



HHPH 492: GLOBAL/HEALTH POLICY COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

This syllabus/schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in advance.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor	Dr. Rahmatu Kassimu
Office Location	Online / Dallas Northpark Site, as applicable
Office Hours	By appointment; Zoom appointments available
Office Phone	903-886-5349
Office Fax	903-886-5365
University Email Address	Rahmatu.Kassimu@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication	Email or D2L/Brightspace course message, as directed in the course shell

Communication Response Time: 24-48 business hours, outside of weekends, campus holidays, or university closures. Questions emailed on weekends may not receive a response until the work week begins.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Value	Three (3) Credit Hours
Course Location	Online
Course Time	Online / asynchronous weekly modules
Learning Management System	D2L/Brightspace
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 the first day of class and is typically more affordable than a hard copy.
Prerequisite	HHPH 1304, junior or senior standing, and 2.5 GPA.
Course Dates	August 20 - December 4, 2026. Finals Week begins December 5, 2026.

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; and the right to make decisions about our health 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 policymaking 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, public health emergency preparedness, 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

1. Gain an understanding of the policymaking process and the legal system.
2. Gain an understanding of the health care and public health systems.
3. Gain an understanding of health care economics and financing and their relationship to health policymaking.

4. 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 and structural drivers of health in shaping health outcomes.
6. Write a concise and effective health policy analysis.
7. Identify and use health policy data sources.
8. Examine ethical issues and cultural diversity in health services.
9. Apply participatory education methods in advocating for health and demonstrate sensitivity to diversity in communities.
10. View themselves as engaged citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

Instructional Methods

This online course uses weekly modules, textbook readings, short lectures or instructor notes, videos or podcasts as assigned, policy roundtable discussions, applied policy labs, quizzes, and a scaffolded final policy project. The course is designed around application: students will not only define policy concepts, but also use those concepts to analyze real-world policy problems, translate information for community audiences, and make evidence-informed recommendations.

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

- Basic computer and internet skills, including file management, downloading, uploading, saving, naming, copying, moving, and backing up files.
- Ability to use D2L/Brightspace, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and other presentation or graphics tools as needed.
- Ability to access videos, podcasts, websites, library databases, and credible health policy data sources.
- Ability to use online communication tools such as email, discussion boards, and attachments.
- Ability to submit work in a file format that can be opened and reviewed by the instructor, such as Word or PDF, unless otherwise specified.

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success

Strong reading, writing, and critical thinking skills

- Most course learning will come from assigned readings, lectures, videos, discussions, and applied assignments.
- Students should read the assigned chapter and module materials before completing quizzes, discussions, or labs.

Self-motivation and independence

- Online courses require regular attention, self-discipline, and weekly planning.
- Students are responsible for following the course schedule and meeting assignment deadlines.

Time commitment

- A three-credit online course requires time for reading, viewing lectures, participating, studying, and completing assignments.
- Students should plan consistent weekly work time rather than waiting until the due date.

Active learning

- Students should ask questions early when they do not understand expectations or content.
- Participation means more than logging in; it includes engaging course materials, completing work, and contributing meaningfully to discussions.

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 through D2L/Brightspace. No emailed work will be accepted unless the instructor gives written permission. Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on the date listed in the course calendar.

Application-Based Course Design

This course uses applied policy labs and policy roundtables so students can practice the work of health policy: analyzing problems, using data, considering stakeholders, translating complex information, and advocating for evidence-informed policy solutions.

Assessment	Points	Description
Introduction Discussion	25	Students introduce themselves and connect their interests to health policy.
Syllabus Quiz	25	Students confirm understanding of course expectations and policies.
Chapter Quizzes	150	15 quizzes x 10 points each. Quizzes support accountability for weekly readings and core concepts.
Applied Policy Labs	400	8 labs x 50 points each. Labs require students to apply weekly concepts to real or realistic policy problems.
Policy Roundtable Discussions	150	5 discussions x 30 points each. Students take a position, use evidence, respond to stakeholder perspectives, and engage peers professionally.
Final Policy Project	250	Semester-long scaffolded project including topic statement, policy options matrix, draft policy brief, final policy brief, and video advocacy presentation.
Total	1000	

Grading Scale

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

Assignment Descriptions

Chapter Quizzes

Each chapter quiz assesses key concepts from the required textbook chapter and module materials. Quizzes are intended to support preparation for applied assignments and the final policy project.

Applied Policy Labs

Applied Policy Labs are short, practice-based assignments that ask students to use course concepts in realistic policy contexts. Unless otherwise noted in D2L/Brightspace, labs should be clear, organized, evidence-informed, and submitted as Word or PDF documents. Lab directions and grading criteria will be provided in each weekly module.

