Integrate Hospitals in the United States, 1963-1967," pp. 1850-1857.
CP: David Barton Smith (2005) "The Politics of Racial Disparity," 247-269.
- F April 1 Discussion sections: **Technology and Health Policy**
LKA: Chpt. 11 &13, pp. 179-197, 213-231.
JE: Chpt. 5-6, pp.92-122.
- Week 13
- M April 4 **Medical Research and Health Policy**
CP: Robert Cook Deegan and Michael McGeary,(2006) "The Jewel in the Federal Crown: History, Politics and the National Institutes of Health," pp. 176-197.
- W April 6 **Meanwhile in Canada...: Health Care goes National**
CP: R. Badgely and S. Wolfe, (1967) Doctor's Strike: medical Care and conflict in Saskatchewan, pp. 61-72.
CP: Emmett Hall (1964) Royal Commission on Health Services, vol. 1, pp. 1-15.
CP: CD Naylor (1986) Private Practice, Public Payment: Canadian Medicine and the Politics of Health Insurance, 1911-1966, pp. 214-243.
CP: Dennis Gruending, (1985)Emmett Hall, Establishment Radical, pp. 80-102.

- F April 8 Discussion sections: **“Canada Health Act of 1984 and Its Aftermath”**
CP: Canada Health Act, “Overview.”pp.1-7
CP: Eric Meslin (1987) The Moral Costs of the Ontario Physician’s Strike”, 11-14
CP: N.S. Jecker and E.M.Meslin, (1994) “United States and Canadian Approaches to Justice in Health Care,” pp. 181-200
- Week 14
M April 11 **The Birth of Managed Care: What is it?**
JE: chpt. 7 & 8: 123-162
- W April 13 **TBA**
- F April 15 Discussion sections: **“Emergency Rooms as Primary Care Centers”**
CP: Beatrix Hoffman (2006) “Emergency Rooms: The Reluctant Safety Net,”250-268.
LKA: chpt. 4-6, pp.60-110.
- Week 15
M April 18 **The Clinton Health Care Reform**
JE: chpt. 10 & 11, pp. 184-243.
- W April 20 **The Failure of the Clinton Reform**
JE: chpt. 12, 244-251.
- F April 22 Discussion sections: in-class review session
- Week 16
M April 25 **ESSAY DUE (at the beginning of class)**
Obama Care: Lessons from the past
- Week 17
T May 3 **Final Examination**: 9:00-11:00AM

*The syllabus is subject to change at any point in the semester. If a change occurs, students will be given fair warning.