

**Health Policy
Course Syllabus
Fall 2018**

- Course Title: UEP 209: Health Policy
- Meeting schedule: The course will meet Monday and Wednesday from 4:05 to 5:30 in Fowler 309.
- 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. Please put "UEP 209" in the subject line. I'm also on Twitter at [@coreysdavis](https://twitter.com/coreysdavis).

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 one required book for the course:

- Bradley and Taylor, [The American Healthcare Paradox: Why Spending More is Getting Us Less](#)

Another book is recommended but not required:

- Johnson, Stoskopf, and Shi, [Comparative Health Systems: A Global Perspective](#), 2nd Edition (ISBN 1284111733)

We will also read a number of news articles, journal articles, fact sheets, and cases 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](#). Unless otherwise noted, please use the abridged cases posted on Moodle, not the full text of cases that might be available online (of course, you're welcome to read the full cases as well if you wish). I also recommend Vox's daily health care newsletter, VoxCare, which you can sign up for [here](#).

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 class 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. There will also be several in-class group-based activities in which students are expected to substantially contribute their knowledge and expertise.

Beginning in the second week of class, one student will be responsible for providing a short (~5-8 minute) 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, a blog post, online video, policy statement, etc. It can be but is not required to be one of the articles listed under the "Further Reading" section for the week.

This student should email the relevant article, video, etc. to me 36 hours before it will be presented. During class, the student is expected to provide an explanation of how this publication or event relates to health care/health care policy/social determinant of health, with reference to the concepts and ideas we've learned to date, and utilizing outside sources as applicable. A different student will be responsible for asking followup questions regarding the chosen reading and facilitating class discussion. This student will be my "go-to" for answering questions about the assigned reading as well.

Additionally, there will be a graded group presentation regarding comparative health systems. More detail will be provided on this project, which will be 15% of your grade.

Writing: Informed analysis delivered through written work will also be a key component of the course. There will be two writing assignments, and both the midterm and final will contain writing components. Writing assignments are as follows:

1. An important skill for anyone interested in working in the policy field is the ability to summarize complex issues and to articulate concise arguments. To show your competence with this skill, you will submit a brief (~1,000 word) analysis of a current event or publication with relevance to health policy or health care reform. This analytical document should briefly summarize the current event or publication and discuss its relevance to health policy, either in the United States or abroad. It should also include your recommendations and/or informed perspective on the issue discussed. Outside references are permitted but not required.

This assignment can be turned in any time prior to October 15, but I encourage you to start and complete it early.

2. One of the goals of this course is to gain an understanding of the health care systems in other countries, to understand how and why they differ from the American system, and to examine what lessons they might hold for America. To demonstrate your competence in these areas, you will submit a 2,000 – 2,500 word essay analyzing whether and how the health care system of another country might be adopted by or inform health care policy change in the United States. This country may be but need not be one of the countries that we discussed in class.

In this paper, you will be expected to briefly a) present an overview of how healthcare is funded and delivered in your chosen country; b) explain the health care system's major actors and institutions; and c) present the perspective of a group in the country that has limited healthcare access and what the primary barriers are to care for that group. The paper should then provide a reasoned opinion as to whether the system of the country you've chosen would work in the United States and/or how it can inform health care policy reform in America, with emphasis on individuals and groups that are currently under-served by the American health care system.

This paper must make reference to the current US health care system as well as the political and historical realities discussed in class. It will be evaluated on the clarity and quality of the writing, the reasoned perspective you bring to the topic, and your recommendations or policy suggestions. Where relevant, you may integrate ideas and concepts from the group work, but the final product must be solely your own work. Outside sources are required and should be cited using the APA style. This paper is due Nov. 19.

All written work products should be single spaced in twelve-point font. They are expected to have a clear thesis, contain persuasive (and correctly cited) evidence, and show independent thought and analysis. Sources should be cited using APA style. Please email me an electronic copy of these papers and bring a printed copy to class.

