

**Course:** NUR 557 Health Policy  
**Credits:** 3  
**Instructor:** Gail E. Russell, EdD, RN, CNAA  
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**Course Description:** This course provides a foundation for health policy analysis. Focii is the history and development of economic and social policy related to health care and theories and methods useful in the analysis and evaluation of health policies. Federal, state and local governmental structures and processes, special interest groups, and other forces that impact health policy are explored.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Critically analyze the political philosophies that underpin and the models and theories of policy formulation.
2. Analyze federal, state and local legislative, executive and judiciary structures that formulate and implement health policy.
3. Integrate sociological, economic and political perspectives into an understanding of health policy issues.
4. Evaluate a current health policy in comparison to *Healthy People 2010* objectives
5. Formulate issues, debates and arguments concerning health policy.

**Teaching Strategies:** Lecture, discussion, use of media and the internet, group work. All course materials and handouts will be posted to the Intralearn Web site.

**Evaluation Methods:**

*Web based assignments - 15 % of course grade.*

There will be supplemental material contained in three web-based assignments during the course of the semester. Students are expected to complete the assignments on time and submit them by posting them to the class web site. Details on the web assignments are on the web site. **First web assignment is due September , 200. The second assignment is due October , 200. The third and final assignment is due November , 200**

*Class participation and presentations - 30% of course grade.*

Students are expected to read assignments in advance of class and actively engage in all class discussions. Students will be responsible for preparing content and leading discussions in a part of two class meetings during the semester. This will constitute 20 of the 30 participation points toward your course grade.

**The first presentation will occur on October , 2001.** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will present Stone's Policy paradox: The art of political decision making Policy Paradox; the other group - Feldstien's The politics of health legislation (2nd Ed.). Each group will have 30 minutes to present an overview of the author's philosophical/theoretical approach to understanding policy. After class break the groups will analyze policy solutions to the nursing shortage from with in those two philosophical/theoretical framework. This will be constitute 10 of the 20 participation points toward your course grade.

For the second presentation, student's will be assigned to present content on one of 11 major health policy issues: managed care in transition, Medicare, Medicare, prescription drugs, expanding health coverage, controlling health expenditures, preventing medical error, privacy / confidentiality, mental health parity, patient care quality, and workforce issues. **These presentations will occur on November, December , and , 2001.** Presentations will be evaluated on both content and the quality of the presentation. Students are expected to research contemporary literature for relevant content and provide the class with an annotated bibliography. Students are also expected to design an appropriate presentation method that involves the class in active learning. This will constitute 10 of the 30 participation points toward your course grade.

*Take Home Exam - 20 % of course grade.*

A take home essay exam on policy analysis content will be assigned on November , 200 and will be **due in class on November, 200.** The exam will consist of 2-3 questions. Each student will select *one* question to answer. Limit answers to 1200 words or less. Use APA (5th Ed.) format. Type and double-space answers. Clarity of expression and understanding of course content are the criteria for evaluation.

*Final paper (Approximately 15 pages) - 35% of course grade.*

Students will analyze a specific health policy that impacts nursing and the health of either an urban or aging population. The specific policy for analysis may be selected by the student but must be approved by the instructor. The analysis will demonstrate an understanding of the philosophical base, theoretic construction and the political and sociological factors that influenced the policy development / implementation. Use APA (5th Ed.) format. Type and double-space papers. **Papers are due in no later than 4 PM on December, 200.**

#### Required Readings

American Psychological Association. (2001). American Psychological Association Publication Manual (5<sup>th</sup> Ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Feldstein, P. (1996). The politics of health legislation (2nd Ed.). Chicago: Health Administration Press. ISBN 1-56793-045-X

Longest, B. (2001). Contemporary health policy: A book of readings. Chicago: Health Administration Press. ISBN 1-567-93139-1.

Munger, M. (2000). Analyzing policy: Choices, conflicts and practices. New York: W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN 0-393-97399-9.

