

**Health Policy Challenges**  
**Public Policy and American Institutions 1700K**  
**Section 01**  
**Spring 2014**  
**Syllabus**

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<b>Class Hours:</b>	Friday, 3:00 P.M. to 5:20 P.M.
<b>Class Location:</b>	A. Alfred Taubman Center for Public Policy and American Institutions 67 George Street, Room 104 Providence, RI 02912-9025
<b>Instructor:</b>	Patrick M. Tighe, MPP Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy (401) 632-8019 (Cell) <a href="mailto:patrick_tighe@brown.edu">patrick_tighe@brown.edu</a>
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By Appointment

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**Course Description**

In this course, students will examine the tradeoffs involved in ensuring access, containing costs, and improving quality in the delivery of health care in the United States. As they do this, they will strengthen their understanding of major health policy issues and the challenges involved in achieving health care reforms. They will also enhance their ability to analyze policy issues from multiple perspectives, learn where to find key sources of information pertaining to health policy, and practice presenting persuasive arguments (written and oral).

The course will start with a discussion of the role that values play in the development of health policy and an introduction to the organization of the health care system. Next, the course will turn to the issue of access and review how both the private and public insurance systems function (while paying attention to those left out of these systems—the uninsured) before moving to a discussion of national health reform, with a strong focus on the national health reform law enacted in 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or PPACA (Public Law 111-148). After this, the course will examine the challenges of containing costs and improving quality before moving to focus on several special topics in health policy including: long-term care, prevention, the role of politics in health policy (using PPACA as a case study), and a comparison of health care systems in nations other than the United States.

Enrollment is limited to 20 students.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe key health policy issues currently under discussion at the national and state levels
- Discuss the historical context, conflicting values, and political forces that gave rise to them
- Conduct scholarly research to identify and assess policy options for addressing them
- Advocate for one or more of these options through clear, concise, and well-written papers and persuasive oral presentations

## Course Format

The general format is a weekly seminar during which all students are expected to participate actively in the discussion. Students are required to have read what has been assigned each week and should come to class prepared to ask informed and thoughtful questions.

During each class, the instructor will provide a brief presentation of background material on the topic. This presentation will be followed by class discussion. Guest speakers with expertise in particular topics may occasionally attend the seminar to share their knowledge and lead the discussion.

There will be three written assignments: a PPACA issue paper, a final paper, and a final presentation. The assignments are described in greater detail below.

## Required Texts

The following books are required and are available at the Brown University Bookstore or on Amazon.com as Kindle eBooks:

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

Gawande, Atul. *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2009.

Jacobs, Lawrence R., and Theda Skocpol. *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

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

The Staff of *The Washington Post*. *Landmark: The Inside Story of America's New Health-Care Law and What It Means for Us All*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2010.

For additional readings, hyperlinks are provided later in the syllabus for ease of access.

## Course Requirements

Course grades will be based on class participation (15%), a PPACA issue paper (20%), a final paper (40%), and a final presentation (25%).

- **Class Participation (15%):** Students are expected to attend the weekly seminar and be prepared to discuss the assigned readings. They also are expected to make thoughtful contributions to the discussion and to elicit, listen to, and respectfully respond to other students' contributions. Class participation grades will be determined by attendance, thoughtfulness of questions, intellectual contribution to discussions, and respectful interaction with other students. One unexcused absence per semester is tolerated. Additional unexcused absences will reduce class participation grades.

**PPACA Issue Paper (6 to 8 pages, 20%):** The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize students with how PPACA seeks to address a specific health policy issue. The assignment is to choose an issue addressed by PPACA and complete a paper discussing how the law deals with the issue. The analysis should: (1) describe the chosen issue and provide a rationale for its importance, (2) identify previous policy initiatives aimed at addressing the issue, (3) identify and describe the provision(s) of PPACA relating to the issue, and (4) compare and contrast PPACA's approach to the issue with previous policy initiatives relating to the issue.

