

**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3243  
HEALTH POLICY—FALL 2005**

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays, 3-5 P.M. or by Appointment.

**General:** Quality health care is a primary concern of all Americans. While per capita U.S. health care costs is the highest of all industrial countries; there are currently 43 million people without health insurance coverage. Standing apart from the all other industrial countries, the U.S. also has no universal program to provide health care to all its residents. Nevertheless, the U.S. does have a long history of providing various forms of health care coverage at the federal, state and local levels.

This course will explore and analyze how and why this unique U.S. health care system has developed. The course will also assess the impact of this health policy making on the nation's health. Finally, we will examine, in detail, several important and contemporary health policy issues in the U.S. including managed care, AIDs, gun violence, women's health and aging, universal health coverage, and tobacco use (which kills over 430,000 Americans a year).

**Course Objectives:**

1. To provide an overview and understanding of the historic development of health politics and policy making in the United States.
2. To assess and analyze contemporary social epidemiological and health services trends in the United States.
3. To comprehend and ascertain the role of the Congress, president, courts, federal bureaucracy, interest groups, and the states in the making of health policy.
4. To understand the dynamics of current health policy issues including managed care, gun violence, women's health and aging, AIDs, universal health coverage, and tobacco politics.
5. To enhance research skills, including the design, information collecting, and analysis of written research reports.

**Required Text:**

Lee, Philip and Carroll Estes, *The Nation's Health, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*

**Course Content:**

Aug. 23 Introduction to Course. The Emergence of Public Health and Medicine  
Read Chapters 1-2, *Lee and Estes*  
30 Health Policy.  
Read: Chapter 3, *Lee and Estes*

Read: Tajer, Debora, December 2003. "Latin American Social Medicine: Roots, Development During the 1990s, and Current Challenges." *American Journal of Public Health*. Vol. 93, No. 12, pp. 2023-2027; and Hughes, Alan. 1994. "The Road Once Taken" in "An Oklahoma I Had Never Seen Before," edited by Davis Joyce, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. (On Electronic and Paper Reserve at Library)

Sept. 6 Health Policy Continued.

Read Chapter 4, *Lee and Estes*

Written Analysis of article: "The Road Once Taken" due this day.

13 The U.S. Health Insurance System

Read Chapter 7, Articles 1-3, *Lee and Estes*.

20 Managed Care

Read Chapter 7, Article 4, *Lee and Estes*; and Chapters 4-6 *Himmelstein, et al.* (On Reserve at Reserve Desk at Library)

27 Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP

Read Chapter 8, *Lee and Estes*

Oct. 4 Health Ethics

Read, *Lee and Estes, ed. 6.* (On Electronic and Paper Reserve at Library)

11 Quality of U.S. Health Care

Read Chapter 9, *Lee and Estes*

Mid-Term examination covering all material in class lectures and readings from August 23, 2005 to October 4, 2005.

18 Politics of Universal Health Coverage

Read Chapters 9-12, *Himmelstein, et al.* (On Reserve at Reserve Desk at Library)

25 Tobacco Lobby and the Public Health in the U.S.

Read: pp. 22-40, Studlar, Donley, 2001. *Tobacco Control*. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press; and "Tobacco Lobby Political Influence on State Legislatures in the 1990s." *Tobacco Control*, 2001, Givel and Glantz; and "State Tobacco Settlement Funds Not Being Spent on Vigorous Tobacco Control Efforts." *Oncology*, February 2002. Givel and Glantz (On Electronic and Paper Reserve at Library)

Nov. 1 State Tobacco Lobby Influence and Public Health in Oklahoma

Read: Spivak, Andrew and Givel, Michael, July 2005. "From Industry Dominance to Legislative Progress: The Public Health Struggle of Tobacco Control in Oklahoma," Department of Political Science, University of Oklahoma, Norman (On Electronic and Paper Reserve at Library)

8 Women's Health and Aging in the U.S.

Read Chapters 10-11, *Lee and Estes*

Verbal Presentations and Outlines

15 Verbal Presentations and Outlines

22 Verbal Presentations and Outlines

29 Verbal Presentations and Outlines

Conclusion and Review for Final.

Research Paper Due This Day.