National Center for Policy Analysis. Weekly health policy digest. Subscribe (free) at [www.ncpa.org/healthdigest.html](http://www.ncpa.org/healthdigest.html)

Stone, D. (1997). Policy paradox: The art of political decision making. Boston: W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN 0-393-96857-X

#### Supplemental Readings:

A number of supplemental readings are listed in the syllabus.

#### Disability Statement

Any individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantively limits a person in some major life activity, and needs an accommodation, must provide documentation of the disability to

the Director of Disability Services. The Director of Disability Services will make a determination whether or not accommodations are needed. Once this determination is made the Director will then consult with the faculty member on appropriate accommodations. A student with a documented disability is encouraged to register with Disability Services, and may call

### Topical Outline:

## ***PART 1: POLICY and POLITICS: Philosophical foundations and conceptual frameworks***

### Supplemental Readings:

- Fischer, F. (1995). Evaluating public policy. Chicago: Nelson-Hall.
- Hurst, C. (2000). Living theory: The application of classical social theory to contemporary life. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Kingdon, J. (1995). Agendas, alternatives, and public policies (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). New York: Harper Collins.
- Kimmel, M. & Stephen, C. (1998). Social and political theory: Classical readings. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- Kymlicka, W. (1990). Contemporary political philosophy: An introduction. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Rapaport, E. (Ed.)(1978). J.S. Mill: On liberty. Indianapolis, IL: Hackett Publishing.
- 694- Rodgers, B. L. (1989). Exploring health policy as a concept. Western Journal of Nursing Research, 11, 702.
- Sabatier, P. (1995). Theories of the policy process. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Sher, G. (Ed.)(1979). John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism. Indianapolis, IL: Hackett Publishing.
- Sterba, J. (1995). Contemporary social and political philosophy. Boston: Wadsworth Publishing Company.
- Strauss, L. & Cropsey, L. (1987). History of political philosophy, (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Ritzer, G. (2000). Classical sociological theory (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Boston: McGraw Hill.
- Van Dyke, V. (1996). Introduction to politics, (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.). Chicago: Nelson-Hall.
- Walzer, M. (1983). Spheres of justice. New York: Basic Books
- Weber, M. (1998). The Protestant ethic: The spirit of capitalism (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing.

### **9-10-01 Class 1: Introductions**

#### **Class Overview**

#### **Policy and Politics Defined**

#### **Steps in Policy Development and Implementation**

#### **Policy and the Political Structure**

### Assignment:

- Feldstein, (1996), Chapter 1
- Munger, (2000). Chapter 2
- Russell, G. (2001). Public policy. On class web site
- What is policy? <http://www.healthpolicycoach.org/>

### **9-17-01 Class 2: Legislative, Executive and Judicial Branches**

#### **Staff, Experts, and Special Interest Groups**

### Assignment:

- Feldstein, (1996), Chapters 4, 5 & 8
- Munger, (2000), Chapter 2
- Stone, (1997), Chapter 9

### **9-24-01 Class 3: Philosophical Foundations**

**Utilitarianism**

**Liberalism**

**Communism**

**1<sup>st</sup> WEB ASSIGNMENT DUE**

Assignment:

Russell, G. (2001). Political philosophy. On class website

Debate the following:

**Universal access to health care (some form of national health insurance) will improve the productivity (output, GNP) of the US workforce.**

One half the class is Egalitarians and take the Pro position in this debate. The other half of the class is Libertarian and takes the Con position in this debate. Please be consistent with the philosophical underpinnings of your position as you engage in this debate.

### **10-1-01 Class 4: Political Theories**

**A Conceptual Model for Nursing and Health Policy**

Assignment:

Fawcett, J & Russell, G. (2001). A conceptual model for nursing and health policy.

Policy, Politics, & Nursing Practice, 2(2), 108-116.

Feldstein, (1996), Chapter 2.