PPACA was passed on March 23, 2010 and was subsequently modified by the Health Care Education and Reconciliation Act or HCERA (Public Law 111-152) on March 30, 2010. A consolidated version of PPACA with the amendments made by HCERA incorporated within the text is available here: <http://www.hhs.gov/healthcare/rights/law/index.html>. This will be a key resource for this assignment (but by no means should be the only one consulted). For assistance in choosing the specific issue that will be the topic of the paper, students may find it helpful to complete a keyword search or examine the table of contents. The paper must be 6 to 8 pages in length and is due on 3/14/14 (Week 8).

- **Final Paper (15 to 20 pages, 40%):** The purpose of this assignment is to give students the opportunity to systematically research, analyze, and evaluate a specific health policy issue in the context of PPACA. The research paper should: (1) describe the chosen issue and provide a rationale for its importance based in evidence and logical reasoning, (2) present a thorough literature review on the range of policy options to address the issue, (3) comprehensively identify and describe the provision(s) of PPACA relating to the issue, (4) critically assess what was done in PPACA as well as the range of policy options identified in the literature review using the following criteria: (a) fairness/equity, (b) effectiveness, (c) efficiency, (d) administrative burden, and (e) political feasibility, (5) analyze whether any future initiatives may be necessary to address the issue and discuss what those initiatives are likely to be, and (6) make recommendations, supported by evidence and logical reasoning, about any needed next steps to address the issue. The paper must be 15 to 20 pages in length and is due on 5/2/14 (Week 15).
- **Final Presentation (25%):** The purpose of this assignment is to give students the opportunity to develop experience in public speaking around health policy issues and in making oral arguments in response to questions. The assignment is to develop and present a slide presentation that concisely conveys the highlights of the final paper. Students should be prepared to both move through their slides and answer follow-up questions from the instructor and other students.

Presentations will be given in class on 4/25/14 (Week 14) and 5/2/14 (Week 15). The required length of the presentations will depend on the number of students enrolled in the course.

## Grading

The system for grading oral presentations and written work is as follows:

- **Substance:** Substance will be assessed based on mastery of the concepts discussed, understanding of what others have written about the topic, contribution of new knowledge and insights, and the clarity of policy recommendations.
- **Style:** In written work, this includes spelling, grammar, clarity (keep the jargon to a minimum), concision, organization, and persuasiveness. In oral presentations, the same criteria apply. Slides should also be free of spelling and grammar errors and the presentation should be clear, concise, well-organized, engaging, and persuasive.

Written assignments are due by 3:00 P.M. on the date indicated in the syllabus and must be submitted in Adobe Portable Document Format through Canvas. Students will lose points on papers that are turned in late. Papers that are turned in after the assignment is corrected will not be read and will be assigned a grade of zero (No Credit).

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, in Times New Roman twelve-point font. The title, student's name, the department name, course name and number, and due date must be put on a separate cover page. Pages beyond the page limit will not be read. All materials used in written assignments must be properly referenced.

The Brown University Writing Center can help students to improve their writing and boost their grade. Even if students are excellent writers, they still may still benefit from showing a draft of written assignments to the staff. Please see here: <http://www.brown.edu/academics/college/support/writing-center/> for more information.

All students are expected to abide by *The Academic Code* of Brown University, which is available here: [http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean\\_of\\_the\\_College/curriculum/documents/academic-code.pdf](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/documents/academic-code.pdf). This document should be reviewed by students and the instructor is available to answer questions regarding it.

### Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
1	1/24/14	Overview of Health Policy Challenges	Class Participation
2	1/31/14	Values and Health Policy	Class Participation
3	2/7/14	Organization of the Health Care System	Class Participation
4	2/14/14	Access to Health Care: The Uninsured and Private Insurance	Class Participation
5	2/21/14	Access to Health Care: Public Insurance	Class Participation
6	2/28/14	The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act	Class Participation
7	3/7/14	Health Care Costs	Class Participation
8	3/14/14	Health Care Quality	Class Participation, PPACA Issue Paper
9	3/21/14	Prevention	Class Participation
10	3/28/14	Spring Recess (No Class)	Class Participation
11	4/4/14	Long-Term Care	Class Participation
12	4/11/14	Politics and Health Policy	Class Participation
13	4/18/14	Health Care in Other Nations	Class Participation
14	4/25/14	Final Presentations	Class Participation, Final Presentation
15	5/2/14	Final Presentations	Class Participation, Final Presentation, Final Paper

## Required Readings

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### Week 1 (1/24/14): Overview of Health Policy Challenges

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### Week 2 (1/31/14): Values and Health Policy

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Introduction: The Paradox of Excess and Deprivation." Chap. 1 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Medical Ethics and the Rationing of Health Care." Chap. 13 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

The Hastings Center. *Connecting American Values with Health Reform*. Garrison, NY: The Hastings Center, 2009. [http://www.thehastingscenter.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/Primers/Connecting\\_American\\_Values.pdf](http://www.thehastingscenter.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/Primers/Connecting_American_Values.pdf).

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### Week 3 (2/7/14): Organization of the Health Care System

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Paying for Health Care." Chap. 2 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Reimbursing Health Care Providers." Chap. 4 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "How Health Care is Organized- I: Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Care" Chap. 5 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "How Health Care is Organized- II: Health Delivery Systems." Chap. 6 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

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### Week 4 (2/14/14): Access to Health Care: The Uninsured and Private Insurance

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Access to Health Care." Chap. 3 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. *The Uninsured: A Primer*. Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2013. <http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/10/7451-09-the-uninsured-a-primer-e28093-key-facts-about-health-insurance4.pdf>.

Fernandez, Bernadette. *Health Insurance: A Primer*. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, 2011. [http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL32237\\_20110111.pdf](http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL32237_20110111.pdf).

Glaxton, Gary, and Janet Lundy. *How Private Health Coverage Works: A Primer*. Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2008. <http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/7766.pdf>.

Enthoven, Alain C., and Victor R. Fuchs. "Employment-Based Health Insurance: Past, Present, and Future." *Health Affairs* 25 (2009): 1539-1547. <http://content.healthaffairs.org/cgi/reprint/25/6/1538>.

Doty, Michelle M., Sara R. Collins, Jennifer L. Nicholson, and Sheila D. Rustgi. *Failure to Protect: Why the Individual Insurance Market is Not a Viable Option for Most US Families*. New York: The Commonwealth Fund, 2009. [http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2009/Jul/Failure%20to%20Protect/1300\\_Doty\\_failure\\_to\\_protect\\_individual\\_ins\\_market\\_ib\\_v2.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2009/Jul/Failure%20to%20Protect/1300_Doty_failure_to_protect_individual_ins_market_ib_v2.pdf).

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#### **Week 5 (2/21/14): Access to Health Care: Public Insurance**

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. *Medicare: A Primer*. Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2010. <http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/7615-03.pdf>.

The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. *Medicaid: A Primer*. Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2013. <http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2010/06/7334-05.pdf>.

Horner, Dawn, Jocelyn Guyer, Cindy Mann, and Joan Alker. *The Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009: Overview and Summary*. Washington, DC: The Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, 2009. <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/chip-summary-03-09.pdf>.

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#### **Week 6 (2/28/14): The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Health Care Reform and National Health Insurance." Chap. 15 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

The Staff of *The Washington Post*. "What It Means for Us All." Pt. II in *Landmark: The Inside Story of America's New Health-Care Law and What It Means for Us All*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2010.

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. *Summary of the New Health Reform Law*. Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2011. <http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2011/04/8061-021.pdf>.

**Week 7 (3/7/14): Health Care Costs**

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. *Health Care Costs: A Primer*. Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2012. <http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/7670-03.pdf>.

