

**Health Policy  
Course Syllabus  
Fall 2017**

- Course Title: UEP 209: Health Policy (cross-listed as POLS 209)
- Meeting schedule: The course will meet Monday and Wednesday from 4:05 to 5:30 in Fowler 112.
- Office hours: Office hours will be held immediately after class on Monday, from 5:30 to 6:30. Office hours are also available at other times upon request.
- Course Instructor: Corey Davis, JD, MSPH, EMT-B
- Contact Information: The best way to reach me is via email at [cdavis2@oxy.edu](mailto:cdavis2@oxy.edu). Please put "UEP 209" in the subject line.

Course Description

Why does the United States spend more on health care per person than other developed countries and still have worse health outcomes? American health care costs (including drug prices) are higher and we have a much greater use of expensive medical technology than in other countries. This course will examine the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to health care delivery and financing, including private, single-payer and universal systems. Students will analyze the impact of these approaches on access, cost, quality, and disparities. They will also examine the historical, economic, social, and political factors that have led the U.S. to adopt its current health system, how care is delivered (hospital, community clinic, Veterans Administration), analyze its strengths and weaknesses, and examine the different proposals for reforming it.

This course is intended to provide an overview of health planning, health service delivery, health policy, and health ethics, and provide students with a framework for understanding the goals, politics, and barriers to health care improvement. At the conclusion of the course, students will understand the legal basis for government regulation of health and health care, the current makeup of the American health care system, the history of health reform in the United States, how health care is delivered in other industrialized countries, and potential paths forward for the United States.

Course materials

There are two required textbooks. Both should be available at the bookstore:

- Shi and Singh, [Essentials of the U.S. Health Care System](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (ISBN 1284100553)
- Johnson, Stoskopf, and Shi, [Comparative Health Systems: A Global Perspective](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (ISBN 1284111733)

The following popular press books are also required. I haven't submitted these to the bookstore because you should be able to pick them up used for much less than the sticker price:

- Elisabeth Rosenthal, [An American Sickness](#) (ISBN 1594206759).

- T.R. Reid, [The Healing of America](#) (ISBN 0143118218)

Recommended, but not required:

- Paul Starr, [The Social Transformation of American Medicine](#). While almost 30 years old, this is still the best treatment of why the American health care system is the way it is. You should be able to pick up a used version for less than ten dollars.
- Jill Quadagno, [One Nation, Uninsured: Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance](#) (ISBN 0195160398). Another great overview of how we got where we are, also available for a few dollars used.

We will also read a number of news articles, journal articles, fact sheets, etc, as noted on this syllabus. They will either be linked from the syllabus or posted on Moodle. We will also utilize the [Constitution of the United States](#). Relevant contemporary pieces may be assigned in addition to the reading listed on the syllabus. Please sign up for Vox's daily health care newsletter, VoxCare, [here](#). The New York Times has a handy, continuously updated section of [health reform articles](#). You should peruse them weekly.

### Course Structure and Requirements

This course will utilize lecture, presentations, and in-person discussion.

Reading: Students are expected to read all assigned works prior to the week in which they'll be discussed, and be prepared to engage in informed discussion regarding those texts. Bring all assigned texts to class.

Class discussion: Discussion is an integral part of the course. Students can be expected to be called on at random, and are expected to be able to provide intelligent discussion regarding the readings, integrating their own knowledge and experience. Class participation in this manner comprises 15% of the final grade in the course.

Beginning in the second week of class, one student will be responsible for providing a 4-5 minute short summary and informed analysis of a recent publication or event regarding health care or health policy at the beginning of each class. This can be an article in the popular press, a journal article, or even a blog post or policy statement. This student is expected to provide an explanation of how this publication or event relates to health care/health care policy, with reference to the concepts and ideas we've learned to date, and utilizing outside sources as applicable.

Additionally, one student each class will be responsible for leading class discussion. This includes but is not limited to leading the class in a brief discussion that uses as its jumping-off point the article chosen by the first student. Further details will be provided.

