

Comparative Health Politics
BISC/POSC 4461-101
Marquette University

Dr. Susan Giaimo
Spring 2016

Course time and location:

Tues/Thurs. 9:30-10:45 AM, Wehr Physics 138

Dr. Giaimo:

Wehr Physics 402

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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 1-2 PM and by appointment

How do different countries seek to reconcile the goals of equitable access to affordable, quality health care? How is the United States similar to or different from other industrialized democracies in this respect? What are the similarities and differences in the health care challenges confronting industrialized nations and developing countries?

To answer these questions, this course takes as its starting point that health care systems and health policies fundamentally reflect politics. We will explore how the structure of the political system, the power and actions of health care interest groups and political parties, and the influence of ideas and values, shape health policy choices across different nations. We will also employ comparative analysis to consider a broader range of possible policy options than would be afforded by studying a single nation or health care system. And we will draw on international politics to understand how global forces interact with national and local actors to shape health politics and policies.

The course begins by comparing selected health care policies and politics in industrialized democracies. We examine distinct types of health care systems, the politics that have shaped them, and efforts to reform them to meet challenges in the 21st century. The second part of the course focuses on health policies and challenges in developing nations. In this section of the course, we will employ a global health perspective highlighting the interactions and interdependencies among rich and poor countries in shaping health policies and outcomes. A case study of the varied national policy responses to HIV/AIDS, and the interplay of local, national, and international actors illustrate these broader themes more concretely.

Course Requirements

Your course grade is based on the completion of the following assignments. I will distribute study guides ahead of each exam. I will distribute detailed instructions for the paper assignment early in the semester.

Exam 1: 20%

Final exam: 25%

Exam 2: 20%

Participation: 10%

Paper (and presentation): 25%

Grading scale

A 93-100

C 73-77.99

AB 88-92.99

CD 70-72.99

B 83-87.99

D 65-69.99

BC 78-82.99

F Below 65

With the exception of in-class exams, all writing assignments must be uploaded to **turnitin.com**. The course name on turnitin.com is Comparative Health Politics. The course number is 11384778. The course password is health.

Please be aware that there is a significant reading and writing component to this course. If you are unable to fulfill these requirements, you should not be in this course. I will grade written assignments on the content and clarity of your argument, (including the organization of your essays/paper), on the quality of evidence and sources you use, and on your writing style (grammar rules, punctuation, spelling). Therefore, I encourage students to seek out advice and help from the Writing Center in completing these assignments. The Writing Center is located in Raynor Library R240; tel. 288-5542. (You need to call them to make an appointment.)

Students are expected to read all assigned readings from required books, articles on reserve, and class handouts. It is not sufficient for you to rely only on a few of the assigned readings. If you do, it will be apparent in your written work and class participation and your course grade will reflect this deficiency. Exams will also draw on class material as well as assigned readings. Class meetings will not simply recapitulate the readings but will often bring in additional material, so it is in your interest to attend class regularly and take notes in class.

Please note that some of the topics covered in this course are happening in real time. As a result, I may make substitutions and updates to the assigned readings to reflect this, and may alter some of the syllabus topics. During the course of the semester I may schedule an occasional guest speaker on a current topic in health policy. I will announce these in class.

Class Participation

Attendance at all classes is a requirement of this course and counts as part of your class participation grade. The class participation grade is more than merely attending class; it also entails that you do the readings ahead of time so that you can contribute insightful comments and questions to class discussions. All of you have something important to say and contribute to the class discussions. Doing so not only enriches the classroom experience, it is also in your interest to do so, as the class participation portion of your grade can affect your overall course grade, especially in borderline cases.

Be here now: During class, please turn off your cell phones or set them to silent. If you have an emergency call that cannot wait, please leave the room discreetly to take the call, but only do this as a last resort. Please do not use the web during class unless asked to so as part of a class discussion. Such behavior may be distracting to your colleagues, and it certainly is to me. If I see you texting or surfing, I will count you as absent for that class session.

Policies on Late Assignments and Academic Dishonesty

I expect you to turn in all assignments on time, unless you are experiencing a genuine illness, individual or family emergency, or unless it is the result of an officially sanctioned, scheduled university activity. In such cases, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements in a timely fashion for you to complete the coursework for this class. If you turn in an assignment late without a legitimate excuse, I will downgrade it ½ grade (e.g. B to BC) for each day that it is late.

I do not tolerate academic dishonesty by students (including plagiarism, copying, or cheating). I will follow all University policies on academic dishonesty. Please see the University's Academic

Integrity page for more information on such policies:

<http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#academicintegrity>.

Readings

Two required books for this course are available for purchase at BookMarq:

T. R. Reid, *The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care*, New York: Penguin Books, 2010.

Paul Farmer, Arthur Kleinman, Jim Kim, and Matthew Basilio, eds., *Reimagining Global Health: An Introduction*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.