### **10-8-01 HOLIDAY**

### **10-15-01 Class 5: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

**Debate on the Nursing Shortage**

Assignment:

*Political Theory*

Feldstein, P. (1996). The politics of health legislation (2nd Ed.). Chicago: Health Administration Press.

Stone, D. (1997). Policy paradox: The art of political decision making. Boston: W.W. Norton & Company.

*Nursing Shortage*

Collins, G. Nursing a Shortage: PUBLIC INTERESTS

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/04/13/opinion/13COLL.html?ex=988367642&ei=1&en=1cb240994791da6e>

Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions. (2001). The registered nurse population: National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses – March 2000: Preliminary findings. U.S. Dept. of HHS. Available at [www.bhpr.hrsa.gov](http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov)

Massachusetts Senate Bill 301 An Act Establishing the Clara Barton Nursing Excellence Program. [www.state.ma.us/legis/bills/st00301.htm](http://www.state.ma.us/legis/bills/st00301.htm)

National Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, Bureau of Health Professions. State health workforce profiles. Washington, DC: US. Dept. of HHS. Available at [www.bhpr.hrsa.gov](http://www.bhpr.hrsa.gov)

US HR 1897 Nurse of Tomorrow Act of 2001. <http://thomas.loc.gov>

US S 706 Nurse Reinvestment Act. <http://thomas.loc.gov>

US S 721 Nurse Employment and Education Development Act (NEED Act). <http://thomas.loc.gov>

The class will be divided into two groups. One group will present Stone's Policy paradox: The art of political decision making Policy Paradox; the other group - Feldstien's The politics of health legislation (2nd Ed.). Each group will have 30 minutes to present an overview of the author's philosophical/theoretical approach to understanding policy. After class break the groups will analyze policy solutions to the nursing shortage from within those two philosophical/theoretical frameworks.

## ***Part II: Introduction to Policy Analysis***

### Supplemental Readings:

Bardach, E. (2000). A practical guide for policy analysis. New York: Chatham House Publisher.  
Fischer, F. (1995). Evaluating public policy. Chicago: Nelson-Hall.  
Rist, R. (1995). Policy evaluation: Linking theory to practice. Brookfield, VT: Elgar Publishing.  
Stokey, E. & Zeckhauser, R. (1978). A primer for policy analysis. New York: W. W. Norton.  
Weiner, D. & Vining, A. (1999). Policy analysis: Concepts and practices (3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.) Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

### **10-22-01      Class 6: The Market Market Failure The Limits of Policy Analysis 2<sup>nd</sup> WEB ASSIGNMENT DUE**

#### Assignment:

Longest, (2001). Chapter 3  
Munger, (2000). Preface, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

### **10-29-01      Class 7: Government Failure Social Welfare Paradigm Regulatory Reform**

#### Assignment:

Longest, (2001), Chapter 2.  
Munger, (2000), Chapter 6, 7 & 8.

## ***Part III: HEALTH POLICY: An introduction to the issues***

### Supplemental Readings:

Auerbach, J., Krimgold, B. & Lefkowitz, B. (2000). Improving health: It doesn't take a revolution. Washington, DC: National Policy Association and Academy for Health Services Research and Health Policy. (P)

Bodenheimer, T. & Grumbach, K. (1998). Understanding health policy: A clinical approach (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Norwalk, CT: Appleton & Lange.

Harrington, C. & Estes, C. (2001). Health policy: Crisis and reform in the U.S. health care delivery system (3rd Ed.). Boston: Jones and Bartlett.

Institute for the Future. (2001). Health and healthcare 2010: The forecast, the challenge. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers. (P)

Institute of Medicine. (2000). Informing the future: Critical issues in health. Washington, DC: National Academy of Sciences.