Writing: Informed analysis delivered through written work will also be a key component of the course. There will be two larger writing assignments and two smaller writing assignments throughout the semester. Due dates are noted in the syllabus. I expect all written work product to be of high quality in both content and style. Writing assignments are as follows:

- 500-1,000 word analysis of a current event or publication. This can be but is not required to be the same event or publication you or another student has presented in class. It can be turned in any time prior to the due date listed on the syllabus, and I strongly encourage you to start and complete it early. Further detail will be provided.
- 2,500 – 3,500 word essay analyzing whether and how the health care system of one of the countries highlighted in the assigned chapters in the Johnson or Reid books might be adopted by or inform health care policy change in the United States. This should include a short description of the foreign health care system, but should focus on whether that system would work in the United States and/or how it can inform health care policy reform in America. This paper must make reference to the current US health care system as well as the political and historical realities discussed in class.
- The midterm will include short answer essay questions, and the final will be comprised of one or more longer essay questions.

All written work products are expected to have a clear thesis, contain persuasive (and correctly cited) evidence, and show independent thought and analysis.

Electronic devices: Unless you have a pressing, articulable need to be immediately available (i.e. you're an on-call medical or public safety professional or a parent with a sick child) please put all cell phones, pagers, etc. away during class time. Tablets and laptops may be used only for activities directly related to class.

#### Grading:

Points will be allocated as follows:

- Current events presentation: 5%
- Class discussion lead: 5%
- Short analysis of current event or publication: 10%
- Class participation: 15%
- Comparative health systems/health policy reform paper: 20%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final: 25%

#### Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities:

If you are a person with a disability and require accommodations to complete the course requirements, please contact me and I will make every effort to meet your needs. All discussions will remain confidential. Through providing reasonable and appropriate accommodations, assisting students with self-advocacy, providing academic support and counseling, and ensuring adherence to state and federal disability laws, the Office of Disability Services is committed to enhancing students' academic development and independence. The Office can be reached at [\(323\) 259-2969](tel:3232592969) or [accessibility@oxy.edu](mailto:accessibility@oxy.edu).

### Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to strictly adhere to the [Code of Student Conduct](#) and to maintain the highest levels of academic integrity. Students are responsible for knowing and using the correct procedures for acknowledging and identifying sources of borrowed material. Failure to properly credit sources in all or part of work presented in draft or final form to anyone is plagiarism, regardless of whether it occurs as a result of dishonest intent or carelessness and regardless of the course credit attached to it.

Unless explicitly noted otherwise, all course assignments must be completed individually. Any unsanctioned collaboration constitutes academic misconduct.

### Wellness

Emmons Wellness Center is committed to providing the students of Occidental College with accessible, culturally sensitive, and high quality medical care, psychological counseling services, and student-driven wellness education. 24/7 Confidential Hotline: [\(323\) 341-4141](tel:323-341-4141); Appointments: [\(323\) 259-2657](tel:323-259-2657); Email: [emmons@oxy.edu](mailto:emmons@oxy.edu)

### Late work and Missed Exams / Assignments:

All work is due when assigned. Any work not submitted on the date and time assigned will receive a reduction of a minimum of one letter grade unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Work will not be accepted beyond 24 hours after the due date except in extreme circumstances approved by the instructor.