You may find it cheaper to purchase your books on amazon.com, or rent them from BookMarq. You must use the current editions of the books listed here.

In addition, many of the required readings will be on reserve on D2L, ARES electronic reserve at Raynor Library, or on regular Raynor Library reserve. These readings are noted in the syllabus with an asterisk (*). The ARES course name is Comparative Health Politics. The ARES password is health. In some instances, I will announce or distribute additional required readings in class. **CHECK D2L REGULARLY** for any updates on assignments and location of readings. This is especially important given the “real time” nature of health policy.

Additional sources

Regularly consulting a reputable news source is part of informed citizenship. Doing so also helps you to get beyond your immediate world and to develop critical analytical skills that will serve you well throughout your life. *The Economist* and the *Financial Times* provide excellent coverage of international health care policies. For national news on US health politics (and especially national level health care reform politics), I recommend that you read the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, or *Wall Street Journal*. The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* provides excellent state and local coverage of health policy issues. Finally, the journals and websites listed below provide a wealth of information on health policy and politics in the US and other countries. Most or all of these publications are in Raynor Library or available online. Student discount subscriptions for *The Economist* and the *Financial Times* are also available.

Listed below are some of the leading journals and websites providing a wealth of information on health policy and politics. These will also be helpful for you in researching your paper. Most or all of these publications are in Raynor Library or available online. The easiest way to access these journals without charge is by going through Marqcat on the Raynor Library website. If you go directly to the journals’ websites, they may require a subscription. You can also use the PubMed and Medline search tools through Raynor Library.

Leading health policy journals include:

Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law
International Journal of Health Services
Health Affairs
Journal of the American Medical Association
Global Public Health

New England Journal of Medicine
Lancet
European Journal of Public Policy
Milbank Quarterly

There are also a number of excellent health policy websites that you can access directly without charge. Simply click on the links below:

For comparative, cross-national studies, see:

World Health Organization (www.who.org)

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, World Health Organization (WHO). This is a rich database with a variety of publications on national health care systems and policies primarily in Europe (broadly defined) but also in North America. (www.euro.who.int/observatory).

Health Policy Monitor website. Provides similar information to the second source above. The site is also easy to navigate and has both shorter and more in-depth reports. www.hpm.org

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) www.oecd.org

World Bank (www.data.worldbank.org)

The Commonwealth Fund (www.commonwealthfund.org)

UNAIDS www.unaids.org Provides country profiles and socioeconomic and demographic data as well as HIV/AIDS information.

For US health politics and policies, see:

Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org). In my view, this is the best site on US health policy.

They also do some cross-national studies.

The Commonwealth Fund (www.commonwealthfund.org).

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.rwjf.org).

The Urban Institute (www.urban.org)

Healthcare.gov is a federal government website that provides information, timelines, and updates concerning the Affordable Care Act (www.healthcare.gov).

Class Schedule and Assignments

Readings on reserve are noted with an asterisk (*)

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Course introduction: key themes and questions

Jan. 19:

**Health in International Perspective*, summary report, pp. 1-9 and interactive graphic, The National Academies, Jan. 10, 2013. *JAMA*, Jan. 10, 2013.

Reid, *The Healing of America*, 2010, Prologue and chap. 1.

Jan. 21:

*Karen Davis, Kristof Stremikis, David Squires, and Cathy Schoen, *Mirror, Mirror, on the Wall: How the Performance of the U.S. Health Care System Compares Internationally, 2014 Update*, Washington DC: Commonwealth Fund, 2014.

Reid, Appendix.

II. THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES

A. Explaining health care systems and policy choices

Jan. 26: *Jessica R. Adolino and Charles H. Blake, *Comparing Public Policies: Issues and Choices in Industrialized Countries*, 2nd ed., Washington DC: CQ Press, 2011, chap. 2.

B. The United States

1. Overview of US health care system and underlying politics

Jan. 28:

*Paul Starr, *Remedy and Reaction*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2011, pp. 1-11.

*Donald L. Madison, "From Bismarck to Medicare – A Brief History of Medical Care Payment in America," in Jonathan Oberlander, ed., *The Social Medicine Reader*, Durham: Duke University Press, 2005, pp. 45-66 only.

Feb. 2: *Thomas Bodenheimer and Kevin Grumbach, *Understanding Health Policy*, 6th ed., New York: McGraw-Hill/Lange, 2012, chaps. 2 and 3.

Feb. 4:

Reid, chap. 3.

*Atul Gawande, "The cost conundrum," *The New Yorker*, June 1, 2009.

2. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)

Feb. 9, 11:

*Lawrence R. Jacobs and Theda Skocpol, 2012, *Health Care Reform and American Politics*, Oxford and New York, Oxford University Press, 2012, chap. 4.

3. Reform politics: future prospects

Feb. 16 and 18

*Jonathan Oberlander, "Long time coming," *Health Affairs*, 29:6, June 2010, 1112-1116.

*Atul Gawande, "Overkill," *The New Yorker*, May 26, 2015. Read section on McAllen TX revisited.

FEB. 23: TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE

D. National Health Service model: Britain

Feb. 23: Reid, chap. 2.

Feb. 25:

Reid, chap. 7.

*Readings on Cameron government reforms (Timmins, BBC).

March 1:

*Tsun-Mei Cheng, "NICE Approach," *Financial Times, Health* (3) Sept. 16, 2009, pp. 12-13.

*NICE Charter.

*Ander Ward, "Counting the cost of cancer," *Financial Times*, Jan. 16, 2105

E. Single payer NHI: Canada

March 3:

Reid, chap. 8.

*Antonia Maioni and Theodore Marmor, "Canada: Health Care in Crisis," 2014.

*Olga Khazan, "What If America Had Canada's Healthcare System?" *The Atlantic*, Oct. 21, 2014.

*Joseph Hall, "Canadians face longest emergency room waits in developed world, survey finds," *Toronto Star*, Nov. 29, 2012.

F. Social Health Insurance (SHI): Germany

March 8: Reid, chap. 5.

March 10:

*Tsun-Mei Cheng and Uwe Reinhardt, "Shepherding Major Health System Reforms: A Conversation with German Health Minister Ulla Schmidt," *Health Affairs Web Exclusive*, April 8, 2008, w204-w213.

*Melanie Lisac, Kerstin Blum and Sophia Schlette, "Changing Long-Established Structures for More Competition and Stronger Coordination-Health Care Reform in Germany in the New Millennium," *Intereconomics*, July/August 2008, 184-189.

MARCH 10: PAPER PROSPECTUS DUE to turnitin.com

G. Other models; comparative lessons

March 15:

Reid, pp. 176-185 (Switzerland), and chaps. 12 and 13.

In class: excerpts from PBS Frontline, "Sick around the World."

March 17-28: NO CLASS; SPRING/EASTER BREAK

March 29:

Finish "Sick around the World" and Reid chaps. 12 and 13.

III. HEALTH POLICIES AND CHALLENGES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

A. Health challenges in the developing world

March 31: Farmer, et al., *Reimagining Global Health*, 2013, pp. 1-10 and chap. 2 (Biosocial approach)

MONDAY, APRIL 4: TAKE HOME EXAM DUE TO TURNITIN.COM BY NOON

B. Global health governance and policy priorities

April 5: *Reimagining*, chap. 4 (Health for all)

April 7: NO CLASS; INSTRUCTOR AT MPSA CONFERENCE.

Reading: *Reimagining*, chaps 3 and 11 (Colonial medicine, Global health priorities)

April 12:

Reimagining, chap. 11 (Global health priorities).

*WHO, *Health Systems Financing: the Path to Universal Coverage*, 2010, Executive Summary.

April 14:

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jeffrey Drope, Vice President of Economic and Health Policy Research at the American Cancer Society and Professor in MU Political Science Department.

Reading: *Reimagining*, chap. 10 (Foreign aid), AND

M. Daniels, T. Donilon, and T. Bollyky, *The Emerging Global Health Crisis: Noncommunicable Diseases in Low-and Middle-Income Countries*, Council on Foreign Relations, 2014, pp. 3-18 only (executive summary and chap. 1).

C. Policy interventions on the ground

April 19: *Reimagining*, chap. 6 (Haiti and Rwanda); finish discussion of chap. 10 (foreign aid).

Recommended only: *Reimagining*, chap. 7 (Scaling up).

D. Case study: combating HIV/AIDS in Brazil, South Africa, and globally

April 21:

*Amy Nunn, Samuel Dickman, Nicoli Natrass, Alexandra Cornwall, and Sofia Gruskin. 2012. "The Impacts of AIDS Movements on the Policy Responses to HIV/AIDS in Brazil and South Africa: A Comparative Analysis." *Global Public Health* 7 (10) (December) 2012: 1031-1044.

April 26:

Reimagining, chap. 5 (Redefining the possible).

*Alan Whiteside, "South Africa's Key Health Challenges," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 652 (March 2014): 166-185.

April 28: Course conclusions

Reimagining, chap. 12.

May 2 (Monday): RESEARCH PAPER DUE to turnitin.com by 10 PM.

IV. PAPER PRESENTATIONS

May 3, 5

FINAL EXAM: Wed., May 11, 8-10 AM, Wehr Physics 138