Dec. 6 Final Exam

### Grading Policies:

Grades:

Research Paper:	40%
Verbal Presentation:	20%
Outline:	5%
Written Analysis	5%
Mid Term Exam	10%
Final Exam	20%

**Total** 100%

Each point that you receive equals one percentage point of your grade. You can receive a maximum total of 100 points, which would equal 100%, or a perfect score. I will be using the traditional 100-90 (A); 89-80 (B); 79-70 (C); 69-60 (D); and 59 and below (F) grading method.

Research Paper: This paper is designed to explore academic ideas and concepts associated with topics discussed in class. You need to select a topic such as managed care, tobacco politics, women's health and aging, or AIDs and research and write an academic paper.

All papers should be typewritten and double-spaced in 11 or 12-point font with one-inch margins. The paper should to ten pages or more in length. You should also utilize the American Psychological Association (APA) or Chicago Manual of Style or MLA formats in relation to style and format for such items as footnotes, bibliography, and so on. I will also take off some points for consistently improper grammar or spelling.

These papers should generally follow the following format (the development of a detailed outline before you write the paper is very helpful in doing this):

1. Give a brief introductory statement on your academic topic;
2. In the body of the paper, describe and explain in an internally consistent and logical fashion what your topic is. Be sure to provide an overview of the major themes and concepts related to your topic;
3. Offer examples and provide tables, graphs, and footnotes and endnotes (when appropriate) to bolster your discussion. All material that is quoted or not original should have an appropriate footnote or endnote;
4. If appropriate, provide and discuss contrasting and differing themes and concepts to the general themes and concepts included in your paper; and
5. Provide a conclusion to your discussion. This conclusion should succinctly summarize the main themes of your paper.

Verbal Presentation: This is a 12 minute summary presented to the class on a health policy topic entirely different than the topic covered in your Research Paper. In the grading of this presentation, I will be looking for clarity of presentation, accuracy of information provided, logical flow, and the adequacy of the conclusions given.

Outline: In *conjunction* with your Verbal Presentation, you will provide a written detailed and logically designed outline of your Verbal Presentation that includes a full bibliography of the sources used for the Verbal Presentation.

Written Analysis: This paper should be no more than five pages and should be typewritten and double-spaced in 11 or 12-point font with one-inch margins. You should also utilize the American Psychological Association (APA) or Chicago Manual of Style or MLA formats in relation to style and format for such items as footnotes, bibliography, and so on. I will also take off some points for consistently improper grammar or spelling.

For this paper, please provide the following analysis of the Hughes article entitled: “The Road Once Taken.” A short overview of the key points of the article. Then provide an analysis of how the political forces that clashed in regard to the hospital in Elk City, Oklahoma also relate to the ideological approaches to health policy that we covered in class and your readings.

Mid Term Exam: This is a closed book essay style examination that will cover course concepts for the first half of the course as indicated in the Course Content section of this syllabus. In this exam, you will be responsible for all materials covered in reading assignments and class lectures.

Final Exam: This is a closed book essay style examination that will cover the entire course. In this exam, you will be responsible for all materials covered in reading assignments and class lectures.

**Attendance and Tardiness:** All students are expected to attend all scheduled class sessions on time.

**Assignments and Tests:** All assignments must be submitted on time in order to complete the course successfully. If you turn an assignment in after the date that it is due, and you do not have a valid reason for its late submittal, proportional points in relation to how late it is submitted will be deducted from the assignment. There are no extra credit assignments in this course. Make-up exams may be scheduled upon

good cause reasons given by the student and approved by the instructor on a case-by-case basis. If there is not a good cause for an exam not being taken at its scheduled time, that exam cannot be made-up at a later date. All students are expected to complete the required reading assignments before the class period that the reading assignment is assigned.

**Accommodation for Students With Disabilities:** “Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent her or him from fully demonstrating her or his abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.”

**Religious Observance:** It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.

**Electronic Devices:** All audible electronic devices, including but not limited to cell phones and beepers, must remain off at all times while the class is in session.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** Any student who willfully violates the cheating and plagiarism policy may be subject to disciplinary proceedings within the scope of university due process grievance and hearing rights. A full description of what constitutes academic misconduct and rights and responsibilities during academic misconduct proceedings is located at: <http://www.ou.edu/provost/pronew/content/integritymenu.html>.