

LaFollette School of Public Affairs
PA 974 Syllabus: Health and Health Policy
Time and Location: 399 Van Hise
Fall 2005, Thursday, 3:30-5:25

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Thursday 12-3 and by appointment

Course Description:

This course explores health policy and health, largely in the United States. The first half of the course explores health policy. We start by asking whether the state or the market should exert primary control over health care. What are the impacts of more or less government control on cost and quality? Ultimately, how effective is the U.S. model of health care, which has far less government intervention than other health care systems in the industrialized world? We conclude the section by examining why the U.S. has the health insurance system it does and what options there are to reform it. The second half of the course explores population health. First and foremost, would a universal health policy in the United States improve population health and weaken rising disparities in health, by race, income, and educational status? We then explore other social factors, including socioeconomic status, race, employment status and neighborhoods, which are hypothesized to affect health and health disparities in the United States.

Course Requirements:

- Two short (2 page single spaced) response papers.
 - You may do this for any 2 set of readings throughout the semester (except for the reading for Day 1). You must integrate all of the readings into the response. Of course, if you respond to the books, only the response to that book is necessary. This response should not simply be a summary of the readings. You should evaluate the strength of the authors' arguments and evidence for those arguments.
 - Portion of Grade: 15% for each.
- Midterm take home exam.
 - The question will be given to you in class on October 27th. You will have until Monday October 31st at 5pm to finish. This will be a ten page (double spaced) paper.
 - Portion of Grade: 30%
- Final Paper
 - The final paper will also be a 20 page (double spaced) paper. You will argue, will substantial evidence to support your claims, for how U.S. policy should be altered and develop to improve population health in the United States.
 - Portion of Grade: 30%
- Participation in Class
 - Portion of Grade: 10%

PART 1. HEALTH INSURANCE:

Should markets or states control health care? Quality, Cost, Outcomes

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Day 1. Do we have a right to health care/good health? What role for the state?

- Desmond King and Jeremy Waldron. 1988. "Citizenship, Social Citizenship, and the Defense of Welfare Provision." *British Journal of Political Science* 18(4):415-443.

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Day 2. You get what you pay for.

The US: A Market Based Model for Health Care?

- Cutler, David. 2004. *Your Money or Your Life: Strong Medicine for America's Health Care System.*

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Day 3. Or do you?

- Anderson 2003. It's the Prices Stupid!: Why the U.S. is so Different from other Countries. *Health Affairs.*
- Aaron, Henry, "Should Public Policy Seek to Control The Growth Of Health Care Spending?" *Health Affairs*, January 2003
- Woolhandler, Steffie and David Himmelstein, "Paying For National Health Insurance – And Not Getting It" *Health Affairs*, July 2002
- Boccutti, Cristina and Marilyn Moon. "Comparing Medicare and Private Insurers: Growth Rates in Spending Over Three Decades." *Health Affairs* 22(2):230-237.

Optional

- CEPR 2003

10/6

Day 4. How does U.S. health and health care stack up to other countries?

Case study: Canada----The Tradeoffs between innovation, cost, quality, and inequality.

- Tu, J.V., et al, "Use of Cardiac Procedures and Outcomes in Elderly Patients with Myocardial Infarction in the United States and Canada," *N Engl J Med*, May 22, 1997, 336(21), pp. 1500-1505.
- Katz, S.J., "Phantoms in the Snow: Canadians and U.S. Health Care," *Health Affairs*, May-June 2002, 21(3), pp. 19-31.
- Iglehardt, John. 2000. "Revisiting the Canadian Health Care System." *Health Affairs* 342(26):2007-2012.
- Woolhandler, Steffie et al. 2003. "Costs of Health Care Administration in the United States and Canada." *Health Affairs* 349:768-775.
- Allan Detsky and David Naylor. 2003. *Canada's Health Care System: Reform Delayed.* *New England Journal of Medicine* 349:8.
- CBC. 2005. "In Depth: Health Care." June 10, 2005.
- Lewis et al. 2001. "The Future of Health Care in Canada." *British Medical Journal* 323:926-929.

