

HLTH 832AE
Spring 2008
US HEALTH POLICY
Tuesdays 4:30-7:10
Sawyer 1106

Instructor:

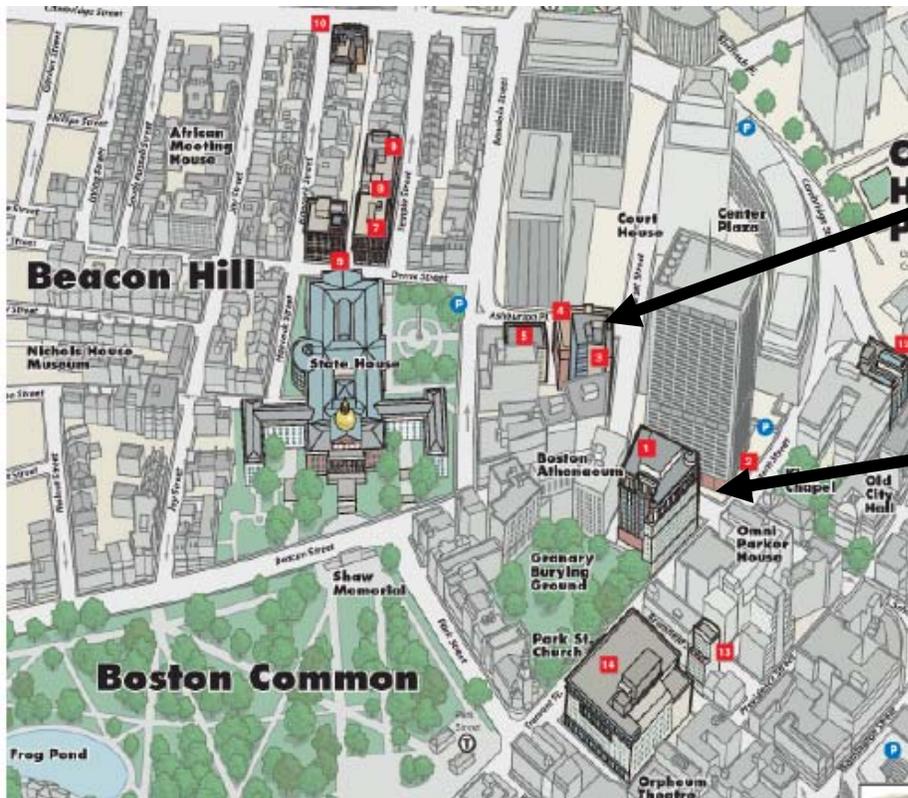


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Classroom location:
Sawyer 1106

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73 Tremont St.,
7th floor, room 762

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Phone: 978-371-3168

For directions [click here](#).
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Course Overview

Course Overview Timeline

The Course will follow the topical timeline below

1 The history of health care policy in the US

2 An overview of the politics and policy process

3 Access to health care and health disparities

4 The growing challenges of chronic illness

5 Disability history and legislation

6 The new consumer-oriented paradigm

7 Behavioral health, with a focus on state policy

8 The crisis in the health care work force

9 Global health issues

10 Technology as it affects health policy

11 The rising costs of drugs and the biotechnology industry

12 End of life issues

13 Student presentations

The course begins an overview of the politics and policy process and a brief history of health care policy in the United States. We then look at access to health care and health disparities, financing and universal coverage initiatives especially in Massachusetts and whether a national health system is the solution.

We discuss explore the growing challenges of chronic illness and then disability history and legislation. We dive into the new consumer-oriented paradigm including issues of the caregiver as consultant instead of all-powerful provider, personal responsibility for health (prevention; “nothing to us without us”), the role of the Internet, confidentiality, and the patients’ bill of rights. Behavioral health follows, with a focus on state policy making including Medicaid and the challenges of implementing evidence-based practice. We explore the crisis in the health care work force, emergency response to disasters and super bugs, and introduce global health issues (taught in more depth in HLTH 840/841).

Technology is dramatically changing our fields and raising difficult ethical and policy issues. We introduce these issues and look at the dramatic approaching worlds of genetics, and stem cell advances. We explore the rising costs of drugs and the biotechnology industry. Finally, we cover end of life issues including DNR orders and assisted suicide. We end with presentations and discussion of your papers. Other topics may be added or substituted based on class interests and available speakers.

If this course is to be successful, we will have to truly be a “shared community of scholars”. Class attendance and participation, independent study, and flexibility will contribute to an exciting semester.

Required Readings

Text	Available at:		
	Suffolk Bookstore	Suffolk Library	Online
Kant Patel and Mark E. Rushefsky, Health Care Politics and Policy in America, 3 rd Edition (M.E. Sharp paperback, 2007). (PR1)	Yes	HLTH 832 c.2	Yes, click here for web address
Kant Patel and Mark E. Rushefsky, Health Care Policy in an Age of New Technology, 2 nd Edition (M.E. Sharp paperback, 2002). (PR2)	Yes	RA445 .P37 2005	Yes, click here for web address

Course Requirements

Assignment	More information about the assignment	Due Date	Percent of your final grade
Personal Experience Paper	More Information	Class 4	15%
Issues Paper	More Information	Class 13	50%
Personal Reflections	More Information	Class 13	20%
Class Participation and Attendance	More Information	Continuous	15%

Grading

We are a community of scholars, committed to working hard to learn together. Grades recognize each person's effort and are one indication of how successfully each person has met their goals. Any student who receives a B or lower on an assignment may talk to the instructor and re-write it, raising their grade to as high as an A-.

Numerical:	Letter:	What does it mean:	Grade Point:
95-100	A	Exceptional work	4.0
90-94	A-	Excellent work	3.7
87-89	B+	Good work	3.3
84-86	B	Acceptable work	3.0
80-83	B-	Less than acceptable work	2.7
75-79	C+	Less than acceptable work	2.3
Below 75	F	Failing	0.0
Not turning in work	I	Incomplete	0.0

Click on Failing or Incomplete to find out more information about these grades.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in this class and for which you may require accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services. The Office of Disability Services is located at 73 Tremont St. 7th floor. You can contact them by calling: 617-994-6820 or sending an email to: disabilityservices@suffolk.edu. Once you have received your accommodation letters, please meet with me to discuss the provisions of those accommodations as soon as possible.

For more information about the disability services office go to:
<http://www.suffolk.edu/campuslife/disabilityservices.html>

Course Schedule

January 2009			
Thursday	Readings	Guest Lecture	Due
1			
8			
15 Introduction to the course and each other. Personal experiences.			
22 The Health Care Policy Process; Health Systems Review; The United States Health Care System in Crisis; Health Systems Reform; Managed Care and Delivery Systems Changes	Read: PR1 Chs. 1-4 and 9-11; Crossing the Quality	None	Readings only
29 Access to Care, Health Disparities, Rationing, Financing Issues; Universal Coverage Nationally and in Massachusetts	Read: PR1 Ch. 5; PR2 Ch. 6 Read: IOM; Universal Health Care; Articles on Massachusetts Health Insurance Debate at the Health Care for All web site at www.hcfama.org BB (see Spencer summaries on BB); Clinton unveils details of her health plan	None	Readings only