Koop, C., Pearson, C. & Schwarz, M. (Eds.)(2000). Critical issues in global health. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers. (P)

Lee, P. & Estes, C. (2001). The nation's health (6th Ed.). Boston: Jones and Bartlett. (P)(H)

Litman, T. & Robins, L. (1997). Health politics and policy (3rd Ed.). New York: Delmar.

Longest, B. (1998). Health policymaking in the United States (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Chicago: Health Administration Press.

Milstead, J. (1999). Health Policy and Politics: A nurse's guide. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen.

Reagan, M. (1999). The accidental system: Health policy in America. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Rhodes, R. (1992). Health care: Politics, policy and distributive justice. Albany: State University of New York Press.

**11-5-01      Class 8: What is health?**  
**HAVE FINAL PAPER TOPICS APPROVED BY INSTRUCTOR**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> WEB ASSIGNMENT DUE**

Assignment:

Epstein, A., Drazen, J. & Steinbrook, R. (2001). Health policy 2001: A new series. New England Journal of Medicine, 344(9), 673. Available at <http://www.nejm.org/content/2001/0344/0009/0673.asp>

Longest, 2001, Chapter 1.

Read regularly. [www.ncpa.org/healthdigest.html](http://www.ncpa.org/healthdigest.html)

What is health? <http://www.healthpolicycoach.org/>

View videos in class: Income Status and Health, Episodes 101 and 102.

**11-12-01      HOLIDAY**

**11-19-01      Class 9: The New Federalism in Health Policy**  
**TAKE HOME EXAM DUE IN CLASS**

Assignment:

Longest, (2001), Chapter 4, 5, & 6.  
[www.ncpa.org/healthdigest.html](http://www.ncpa.org/healthdigest.html)

**12-3-1      Class 10: Contemporary Health Policy Issues**  
**STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**  
**Managed Care in Transition**

Dudley, R. (2001). Managed care in transition. New England Journal of Medicine, 344(14), 1087-1092. Available at <http://www.nejm.org/content/2001/0344/0014/1087.asp>

**Medicare**

Feldstein, (1996), Chapter 9.  
 Longest, (2001). Chpaters 2, 7, 8 & 20.

Moon, M. (2001). Medicare. New England Journal of Medicine, 344 (12), 928-931. Available at <http://www.nejm.org/content/2001/0344/0012/0928.asp>

### **Prescription Drug Coverage**

Iglehart, J. (2001). Medicare and prescription drugs. New England Journal of Medicine, 344 (13), 1010-1015. Available at <http://www.nejm.org/content/2001/0344/0013/1010.asp>

### **Medicaid**

Longest, (2001), Chapter 21.

## **12-3-1 Class 11: Contemporary Health policy Issues STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

### **Preventing Medical Error**

Kohn, L. Corrigan, J. & Donaldson, M. (Eds.)(2000). To err is human: Building a safer health system. Washington, DC: Institute of Medicine. Available at <http://www.nap.edu/books/0309068371/html/>

Longest, (2001), Chapters 10, 11

### **Privacy / Confidentiality**

Longest, (2001), Chapter 16

### **Patient Care Quality**

Longest, (2001), Chapter 10.

### **Mental Health Parity**

## **12-10-01 Class 12: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS**

### **Controlling Health Expenditures**

Blumenthal, D. (2001). Controlling health care expenditures. New England Journal of Medicine, 344 (10), 766-769. Available at <http://www.nejm.org/content/2001/0344/0010/0766.asp>

Longest, (2001), Chapter 18.

### **Expanding Health Coverage**

Longest, (2001), Chapters 9 & 19.

Feldstein, (1996), Chapter 10.

Schroeder, S. (2001). Prospects of expanding health insurance coverage. New England Journal of Medicine, 344 (11), 847-852. Available at <http://www.nejm.org/content/2001/0344/0011/0847.asp>

### **Workforce Issues**

Longest, (2001), Chapters 3, 12 & 13.

## **12-19-01 TERM PAPER DUE AT 4 PM IN**