Optional

- Commonwealth Fund. 2004. First Report and Recommendations of The Commonwealth Fund's International Working Group on Quality Indicators.

10/13

Day 5. Why no universal health insurance in the U.S.?

- Jill Quadagno. 2005. *One Nation, Uninsured: Why the US Has No National Health Insurance*. Oxford University Press.

10/20

Day 6. Options for Health Care Reform in the U.S.

- Davis, Karen. 2001. "Universal Coverage in the United States: Lessons from Experience of the 20th Century." *Journal of Urban Health* 78(1):46-59.
- Jonathon Gruber and Larry Levitt. 2000. "Tax Subsidies for Health Insurance: Costs and Benefits." *Health Affairs* 19(1):72-85.
- Physician Working Group. "Proposal of the Physicians' Working Group for Single Payer National Health Insurance." *JAMA* 290(6):798-805.
- Lambrew et al. 2005. "Change in Challenging Times: A Plan for Extending and Improving Health Coverage." *Health Affairs*. Web Exclusive. W5-119.
- Mark Pauly and Bradley Herring. 2001. "Expanding Coverage Via Tax Credits: Trade-Offs and Outcomes." *Health Affairs* Jan/Feb: 9-26.

Optional

- Jacob Hacker and Theda Skocpol. 1997. *New Politics of U.S. Health Policy*. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* 22(2):315-338.

PART 2. THE SOCIAL CAUSES OF HEALTH

Is health insurance the answer? Why do people get sick? What are the explanations for disparities in health? Consequently, is universal insurance really the appropriate policy answer for disparities in health? This part of the course explores the social causes of illness.

10/27

Day 7./8 Descriptive Findings: Growing SES/Race Differences in Health and Health Behaviors/
Does health insurance affect health? Can lack of health insurance among poor explain SES differences in health?

- Graham, Health. 2004. "Social Determinants and their Unequal Distribution: Clarifying Policy Understandings." *Milbank Quarterly* 82(1):101-124.
- Manning, Willard, Joseph Newhouse, Naihua Duan, Emmett Keeler, Arleen Liebowitz and Susan Marquis. 1997. "Health Insurance and the Demand for Medical Care: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment" *American Economic Review* 77(3):251-277.
- McWilliams, J.Michael; Zaslavsky, Alan M.; Meara, Ellen; Ayanian, John Z. 2004. "Health Insurance Coverage and Mortality among the Near-Elderly." *Health Affairs* 23(4):223-234.
- Lillie-Blanton, Marsha; Hoffman, Catherine. 2005. "The Role of Health Insurance Coverage in Reducing Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health Care." *Health Affairs* 24(2):398:409.
- Lantz, Paula and colleagues. 1998. "Socioeconomic Factors, Health Behaviors, and Mortality." *JAMA* 279(21):1703-1708.

Optional

- Cynthia L. Ogden; Katherine M. Flegal; Margaret D. Carroll; Clifford L. Johnson. 1999-2000. "Prevalence and Trends in Overweight Among US Children and Adolescents." *JAMA*. 2002;288:1728-1732.
- Katherine M. Flegal; Margaret D. Carroll; Cynthia L. Ogden; Clifford L. Johnson. 2002. "Prevalence and Trends in Obesity among US Adults, 1999-2000." *JAMA* 288:1723-1727.
- Sorlie, Paul D.; Backlund, Eric; Keller, Jacob B. "US Mortality by Economic, Demographic, and Social Characteristics: The National Longitudinal Mortality Study." *American Journal of Public Health*, Jul95, Vol. 85 Issue 7, p949, 8p, 3
- Singh, Gopal K.; Yu, Stella M. 1995. "Infant Mortality in the United States: Trends, Differentials and Projections, 1950 through 2010." *American Journal of Public Health* 85(7):957-965.