Class	Topic	Reading assignment	Assignments/Activities
<b>Week 1</b> Aug. 30	Course overview, intro to health policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This syllabus</li> <li>• Shi &amp; Singh, Chapter 2</li> <li>• Johnson et al, Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 5</li> <li>• Rosenthal, Introduction</li> <li>• Reid, Prologue, Chapters 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>• Kaiser Family Foundation, <a href="#">Health of the Healthcare System: An Overview</a></li> <li>• Commonwealth Fund, <a href="#">Mirror, Mirror 2017: International comparison reflects flaws and opportunities for better US health care</a></li> <li>• Coghlan, <a href="#">US ranked worst healthcare system, while NHS is the best</a></li> <li>• Anderson et al., <a href="#">Measuring the U.S. health care system: A cross-national comparison</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Week 2</b> Sept. 6	American safety net programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shi &amp; Sing, Chapter 6, pp. 135-144</li> <li>• HHS, <a href="#">What is the difference between Medicare and Medicaid?</a></li> <li>• CBO, <a href="#">An overview of the Medicaid program</a></li> <li>• CMS, <a href="#">Brief summaries of Medicare and Medicaid</a></li> <li>• Kaiser Family Foundation: <a href="#">Medicaid, a primer</a></li> <li>• Kaiser Family Foundation, <a href="#">A primer on Medicare</a></li> <li>• Baicker et al, <a href="#">The effects of Medicaid coverage – learning from the Oregon experiment</a></li> <li>• Iglehart, <a href="#">Expanding eligibility, cutting costs – A Medicaid update</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Week 3</b> Sept. 11 & 13	Health care workforce, financing, and health care delivery I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shi &amp; Singh, Chapters 1, 4, 7-9, 12</li> <li>• Rosenthal, Chapters 1-7</li> <li>• Kaiser Family Foundation, <a href="#">How Private Health Coverage Works, A Primer</a></li> <li>• Lupkin, <a href="#">Rising cost of old drugs costs Medicaid billions</a></li> <li>• NCHS, <a href="#">Health insurance and access to care</a></li> <li>• Oberlander, <a href="#">Throwing darts: Americans' elusive search for health</a></li> </ul>	

		<p><a href="#">care cost control</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cohen et al, <a href="#">Pediatricians say Florida hurts sick kids to help big GOP donors</a></li> <li>• Institute of Medicine, <a href="#">Crossing the Quality Chasm (Summary)</a></li> <li>• Atul Gawande, <a href="#">The cost conundrum: What a Texas town can teach us about health care</a></li> <li>• Bodenheimer, <a href="#">Low-Cost lessons from Grand Junction, Colorado</a></li> <li>• Atul Gawande, <a href="#">The hot spotters</a></li> <li>• Don Berwick, <a href="#">The Triple Aim: Care, Health, and Cost</a> Health Affairs 27(3): 759-769 (2008)</li> <li>• Vox, <a href="#">Giving birth costs a lot. Hospitals won't tell you how much.</a> (video)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week 4</b> Sept. 18 &amp; 20</p>	<p>Health care financing II; Health equity &amp; social determinants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shi &amp; Singh, Chapter 11</li> <li>• Rosenthal, Chapter 8-10</li> <li>• O. Kerr, <a href="#">How to read a legal opinion</a></li> <li>• Dred Scott v. Sandford, 60 U.S. 393 (1857)</li> <li>• Rubin, <a href="#">US dead last among developed countries when it comes to paid maternity leave</a></li> <li>• Frank, <a href="#">Why luck matters more than you might think</a></li> <li>• Dubay &amp; Kenney, <a href="#">Expanding public health insurance to parents: Effect on children's coverage under Medicaid</a></li> <li>• IOM, <a href="#">Unequal treatment: Confronting racial and ethnic disparities in health care (Summary)</a></li> <li>• Healthy people 2020: <a href="#">An opportunity to address social determinants of health in the U.S.</a></li> <li>• Rachel Thornton, <a href="#">Evaluating strategies for reducing health disparities by addressing the social determinants of health</a> Health Affairs 35(8): 1416-1423 (2016)</li> <li>• Hoffman and Lillie-Blanton, <a href="#">The role of health insurance coverage in reducing racial/ethnic disparities in health care</a></li> <li>• Woolf et al, <a href="#">Where health disparities begin: The role of social and economic determinants and why current policies may make</a></li> </ul>	

