



HHPH 492: GLB/HEALTH POLICY COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Megan Johnson-Gibbs, MSKW, MSHS

Office Location: Dallas Northpark Site

Office Hours: By appointment only, also available via Zoom

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Preferred Form of Communication: Email

Communication Response Time: 24-48 business hours, outside of weekends or campus holidays/closures.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Information :

Course Value: Three (3) Credit Hours

Course Location: Online

Course Time Online

REQUIRED Text: Teitelbaum, J. B., & Wilensky, S.E.
Essentials of Health Policy and Law
5th edition. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning

ISBN-13: 9781284151589

IA version will be available on D2L on first day of class – this is more affordable than hard copy

Prerequisite: HHPH 1304, junior or senior standing. 2.5 GPA.

Course Description

This course presents an introduction to health policy, i.e., the various ways in which the government plays a role in health and in the provision of health care. Health policies can have a profound effect on quality of life. Accessibility, cost, quality of health care; safety of food, water, and environment;

the right to make decisions about our health; these issues are vitally tied to health policies. This course provides a framework for understanding the social, political and economic dimensions of health policy. It introduces the policy-making and legal system of the United States, offers brief comparisons to health policies in certain other countries, provides knowledge about the organization of the health care system in the U.S., and highlights issues in health policy including environmental health policy, health care reform under the Affordable Care Act, pharmaceutical policy, injury prevention, and aging and long-term care. Students will learn to think systematically about these issues and the various methods available to public and private policymakers to solve them, specifically public health advocacy.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. To gain an understanding of the policymaking process and the legal system
 2. To gain an understanding of the health care and public health systems
 3. To gain an understanding of health care economics and financing and their relationship to health policymaking
 4. To gain an understanding of federal health insurance programs and their connection to access to health care, the uninsured, and health reform
 5. Identify, analyze, and interpret social determinants of health in shaping health
 6. To learn how to write a concise and effective policy analysis
 7. Identify and use health policy data sources.
 8. Examine ethical issues and cultural diversity in health services.
 9. Learn to apply participatory education methods in advocating for health and demonstrate sensitivity to diversity in communities
- Students will view themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should have a basic knowledge of computer and Internet skills in order to be successful in an online course. Here are some highlights:

1. Knowledge of terminology, such as browser, application, URL, etc.
2. Understanding of basic computer hardware and software; ability to perform computer operations, such as: managing files and folders: save, name, copy, move, backup, rename, delete, check properties
3. Ability to use the learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, accessing and navigating sites like YouTube
4. Knowledge of copying and pasting, spell-checking, saving files in different formats and sending and downloading attachments
5. Internet skills (connecting, accessing, using browsers) and ability to perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
6. Ability to use online communication tools, such as email (create, send, receive, reply, print, send/receive attachments), discussion boards (read, search, post, reply, follow threads), chats, etc.

Instructional Methods

We will discuss various local and global health issues through online discussion boards, reflection and written assignments.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Strong reading and writing skills:

- Most of the material in the online environment will come from your textbooks, discussions, lectures, and videos; therefore, strong reading, writing and critical thinking skills are very important for success in an online course. We may also utilize Podcasts.
- Success in this class will come from independent reading of textbook chapters as well as other assigned material.

Self-motivated and independent learner:

- While online courses can offer more flexibility in scheduling, they require more self-discipline and independence than on-campus courses.

- In the online environment, you have to be able to start and to work on tasks on your own, without someone keeping you focused, and you have to be self-disciplined in order to follow the class schedule and meet deadlines.

Time commitment:

- Online classes take as much time as regular on-campus classes. You need to set aside sufficient time for study. Plan to spend at least as much time working on the assignments and studying as you would with a traditional course. **A 3-unit class is supposed to take 3 hours of “class time” and 9 hours of “work”. That means 12 hours per week for a 3-unit class.**
- Even though you may not have to “be” in class on some specific day and time, you still have to follow the course schedule provided. Remember that online classes are not independent study courses; you are still required to “show up” and participate actively (e.g. regularly logging into the course website, actively participating and turning in assignments on time.

Active Learner:

- Online students must be active learners, self-starters who are not shy or afraid to ask questions when they do not understand. Remember that you are in control of your learning process.
- Since I cannot see you, you need to “speak up” right away if you have problems and be as explicit as possible; otherwise there is no way I will know that something is wrong.

ASSESSMENTS

The student will be responsible for obtaining all materials presented online, assigned readings from the textbook, and any outside assignments given by the instructor. All class assignments must be turned in online. You are responsible for making sure your assignments are in on time per the directions. You are also responsible for making sure the assignment is in a file format (word/pdf) that can be viewed by the instructor and peers (discussion boards). All assignment details will be provided during each week/module section. No emailed work will be accepted.