11/3—NO CLASS

11/10

Day 9. Social Factors: Socioeconomic Status

- Deaton, Angus. 2002. "Policy Implications Of The Gradient of Health And Wealth" *Health Affairs* March.
- Schnittker, Jason and Jane McLeod. 2005. "The Social Psychology of Health Disparities." *Annual Review of Sociology* 31:75-103.
- Bruce J. Link and Jo Phelan. 1995. "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Disease," *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 1995 (extra issue): 80-94.
- Smith, James P. 1999. "Healthy Bodies and Thick Wallets." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 13(2):145-166.
- Ann Case and colleagues. 2002. "Economic Status and Health in Childhood." *American Economic Review* 92(5):1308-1334.

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Day 10. Social Factors: Neighborhoods and health

- Robert, Stephanie. 1999. "Socioeconomic Status and Health: Community Context." *Annual Review of Sociology* 25:489-516.
- Diex-Rou 2001. "Neighborhood of Residence and Incidence of Coronary Heart Disease." *New England Journal of Medicine* 345(2):99-106.
- Jeffrey Kling, Jeffrey Liebman, Lawrence Katz, and Lisa Sanbonmatsu. 2004. "Moving to Opportunity and Tranquility: Neighborhood Effects on Adult Economic Self-Sufficiency and Health from a Randomized Housing Voucher Experiment." Faculty Research Working Paper Series: RWP04-035.

Optional

- Robert, S. A. (1998). Community-level socioeconomic status effects on adult health." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. 39:18-37.
- Tama Leventhal & Jeanne Brooks-Gunn. 2002. "Moving to Opportunity." Center for Children and Families, Teachers College, Columbia University.

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Day 11. Social Factors: Race and Health/Medical Care

- Institute of Medicine Summary Report (IOM_1).
- Sally Satel and Jonathon Klick. 2005. "The Institute of Medicine Report: Too Quick to Diagnose Bias." *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 48(1):S15-S25.
- Schulman et al. 1999. "The Effect of Race and Sex on Physicians' Recommendations for Cardiac Catheterization." *New England Journal of Medicine* 340(8):618-626.
- Hayward, Mark D., Eileen M. Crimmins, Toni P. Miles, and Yu Yang. 2000. "Socioeconomic Status and The Racial Gap in Chronic Health Conditions." *American Sociological Review* 65:910-930.
- Williams, David. 1997. Race and Health: Basic Questions, Emerging Directions. *Annual Review of Epidemiology* 7: 322-333.

12/8

Day 12. Social Factors: Income Inequality and Health

- Mellor, Jennifer and Jeffrey Milyo. 2001. "Reexamining the Evidence of the Ecological Association between Income Inequality and Health." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* 26(3): 487-522.
- Kawachi, Ichiro "Commentary: When Economists and Epidemiologists Disagree...: Comments on Mellor and Milyo" *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* - Volume 26, Number 3, June 2001, pp. 533-541
- House, James. 2001. "Commentary: Relating Social Inequalities in Health and Income." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law* 26(3): 523-532.
- Additional Commentary. Communications. (MilyoHouseKawachi2002).

Optional

- Lynch, John and colleagues. 2004. Is Income Inequality a Determinant of Population Health. *Milbank Quarterly* 82(1):5-99.

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Day 13. Social Factors: Employment and Health

Unemployment and Health

- Turner, J.B. (1995). Economic context and the health effects of unemployment. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 36:213-229.
- Ruhm, Christopher J. 2000. "Are recessions good for your health?" *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 115 (2):617-650.

Interaction between health, employment, and SES

- McDonough, Peggy and Benjamin Amick. 2001. "The Social Context of Health Selection." *Social Science and Medicine* 53:135-145.
- Marchand et al. 2005. "Does work really cause distress?" *Social Science and Medicine*. 61:1-14.

Optional

- Oh, Joong-Hwan and Eui Hang Shin. 2003. "Inequalities in Nonfatal Work Injury." *Social Science and Medicine* 57:2173-2182.