		<p><a href="#">matters worse</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zlotnic et al, <a href="#">Health care for the homeless: What we have learned in the past 30 years and what's next</a> American Journal of Public Health 103(52): S199-S205 (2013)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week 5</b> Sept. 25 &amp; 27</p>	<p>Rights, duties and restrictions on gov't to protect &amp; improve health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jacobson v. Massachusetts, 197 U.S. 11 (1905)</li> <li>Deshaney v. Winnebago County, 489 U.S. 189 (1979)</li> <li>Andrew Busch, <a href="#">Is health care a right?</a></li> <li>Sullum, <a href="#">The tyranny of public health</a></li> <li>Gruskin et al., <a href="#">History, principles, and practice of health and human rights</a>, Lancet 370:449-455</li> <li>Parmet et al., <a href="#">Individual rights versus the public's health – 100 Years after Jacobson v. Massachusetts. N Engl J Med 2005;352:652-654.</a></li> <li>CDC, <a href="#">VaxView</a></li> <li>Jones and Mayer, <a href="#">Paternalism and its Discontents: Motorcycle Helmet Laws, Libertarian Values, and Public Health</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week 6</b> Oct. 2 &amp; 4</p>	<p>Public health ethics; Government duty vs. private rights in medical decision-making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Dept. of Health, 497 U.S. 261 (1990)</li> <li>Lawrence v. Texas, 539 U.S. 558 (2003)</li> <li>Gostin, <a href="#">Public health law, ethics, and human rights: Mapping the issues</a></li> <li>Kass, <a href="#">An ethics framework for public health</a></li> <li><a href="#">Public Health Law at the Federal Level (CDC Grand Rounds, December 2016)</a> (video)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Oct 4: Midterm</b></p>
<p><b>Week 7</b> Oct. 11</p>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Amendment, corporate power v. health advocacy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greathouse et al, <a href="#">Passing a smoke-free law in a pro-tobacco culture: A multiple streams approach</a></li> <li>Liptak, <a href="#">Corporations find a friend in the Supreme Court</a></li> <li>Bayer et al: <a href="#">The FDA and Graphic Cigarette-Pack Warnings – Thwarted by the Courts</a></li> <li>Parmet et al. <a href="#">Wollschlaeger v. Governor of Florida – The First Amendment, Physician Speech, and Firearm Safety</a></li> </ul>	