NOTE: Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due on **D2L by Sundays @ 11:59 pm. NO LATE WORK IS ACCEPTED**



1. Introduction Discussion=25 points, Syllabus Quiz=25 points
2. Chapter quizzes: 15 x 20 points each = 300 points
3. Written Assignments (HW): 10 x 20 points each = 200 points
4. Discussion Topics (includes your response & reply to 1 classmate): 5 x 20 points each= 100 points
5. Final Project (Policy Brief & Video Presentation)=350 pts

Total Points 1000 points

Final grades in this course will be based on the following Grading Scale:

900-1000 pts=A 800-899 pts=B 700-799 pts=C 600-699 pts=D 0-599 pts=F

Module #	Course Content	Due Sundays @ 11:59 pm
0 & 1 8/25-8/30	Review syllabus Topic: Setting the Stage—An Overview of Health Policy and Law Required readings: Preface and <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 1	Syllabus Quiz & Dis Intro (Due Weds 8/27) Ch1 Quiz HW 1
2 9/1-9/7	Topic: Policy and the Policymaking Process Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapters 2	Ch2 Quiz HW 2
3 9/7-9/14	Topic: Law and the Legal System Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapters 3	Ch3 Quiz Discussion 1
4 9/15-9/21	Topic: Overview of the Healthcare System Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 4	Ch4 Quiz HW 3
5 9/23-9/28	Topic: What Is Public Health? Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 5	Ch5 Quiz HW 4 Project Topic Statement
6 9/29-10/5	Topic: Individual Rights in Health Care and Public Health Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 6	Ch6 Quiz Discussion 2
7 10/6-10/12	Topic: Structural and Social Drivers of Health and the Role of Law in Optimizing Health Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 7	Ch7 Quiz HW 5
8 10/13-10/19	Topic: Understanding Health Insurance Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 8	Ch8 Quiz HW 6
9 10/20-10/26	Topic: Health Economics in a Health Policy Context Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 9	Ch9 Quiz Discussion 3
10 10/27-11/2	Topic: Government Health Insurance Programs: Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 10	Ch10 Quiz HW 7
11 11/3-11/9	Topic: Health Reform and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 11	Ch11 Quiz HW 8
12 11/10-11/16	Topic: Healthcare Quality Policy and Law Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 12	Ch12 Quiz HW 9
13 11/17-11/23	Topic: What Is Public Health Emergency Preparedness? Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 13	Ch13 Quiz Discussion 4
14 11/24-11/30	Topic: The Art of Structuring and Writing a Health Policy Analysis Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 14	Ch14 Quiz HW 10
15 12/1-12/5 & Finals Week 12/6-12/11 Sat-Thursday	Topic: Federal Policy Advocacy: Advancing Policy Goals Required readings: <i>EHPL</i> Chapter 15	Ch15 Quiz Discussion 5 Final Project 12/11

****This schedule is a guide and is subject to change. I will give you advanced notice should any readings be added.**

FINAL PROJECT DUE Thursday, 12/11 @ 11:59 pm

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers. [Desktop Support](#)

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS
Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
<http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp>
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/> ○ [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

[Brightspace Support Need Help?](#)

[Student Support](#)

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

[Technical Support](#)

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

Please note that on the 4th Sunday of each month there will be System Maintenance which means the system will not be available 12 pm-6 am CST.

Interaction with Instructor Statement

E-mail strategy: You are welcome to email your questions or concerns to me. There are, however, some caveats associated with email that you must remember:

- Do not expect an immediate response to your questions. A reasonable response time to emailed questions is 24 - 48 hours. **
- Questions emailed on weekends may not receive a response until the work week begins.
- As the instructor, I reserve the right to answer emailed questions regarding assignments, tests, discussion boards, etc., in a direct email to everyone for the benefit of all students.
- Please be courteous and professional in all of your interactions with me and fellow students. This is good practice for your professional career. I prefer Professor A or Professor Rachel.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES & POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

How s the Course Organized?

- The course is organized by weekly modules. Each module will be formatted similarly including chapter learning objectives, lecture and debate discussion boards

What Should Students Do First?

Students should begin by:

- Thoroughly reviewing the syllabus & final project guidelines
- Obtain materials (textbooks) – online E-Book
- Familiarizing oneself with the course layout

How Should Students Proceed Each Week for Class Activities?

- The student will access and follow all course instructions found in the weekly module content areas. The weekly module content area of our course is found on the left navigation bar.
- The student will read chapters and read/listen to all online lectures provided provided.
- The student will complete all assignments: respond to online course discussion questions, complete online quizzes, complete case studies and submit final project.

Attendance, Late or Missing Course and Extra Credit

1. Attendance in class is **required**. If you are unable to attend a class (actively logged in and participating in the online class), please notify me through email. It is your responsibility to let me know if you are unable to complete the work in any given week due to a life circumstance. The sooner I know, the easier it will be to find a reasonable solution.
2. It will be very difficult for you to do well in this class if you miss submitting coursework. Please be aware that class participation goes beyond simply logging into this class. Just because you are logged in to the class, does not mean you are participating. It means active involvement in class discussions and assignments.
3. Make-up of coursework will only be given in very rare circumstances: serious illness with a note from your physician, a death in your family or if you have an officially excused absence while representing the university. If any of these situations occur you **MUST** email me prior to the module end date.
4. Make-ups will only be given if I have been notified prior to the end of the course module in order to verify your reason for missing coursework. All missed coursework not meeting the criteria for a make-up will be given a grade of 0.
5. **Extra credit MIGHT BE available. I will announce those opportunities as they arise.**

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html](http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html)

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

ADA Statement

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

East Texas A&M University-

Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M University will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and East Texas A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