Exams

There will be three quizzes, a midterm and a final. The exams will cover the readings as well as class discussions. Make-up exams will not be given except in the case of emergencies. The examinations will test key concepts learned in the course, your knowledge of the assigned readings, and your ability to summarize the policy relevance of complex global health issues. The midterm may consist of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions. The final exam will comprise a combination of short answer and short paragraph response questions.

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 and discussion lead: 5%
- Quiz 1: 5%
- Quiz 2: 5%
- Quiz 3: 5%
- Group comparative country presentation: 15%
- Short analysis of current event or publication: 10%
- Comparative health systems/health policy reform paper: 15%
- Midterm: 20%
- Final: 20%

Extra Credit:

There are a large number of high-quality popular books on American health care and health policy. If you desire, you are invited to read one or two of the below books and submit a paper summarizing and analyzing the text. This paper should be between 2,000 and 2,500 words in length, and should briefly summarize the key points of the text and then spend the majority of the piece placing the information you learned in the context of our class discussions and your own experiences. I'm not looking for a book report (I've read the books!); I'm interested in your analysis, ideas, etc. The eligible books are:

- Steven Brill, [America's Bitter Pill: Money, Politics, Backroom Deals, and the Fight to Fix our Broken Healthcare System](#)
- Ezekiel Emanuel, [Reinventing American Health Care](#)
- Jill Quadagno, [One Nation, Uninsured: Why the U.S. Has No National Health Insurance](#). Another great overview of how we got where we are, available for a few dollars used.
- T.R. Reid, [The Healing of America](#)
- Elisabeth Rosenthal, [An American Sickness](#)
- 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.

The first submitted paper will earn between one and five points added to the midterm exam. If you choose to submit two papers, the second will earn between one and five points added to the final exam. These papers can be submitted at any time but must be submitted on or before Nov. 19.