		<p>(Wollschlaeger 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volokh, E. <a href="#">Eleventh Circuit en bank strikes down restriction on doctors' speech to patients about guns</a>. Washington Post, February 17, 2017 (Wollschlaeger II)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week 8</b> Oct. 16 &amp; 18</p>	<p>Global health and comparative health systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johnson et al, Chapters 2-4, 6-9</li> <li>• Reid, Chapter 8</li> <li>• United Nations, <a href="#">Universal declaration of human rights</a></li> <li>• UNHRC, <a href="#">Fact Sheet 31: Right to Health</a></li> <li>• Reid, <a href="#">Five myths about health care in the rest of the world</a></li> <li>• Fried, <a href="#">Global health is public health</a></li> <li>• Kickbusch et al, <a href="#">Global health diplomacy: The need for new perspectives, strategic approaches and skills in global health</a></li> <li>• Magnusson, <a href="#">Rethinking global health challenges: Towards a global compact for reducing the burden of chronic disease</a> Public Health 123(3): 265-274 (2009)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week 9</b> Oct. 23 &amp; 25</p>	<p>Comparative health systems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johnson et al, Chapters 10-13, 24</li> <li>• Reid, Chapters 4-7</li> <li>• Campbell-Lendrum, <a href="#">Global climate change: implications for international public health policy</a></li> <li>• Kelley Lee, <a href="#">How do we move forward on the social determinants of health: the global governance challenges</a> Critical Public Health 20(1): 5-14 (2010)</li> <li>• Squires, <a href="#">The U.S. health system in perspective: A comparison of twelve industrialized nations</a></li> </ul>	
<p><b>Week 10</b> Oct. 30 &amp; Nov. 1</p>	<p>Historical context of US health care &amp; health care policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shi &amp; Singh, Chapter 3</li> <li>• Optional: Quadagno</li> <li>• Optional: Starr</li> <li>• PBS, <a href="#">Obama's Deal (56 minute video, required)</a></li> <li>• John Oberlander, <a href="#">A Century of Health Care Reform in the United States</a></li> </ul>	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karen Palmer, <a href="#">A brief history: Universal Health Care Efforts in the United States</a></li> <li>• Kaiser Family Foundation, <a href="#">National health insurance: A brief history of reform efforts in the U.S.</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Week 11</b> Nov. 6 & 8	California safety net programs, health reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hart, <a href="#">The price tag on universal health care is in, and it's bigger than California's budget</a></li> <li>• Dayen, <a href="#">The coalition pushing for single payer in California is fracturing</a></li> </ul>	<b>Nov. 6: Guest speaker:</b> Cori Racela, Senior Attorney, Western Center on Law & Poverty
<b>Week 12</b> Nov. 13 & 15	Health care reform: Affordable Care Act and its discontents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shi &amp; Singh, Chapter 6, pp. 145-163</li> <li>• Rosenthal, Chapter 11</li> <li>• KFF, <a href="#">Health reform quiz</a></li> <li>• KFF, <a href="#">Health care reform: a retrospective tutorial</a> (video)</li> <li>• NFIB v. Sebelius, 132 S.Ct. 2566 (2012)</li> <li>• Dreier, <a href="#">Lessons from the Health-Care Wars</a></li> <li>• Dreier, <a href="#">Pass the health care bill, then improve it</a></li> <li>• Kaiser Family Foundation, <a href="#">Summary of the Affordable Care Act</a></li> <li>• Kaiser Family Foundation, <a href="#">A Guide to the Supreme Court's Affordable Care Act decision</a></li> <li>• Lemieux, <a href="#">How the Supreme Court screwed Obamacare</a></li> </ul>	<b>Nov. 15: Short analysis paper due</b>
<b>Week 13</b> Nov. 20	Health care reform II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KFF, <a href="#">Health reform infographics</a> (peruse)</li> <li>• Chait, <a href="#">Trumpcare is the culmination of all the GOP's health care lies</a></li> <li>• Scher, <a href="#">How Democrats won the health care war</a></li> <li>• Davis and Somers, <a href="#">National Health Care Reform and the Public's Health.</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Week 14</b> Nov. 27 & 29	Health care reform: What's next?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shi &amp; Singh, Chapter 14</li> <li>• Barack Obama, <a href="#">US Health Care Reform: Progress to Date and Next Steps</a></li> <li>• Kliff, <a href="#">Top Democratic, Republican health experts agree on this</a></li> </ul>	

		<p><a href="#">plan to fix Obamacare</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anderson et al, <a href="#">Making the exchanges more competitive by bringing Medicare into the fold</a></li> <li>• Holland, <a href="#">Medicare for All isn't the solution for universal health care</a></li> <li>• Krugman, <a href="#">What's next for progressives?</a></li> </ul>	<b>Nov. 27: Final paper due</b>
<b>Week 15</b> Dec. 4	Health policy impact and analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johnson et. al, Chapter 3</li> <li>• Cole et al, <a href="#">Health Impact Assessment: A tool to help policy makers understand health beyond health care</a></li> <li>• Brownson et al, <a href="#">Understanding Evidence-Based Public Health Policy</a></li> </ul> <p>Iglehart, <a href="#">The political fight over comparative effectiveness research</a></p>	
<b>Week 16</b>	Final Exam		

Because a) this is the first time this course is being offered and b) important events related to health care and health policy are likely to occur during the semester, this syllabus is likely to change. Any modifications will be communicated to students as soon as possible.

This syllabus was last modified August 23, 2017.