Lab	Title	Primary Skill Practiced
1	Policy in Everyday Life	Identify how policy shapes health, access, safety, rights, and resources.
2	Policymaking Process Map	Trace how an issue moves from problem recognition to policy action.
3	Healthcare Access Pathway Map	Analyze how insurance, geography, cost, and system structure shape access.
4	Public Health in Practice Scan	Connect public health functions to a local, state, national, or global example.
5	Structural and Social Drivers Policy Scan	Identify how law or policy improves or worsens a social driver of health.
6	Insurance Translation Tool	Translate health insurance information into plain language for a community audience.
7	Government Program Impact Memo	Analyze Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare, or another public program using a policy memo format.
8	Health Reform and Policy Options Matrix	Compare policy options and explain tradeoffs, feasibility, equity implications, and likely impact.

Policy Roundtable Discussions

Policy Roundtables are designed as professional policy conversations. Each roundtable requires an original post and at least one substantive reply to a classmate. Students should take a position, use course concepts or credible evidence, consider stakeholder impact, and respond respectfully to peers.

Final Policy Project

The final project requires students to select a health policy issue, explain the problem and population impact, compare policy options, write a concise policy brief, and deliver a brief video advocacy presentation. The final project is scaffolded across the semester so students build toward the final submission in stages.

Component	Points	Purpose
Project Topic Statement	25	Identify policy issue, affected population/community, and why the issue matters.
Policy Options Matrix	40	Compare at least two potential policy options and analyze benefits, limitations, equity implications, and feasibility.
Draft Policy Brief	45	Submit a working draft for feedback before the final policy brief.
Final Policy Brief	90	Submit a concise, evidence-informed policy brief with problem, background, policy recommendation, and advocacy considerations.
Video Advocacy Presentation	50	Deliver a 3-5 minute presentation translating the policy issue and recommendation for a specific audience.
Total	250	

Late Work, Missing Work, and Extra Credit

- Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due on D2L/Brightspace by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on the due date listed in the course calendar.
- Students are responsible for making sure submissions are complete, readable, and uploaded to the correct D2L/Brightspace assignment folder.
- No emailed work will be accepted unless the instructor gives written permission.
- Students who experience an emergency or serious life circumstance should contact the instructor as soon as possible and, when possible, before the module closes. Make-up work is considered only in rare circumstances such as serious illness, death in the family, or an officially excused university absence.
- Missed coursework that does not meet criteria for a make-up opportunity will receive a grade of zero.
- Extra credit may be available at the instructor's discretion. Any opportunities will be announced in D2L/Brightspace.

Use of AI for Assignments

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. In this course, AI tools may be used for brainstorming, outlining, revision support, grammar support, and idea generation when the assignment directions allow it. Students remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, source use, and integrity of all submitted work.

- Any use of AI tools must be documented in an AI Use Statement included with the assignment submission.
- Students may not use AI to fabricate sources, misrepresent evidence, bypass assigned learning tasks, or submit work they did not meaningfully create, review, and revise.
- Undocumented or inappropriate AI use may constitute academic dishonesty under university policy.
- When assignment-specific AI directions are provided in D2L/Brightspace, those directions supersede the general course statement.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have regular access to a computer with a reliable broadband Internet connection. Personal computer or internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete coursework in a timely and satisfactory manner. Students should have a backup plan for technology problems, such as access to another computer, campus lab, public library, or other reliable internet location.

- Use a current supported browser such as Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Microsoft Edge, or Apple Safari.
- Ensure that JavaScript and cookies are enabled and that pop-ups are allowed for course-related sites when needed.
- Use current antivirus/security software and keep your operating system and browser updated.
- Students may need speakers or headphones. For video presentations or conferences, a webcam and microphone may be required.
- At minimum, students must be able to use Microsoft Office or a compatible program. 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, attaching/uploading documents, saving files in approved formats, and downloading course materials will be required.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Students will need their 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.

Students should begin by thoroughly reviewing the syllabus, assignment directions, final project guidelines, course schedule, and D2L/Brightspace course layout. Weekly module instructions will be posted in the course shell.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Instructor Support

If you have questions about course material, assignments, grades, or expectations, contact the instructor using the preferred communication method listed in the instructor information section. Please allow 24-48 business hours for a response, outside of weekends, campus holidays, or closures.

Brightspace Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778, use the Live Chat feature, or submit an issue through the Brightspace support link available in the learning management system.

System Maintenance

Please note that system maintenance may occur periodically. Students are responsible for planning ahead and should not wait until the last minute to submit assignments.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES & POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

How Is the Course Organized?

The course is organized by weekly modules. Each module will be formatted similarly and may include chapter learning objectives, readings, lectures or instructor notes, videos or podcasts, quizzes, applied policy labs, and policy roundtable discussions.

What Should Students Do First?