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:(323)259-2969) or 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:3233414141); Appointments: [\(323\) 259-2657](tel:3232592657); Email: 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
Week 1 Aug. 29	Course overview, introduction to American health care system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This syllabus • Kaiser Family Foundation, Health of the Healthcare System: An Overview • Anderson et al., Measuring the U.S. health care system: A cross-national comparison • Bradley & Taylor, Chapter 1 <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCHS, Health insurance and access to care • Commonwealth Fund, Mirror, Mirror 2017: International comparison reflects flaws and opportunities for better US health care 	
Week 2 Sept. 5	Introduction to health law and policy	<p>Sept. 3 No class (Labor Day)</p> <p>Sept. 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradley & Taylor, Chapter 2 • Johnson et al, Chapters 1 & 5 <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McGinley, Childhood cancer survivors face ‘financial toxicity’ 	
Week 3 Sept. 10 & 12	Health equity, social determinants, and the role of law and policy	<p>Sept. 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woolf et al, Where health disparities begin: The role of social and economic determinants and why current policies may make matters worse • IOM, Unequal treatment: Confronting racial and ethnic disparities in health care (Summary, pp. 1-23) • O. Kerr, How to read a legal opinion <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pazzaneze, The costs of inequality: Increasingly, it’s the rich and the rest of us 	<p>Sept. 10 Present: EvaMarie David</p> <p>Lead discussion: Keaton Schiffman</p> <p>Sept. 12 Present: Zoe Spearman, Megan Chichester</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harris, How childhood trauma affects health across a lifetime (TEDMED) • Pletcher, Trends in opioid prescribing by race/ethnicity for patients seeking care in US emergency departments • Chatterjee, Kids who suffer hunger in first years lag behind their peers in school • Seirawan, The impact of oral health on the academic performance of disadvantaged children • Rubin, US dead last among developed countries when it comes to paid maternity leave <p>Sept. 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hip Hughes, The Dred Scott Decision Explained (video) • Hoffman and Lillie-Blanton, The role of health insurance coverage in reducing racial/ethnic disparities in health care • Kristof, The way to beat poverty <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dred Scott v. Sandford, 60 U.S. 393 (1857) (redacted version on Moodle) • Csete et al., Public health and international drug policy (read executive summary and review graphics) • Josette Sheeran: Ending Hunger Now-TEDGlobal (video) • Landmark cases: Dred Scott (Podcast) • Williams, For native American women, scourge of rape, rare justice 	<p>Lead discussion: EvaMarie David</p>
<p>Week 4 Sept. 17 & 19</p>	<p>Healthcare delivery: Medicare and Medicaid</p>	<p>Sept. 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bradley & Taylor, Chapter 3 • HHS, What is the difference between Medicare and Medicaid? • CMS, Brief summaries of Medicare and Medicaid (skim pp. 8-34) <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaiser Family Foundation, A primer on Medicare 	<p>Sept. 17 Present: Jon Ekberg, Zoe Edwards</p> <p>Lead discussion: Nora Fujita-Yuhas, Lilah Abrams</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicare and Medicaid at 50 (video) <p>Sept. 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CBO, An overview of the Medicaid program Baicker et al, The effects of Medicaid coverage – learning from the Oregon experiment <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vox, Medicaid, explained Dubay & Kenney, Expanding public health insurance to parents: Effect on children’s coverage under Medicaid Kaiser Family Foundation: Medicaid, a primer Kodjak, From Birth to Death, Medicaid Affects the Lives of Millions 	<p>Sept. 19 Present: Jane Wright</p> <p>Lead discussion: Jon Ekberg</p> <p>Quiz 1</p>
<p>Week 5 Sept. 24 & 26</p>	<p>California healthcare access</p>	<p>Sept. 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest speaker: Cori Racela, Senior Attorney, Western Center on Law & Poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to care for underserved individuals in California <p>Sept. 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaiser Family Foundation, How Private Health Coverage Works, A Primer 	<p>Sept. 26 Present: Nora Fujita-Yuhas (2) (3)</p> <p>Lead discussion: Megan Chichester, Amy Bell</p>
<p>Week 6 Oct. 1</p>	<p>Reproductive health and reproductive justice</p>	<p>Oct. 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rescheduled <p>Oct. 3 Guest Speaker: Fabiola Carrion, Senior Staff Attorney, National Health Law Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reproductive health and reproductive justice in the United States Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, A new vision for advancing our movement for reproductive health, reproductive rights, and reproductive justice 	<p>Oct. 1</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine: The Safety and Quality of Abortion Care in the United States Rewire (browse) 	
Week 7 Oct. 10	Healthcare delivery: CHIP, Medicare Part D, private insurance	Oct. 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No class (fall break) Oct. 10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MACPAC, Children’s Health Insurance Program Fact Sheet Rosenthal, Apprehensive, many doctors shift to jobs with salaries Midterm review 	Oct. 10 Present: Cole Warner , Edgar Dixon Lead discussion: Hannah Fishbein, Cole Warner
Week 8 Oct. 15 & 17	Health care financing, cost and quality	Oct. 15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midterm Oct. 17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bradley & Taylor, Chapter 6 Don Berwick, The Triple Aim: Care, Health, and Cost Carroll, The “Iron Triangle” of health care: Access, cost, and quality Atul Gawande, The cost conundrum: What a Texas town can teach us about health care Bodenheimer, Low-Cost lessons from Grand Junction, Colorado Further reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frakt, Hidden from view: The astonishingly high administrative costs of U.S. health care Institute of Medicine, Crossing the Quality Chasm (Summary) Mehrotra, I’m the perfect person to price shop for an operation. But the process went terribly Vox, Giving birth costs a lot. Hospitals won’t tell you how much. (video) Oberlander, Throwing darts: Americans’ elusive search for health 	Oct. 15 Present: Emily Liang , McKenna Sims Lead discussion: McKenna Sims, Emily Liang First paper due Midterm Oct. 17 Present: Gabriela Elliott, Lilah Abrams Lead discussion: Maryam Ali

