

ETAMU
COLLEGE of BUSINESS
HCL 556 HEALTH POLICY

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course examines the economic foundations and policy frameworks of the healthcare system. Topics include healthcare supply and demand, reimbursement mechanisms, cost containment, access to care, and the role of public and private payers. Students analyze the impact of healthcare policies on providers, patients, and organizations.

PREREQUISITES

Consent of the department.

TYPE & TIME OF CLASS

This course consists of 4 modules and spans approximately 16 calendar weeks. Course delivery is completely on-line with all assignments posted in Brightspace weekly. To cover this much material requires strict adherence to posted deadlines. It is recommended that you log in to the course at least three to four times weekly and before taking a test or submitting a major assignment, to stay on top of the workflow. Paying attention to deadlines and staying current with assignments is your responsibility. Exceptions will be granted, but rarely.

All references to time during this course are U.S. Central Time (Chicago, IL).

REQUIRED TEXTS

Shi, L, (2023). Introduction to Health Policy, 3rd edition. Health Administration Press, Chicago, Illinois.

Other readings and related assignments will be shown on the Main Course Page and detailed in the assignments themselves. Updates and corrections are usually announced throughout the semester.

Each week's assignments will be posted in Brightspace on Monday morning around 7:00 am Central Time. In general, the week's work will usually end by Saturday night at 6 pm. However, the final authority on deadlines are in the syllabus unless an update is posted in the course.

SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

You must have access to Brightspace to complete this course. Other software such as spell checkers or Grammarly (available at <https://www.grammarly.com>) is optional but may be very useful. Effective communication, particularly in written assignments, is mission critical to success. English is a funny and difficult language, even for those who grew up speaking it. Getting it right is important!

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All students must have access to a computer capable of running the current version of Windows or a Mac-comparable operating system, a webcam, speakers, and microphone.

Computer problems, power failures, server outages, etc. not directly caused by ETAMU will not be accepted as excuses for late or missed assignments or examinations. Do required assignments earlier than later. Always have a back-up plan. Handling contingencies is part of the training program. My old high school band director always said, "Results, not excuses." Smart guy.

RESEARCH REQUIREMENT

This is a graduate course. Assignments will involve reviewing and reflecting on research from current published literature and reference materials. The Noel Memorial Library at LSUS offers numerous databases (e.g., Business Source Complete, JSTOR, Medline) which allow electronic searches and to access articles remotely. If you have questions concerning library reference resources, please direct them to the Noel Memorial Library.

INSTRUCTOR

Brent W. Bost, MD, MBA, MHA, CPA, CMQ, SHRM-CSP, FACOG

Since I do not maintain a physical office on the ETAMU campus, please contact me via email at:

Brent.Bost@tamuc.edu

I am still a practicing physician and don't always have immediate access to a computer, but will make every effort to respond to your inquiries within 24 hours. **Include your full name and student ID number in all correspondence.**

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, a student will have the ability to:

1. Understand and discuss current issues regarding healthcare policy and their impact on healthcare facilities and the greater healthcare industry
2. Identify the key stakeholders in the formation of Health Policy in the US and internationally.
3. Explain how Health Policy is shaped on a macro and micro level.
4. Define and discuss how Health Policy impacts the financing and delivery of health care.
5. Identify vulnerable populations in the United States, describe the challenges they face in accessing health care and how Health Policy has tried to improve the health of these populations.
6. Explore issues facing the future of US and international Health Policy.
7. Identify and discuss key issues facing the future of US Health Policy.
8. Define Quality in Medicine and how to measure it to effect improvement.

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Student success and participation will be assessed via the following activities over the course of the seven modules:

Examinations (EX A – D; 4 exams, 10% each, for a total of 40% of the final course grade): Exams will consist of 30 – 40 multiple-choice and True-False questions. The time limit for each exam will be 90 minutes. These tests are designed to assess your working knowledge and familiarity with the course material. Hint: Do NOT leave questions blank. By guessing, you will generally have a 1:4 chance of getting it right. Hint 2: Unless you receive explicit notice to the contrary, each question has ONLY ONE correct response. Period. Moodle has occasionally been known to pose questions with “Select one or more:” DO NOT BE DECEIVED. There is only ONE RIGHT response to each question. You have been warned.

All course materials – the textbook, PowerPoint presentations (most with audio) and extra readings are fair game for exam questions. Examinations are “closed book.” More specifically, no textbooks, notes, slides, internet or smart device resources (printed or on-line) are permitted to be accessed during the exam. Additionally, there is no time allotted for breaks of any kind during the exam, therefore each examination must be completed at one sitting.

Examinations will not be given outside of the scheduled examination time to accommodate personal or work schedules. The examination window opens on Wednesday and closes on Saturday at 6 pm CENTRAL TIME. Students who plan to travel during examination periods should be certain that they have adequate internet access and required technologies to complete the examination during the prescribed period. The class is too large to allow for individual exceptions and frankly, it is unfair to the students who comply with deadlines to grant exceptions without a penalty.

Once an examination window closes, any delay in taking the exam will result in a 10-point deduction for tardiness. Once the exam is more than 3 days late (you reach Wednesday in the average week), a grade of zero will be recorded. If you miss an exam, IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY (Yes, I'm shouting). It is also your responsibility to watch diligently, e.g., 3 times a day, for communications from me after you miss an exam or other assignment so that, if excused, it can be rescheduled.