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Painful Versus Painless Cost Control." Chap. 8 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Mechanisms for Controlling Costs." Chap. 9 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

The Commonwealth Fund Commission on a High Performance Health System. *Confronting Costs: Stabilizing U.S. Health Spending While Moving Toward a High Performance Health Care System*. New York: The Commonwealth Fund, 2013. [http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2013/Jan/1653\\_Commission\\_confronting\\_costs\\_web\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Fund%20Report/2013/Jan/1653_Commission_confronting_costs_web_FINAL.pdf).

Cutler, David M., Karen Davis, and Kristof Stermikus. *The Impact of Health Reform on Health System Spending*. New York: The Commonwealth Fund, 2010. [http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2010/May/1405\\_Cutler\\_impact\\_hlt\\_reform\\_on\\_hlt\\_sys\\_spending\\_ib\\_v4.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2010/May/1405_Cutler_impact_hlt_reform_on_hlt_sys_spending_ib_v4.pdf).

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**Week 8 (3/14/14): Health Care Quality**

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Quality of Health Care." Chap. 10 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

Gawande, Atul. *The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2009.

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**Week 9 (3/21/14): Prevention**

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Prevention of Illness." Chap. 11 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

Forsberg, Vanessa, and Caroline Fichtenberg. *The Prevention and Public Health Fund: A Critical Investment in Our Nation's Physical and Fiscal Health*. Washington, DC: American Public Health Association, 2012. [http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/8FA13774-AA47-43F2-838B-1B0757D111C6/0/APHA\\_PrevFundBrief\\_June2012.pdf](http://www.apha.org/NR/rdonlyres/8FA13774-AA47-43F2-838B-1B0757D111C6/0/APHA_PrevFundBrief_June2012.pdf).

Trust for America's Health. *Bending the Obesity Cost Curve: Reducing Obesity Rates by Five Percent Could Lead to More Than \$29 Billion in Health Care Savings in Five Years*. Washington, DC: Trust for America's Health, 2012. <http://healthyamericans.org/assets/files/>



[TFAH%202012ObesityBrief06.pdf](#).

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### **Week 10 (3/28/14): Spring Recess (No Class)**

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### **Week 11 (4/4/14): Long-Term Care**

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. "Long-Term Care." Chap. 12 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

The Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured. *Medicaid's Long-Term Care Users: Spending Patterns Across Institutional and Community-Based Settings*. Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2011. <http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/7576-02.pdf>.

Tumlinson, Anne, Christine Aguiar, and Molly O'Malley Watts. *Closing the Long-Term Care Funding Gap: The Challenge of Private Long-Term Care Insurance*. Menlo Park, CA: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2009. <http://www.kff.org/insurance/upload/Closing-the-Long-Term-Care-Funding-Gap-The-Challenge-of-Private-Long-Term-Care-Insurance-Report.pdf>.

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### **Week 12 (4/11/14): Politics and Health Policy**

Jacobs, Lawrence R., and Theda Skocpol. "Introduction: A Turning Point for U.S. Health Care and Politics." In *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Jacobs, Lawrence R., and Theda Skocpol. "Timeline of Health Reform Events." In *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Jacobs, Lawrence R., and Theda Skocpol. "Why Now? Broken Health Care and an Election for Change." Chap. 1 in *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Jacobs, Lawrence R., and Theda Skocpol. "The Year of Pitched Battles: Who Fought for What, Why, and How." Chap. 2 in *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Jacobs, Lawrence R., and Theda Skocpol. "How the Scott Brown Upset Strengthened Health Reform." Chap. 3 in *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Jacobs, Lawrence R., and Theda Skocpol. "Will Health Reform Survive and Succeed?" Chap. 5 in *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

The Staff of *The Washington Post*. “How We Got Here.” Pt. I in *Landmark: The Inside Story of America’s New Health-Care Law and What It Means for Us All*. New York: PublicAffairs, 2010.

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**Week 13 (4/18/14): Health Care in Other Nations**

Bodenheimer, Thomas, and Kevin Grumbach. “Health Care in Four Nations.” Chap. 14 in *Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach*. 6th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2012.

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

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**Week 14 (4/25/14): Final Presentations**

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**Week 15 (5/2/14): Final Presentations**

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