- Thoroughly review the syllabus and final project guidelines.
- Obtain required course materials, including the textbook or IA e-book.
- Familiarize yourself with the course layout and weekly module structure.
- Review the assignment descriptions and course calendar.

How Should Students Proceed Each Week?

- Access and follow all course instructions found in the weekly module content area.
- Read assigned textbook chapters and all online materials provided in the module.

- Complete quizzes, applied policy labs, policy roundtables, and final project milestones by the listed due dates.
- Ask questions early when instructions or concepts are unclear.

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. Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum.

Attendance

Attendance in an online course means active and regular participation. Active participation includes logging into D2L/Brightspace, engaging course materials, participating in discussions, completing quizzes, and submitting assignments on time. Simply logging into the course does not constitute participation.

Students who are unable to participate in a given week due to a life circumstance should notify the instructor as soon as possible. The sooner the instructor is aware of the concern, the easier it may be to identify a reasonable solution within course and university policies.

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

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, students should consult the applicable university procedures: Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03 and Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10.

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

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. 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. Students are encouraged to explore the resources available for guidance and support whenever needed.



HHPH 492: GLOBAL/HEALTH POLICY

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

COURSE OUTLINE: Fall 2026

Please note that this schedule is tentative and is subject to change.

Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. Central Time on the due date listed. This schedule is a guide and is subject to change. Any schedule changes will be announced in advance in D2L/Brightspace.

Module	Dates	Course Content	Assignments	Due
0	Aug. 20-23	Welcome and Course Orientation Review syllabus, D2L/Brightspace course shell, final project overview	Syllabus Quiz Introduction Discussion	Sun., Aug. 23
1	Aug. 24-30	Setting the Stage: Overview of Health Policy and Law Required reading: Preface and EHPL Ch. 1	Ch. 1 Quiz Lab 1: Policy in Everyday Life	Sun., Aug. 30
2	Aug. 31-Sept. 6	Policy and the Policymaking Process Required reading: EHPL Ch. 2	Ch. 2 Quiz Lab 2: Policymaking Process Map	Sun., Sept. 6
3	Sept. 7-13	Law and the Legal System Required reading: EHPL Ch. 3	Ch. 3 Quiz Policy Roundtable 1	Sun., Sept. 13
4	Sept. 14-20	Overview of the Healthcare System Required reading: EHPL Ch. 4	Ch. 4 Quiz Lab 3: Healthcare Access Pathway Map	Sun., Sept. 20
5	Sept. 21-27	What Is Public Health? Required reading: EHPL Ch. 5	Ch. 5 Quiz Lab 4: Public Health in Practice Scan Project Topic Statement	Sun., Sept. 27
6	Sept. 28-Oct. 4	Individual Rights in Health Care and Public Health Required reading: EHPL Ch. 6	Ch. 6 Quiz Policy Roundtable 2	Sun., Oct. 4
7	Oct. 5-11	Structural and Social Drivers of Health and the Role of Law in Optimizing Health Required reading: EHPL Ch. 7	Ch. 7 Quiz Lab 5: Structural and Social Drivers Policy Scan	Sun., Oct. 11
8	Oct. 12-18	Understanding Health Insurance Required reading: EHPL Ch. 8	Ch. 8 Quiz Lab 6: Insurance Translation Tool	Sun., Oct. 18
9	Oct. 19-25	Health Economics in a Health Policy Context Required reading: EHPL Ch. 9	Ch. 9 Quiz Policy Roundtable 3	Sun., Oct. 25
10	Oct. 26-Nov. 1	Government Health Insurance Programs: Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare Required reading: EHPL Ch. 10	Ch. 10 Quiz Lab 7: Government Program Impact Memo	Sun., Nov. 1
11	Nov. 2-8	Health Reform and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Required reading: EHPL Ch. 11	Ch. 11 Quiz Lab 8: Health Reform and Policy Options Matrix Policy Options Matrix	Sun., Nov. 8
12	Nov. 9-15	Healthcare Quality Policy and Law Required reading: EHPL Ch. 12	Ch. 12 Quiz Draft Policy Brief	Sun., Nov. 15
13	Nov. 16-22	Public Health Emergency Preparedness Required reading: EHPL Ch. 13	Ch. 13 Quiz Policy Roundtable 4	Sun., Nov. 22
14	Nov. 23-29	The Art of Structuring and Writing a Health Policy Analysis Required reading: EHPL Ch. 14	Ch. 14 Quiz Policy Brief Revision Plan	Sun., Nov. 29
15	Nov. 30-Dec. 4	Federal Policy Advocacy: Advancing Policy Goals Required reading: EHPL Ch. 15	Ch. 15 Quiz Policy Roundtable 5 Video Planning Outline	Fri., Dec. 4
Finals	Dec. 5-10	Finals Week	Final Policy Brief Video Advocacy Presentation	Thurs., Dec. 10