Finally, the COB at ETAMU has a “no return” policy on exams and written assignments – meaning, you will not receive feedback on specific questions after a test, just an overall grade. I don’t personally like this policy, but it IS the policy. Sorry.

Writing Assignments (3 at 10% each, for a total of 30% of the final course grade):

Writing assignments will be presented the week before they are due. Each assignment will consist of a primary post and two (2) secondary posts. ALL posts must be placed before the deadline stated in the assignment. Instructions for both the primary and secondary posts will be given with the assignment.

Late submission will result in a 10-point penalty for tardiness. If not submitted by the Friday following the submission deadline, a grade of zero will be recorded.

Project (30% of the total course grade):

The Project will be an essay of between 1,000 and 2,000 words on a current topic in healthcare administration. More details will be posted in the course.

Semester Grade Calculation

Exams	40%
Writing Assignments	30
Project	<u>30</u>
Total Grade	100%

GRADING FORMAT

A (100-90), B (89-80), C (79-70), D (69-60), F (59-0)

POLICY ON MAKE-UPS

Make-up examinations are not allowed unless the STUDENT is involved in a medical emergency that was incapacitating for the entire duration of the assignment for which the make-up is sought. Medical emergencies of friends, uber drivers, BFFs, or other individuals generally do NOT qualify. IF you think you have an exception, you may email me the details. Be prepared to provide a signed physician's excuse with contact information for verification purposes. As a practicing physician (and having shepherded four children through adolescence) I can assure you that it is highly unlikely that ANY make-up exams will be given this term. One way to avoid emergencies is to take your examinations EARLY in the exam window. (Sounds like something your Mother would have said, right?) This allows for contingencies if the proverbial "stuff" hits the fan during exam time.

POLICY on PLAIGARISM

Plagiarism is taking the work, words or ideas of others and passing them off as your own.

Plagiarism is dishonest and violates the Student Honor Code. Writing assignments are graded on many parameters, one of the most important is "originality of thought". Please keep this in mind when writing your posts. Completing an assignment using Artificial Intelligence (AI) is just another form of plagiarism is not allowed.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

This is an exclusively on-line course offered in a dyssynchronous format. Therefore, timely completion of assignments is a surrogate for attendance. Also know that the wily professor understands that many students will attempt to simply read the book and take the tests. WARNING: there may be extra PowerPoint slides at the end of a chapter beyond those supplied by the author of the textbook. Further, when there is an audio track with a slide set, there may be additional content found there that is NOT part of the author's PowerPoint slides. This stuff might be important at exam time. Just sayin'...

Student Support Resources

ETAMU provides many support resources that address not only students' academic needs but also various aspects of students' non-academic needs. Information about and website links for such resources are available on the College of Business website.

Academic Accommodations

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other related laws protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in work, educational, and other settings. Students are responsible for making their needs known and must contact the ETAMU Office of Disability Services for accommodation requests.

Title IX Protections

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 is a U.S. federal law that provides various sex-based discrimination protections under educational programs that receive federal-level financial assistance.

Such protections include, but are not limited to, pregnancy/parenting and gender-based harassment. For ETAMU's Title IX policy (PM-73) and informational brochure as well as contact information and forms for emergency and non-emergency incident reporting, visit the ETAMU Title IX webpage.

**HCL 556
SEMESTER SCHEDULE
Fall 2026**

MODULE A

Week 1 (Thurs, Aug 20 – Aug 30)

Chapter 1 Overview of Health Policy
Special Topic – The Health Policy Marketplace
Reading – Moving Policy Forward
WA-1 due by Aug 30 at 6 pm CST

Consult class announcements for any additional assignments.

EXAM A (MODULE A) Due Sunday, Aug 30 @ 6 pm Central

MODULE B

Weeks 2 and 3 (Mon, Aug 31 – Sep 13)

Chapter 2 Federal Health Policymaking
Chapter 3 Health Policymaking at State and Local levels and in the Private Sector
Special Topic – 3 Challenges to Health care reform
Special Topic – MACRA, MIPS, APMs and Other “Alphabet Soups”
WA-2 – Due Sun, Sep 13 at 6 pm CST

Consult class announcements for any additional assignments.

EXAM B (MODULE B) Due Sun, Sep 13 @ 6 pm Central

MODULE C (Mon, Sep 14 – Sep 27)
Week 4 and 5

Chapter 4 International Health Policymaking
Chapter 5 Health Policy Related to Financing and Delivery
Special Topic – AI in Healthcare: Policy Implications
WA-3 – Due Sep 27 at 6 pm CST

Consult class announcements for any additional assignments.

EXAM C (MODULE C) Due Sep 27 @ 6 pm Central

MODULE D (Mon, Sep 28 – Oct 15)
Weeks 6 and 7+

Chapter 6 Health Policy for Diverse Populations
Special Topic – Precision Medicine
Special Topic - Basics of Quality Improvement

Special Topic – Quality Measurement
Consult class announcements for any additional assignments

Project – Due Sun, Oct 4 @ pm Central)

EXAM D (MODULE D) Due Oct 15 @ 6 pm Central