		<p>care cost control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Melnick, Blame Emergency Rooms for the Out-of-Control Cost of Health Care 	
<p>Week 9 Oct. 22 & 24</p>	<p>Rights, duties and restrictions on gov't to protect & improve health</p>	<p>Oct. 22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bradley & Taylor, Chapter 5 Jacobson v. Massachusetts, 197 U.S. 11 (1905) Prince v. Massachusetts, 321 U.S. 158 (1944) Parment et al., Individual rights versus the public's health – 100 Years after Jacobson v. Massachusetts. Andrew Busch, Is health care a right? <p>Oct. 24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jones and Mayer, Paternalism and its Discontents: Motorcycle Helmet Laws, Libertarian Values, and Public Health Sullum, The tyranny of public health Deshaney v. Winnebago County, 489 U.S. 189 (1979) <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC, VaxView Greenberg, In jail, pads and tampons as bargaining chips Gruskin et al., History, principles, and practice of health and human rights CT court rules against teen who doesn't want chemo (video) 	<p>Oct. 22 Present: Amy Bell, Hannah Fishbein</p> <p>Lead discussion: Jane Wright, Isabella McShane</p> <p>Oct. 24 Present: Brenda Duran-Jiminez</p> <p>Lead discussion: Gabriela Elliott</p> <p>Quiz 2</p>
<p>Week 10 Oct. 29 & 31</p>	<p>Health care reform</p>	<p>Oct. 29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Johnson et al, Chapters 5 & 6 Starr, What happened to health care reform? (re: Clinton-era reform efforts) John Oberlander, A Century of Health Care Reform in the United States (2012) <p>Further reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Palmer, A brief history: Universal Health Care Efforts in the 	<p>Oct. 29 Present: Robert Feign</p> <p>Lead discussion: Edgar Dixon</p> <p>Oct. 31 Present: Evie Pope Lead discussion: Emma Burrows, Robert Feign</p>

		<p>United States</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaiser Family Foundation, National health insurance: A brief history of reform efforts in the U.S. <p>Oct. 31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFIB v. Sebelius, 132 S.Ct. 2566 (2012) Kaiser Family Foundation, Summary of the Affordable Care Act Kaiser Family Foundation, A Guide to the Supreme Court's Affordable Care Act decision <p>Further reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lemieux, How the Supreme Court screwed Obamacare KFF, Health reform infographics (peruse) KFF, Health care reform: a retrospective tutorial (video) KFF, Health reform quiz Scher, How Democrats won the health care war Oberlander, Implementing the Affordable Care Act Brown, The elements of surprise: How reform happened Cohn, How they did it PBS, Obama's Deal (56 minute video) 	
<p>Week 11 Nov. 5 & 7</p>	<p>1st Amendment, corporate power v. health advocacy</p>	<p>Nov. 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of ACA discussion <p>Nov. 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Parmet, et al.</i> The Curious Case of the Docs vs. the Glockes (Wollschlaeger I) Volokh, E. Eleventh Circuit en bank strikes down restriction on doctors' speech to patients about guns. (Wollschlaeger II) Liptak, Corporations find a friend in the Supreme Court <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hodge, J. Doctors, Patients, Guns, and the Public Health: 	<p>Nov. 5 Present: Isabella McShane</p> <p>Lead discussion: Brenda Duran-Jimenez</p> <p>Nov. 7 Present: Emma Burrows</p> <p>Lead discussion: Evie Pope</p>

		Wollschlaeger II	Quiz 3
Week 12 Nov. 12 & 14	Global Health and Comparative health systems: Introduction	<p>Nov. 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group work – Comparative health systems <p>Nov. 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bradley & Taylor, Chapter 4 Johnson et al, Chapters 2 & 3 Squires, The U.S. health system in perspective: A comparison of twelve industrialized nations Reid, Five myths about health care in the rest of the world Commonwealth Fund, Taking the pulse of health care systems Coghlan, US ranked worst healthcare system, while NHS is the best <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frontline, Sick around the world (video) Andrews, Getting up close and personal with emergency care, Canadian style UNHRC, Fact Sheet 31: Right to Health Kelley Lee, How do we move forward on the social determinants of health: the global governance challenges 	<p>Nov. 14 Present: Maryam Ali</p> <p>Lead discussion: Zoe Edwards</p>
Week 13 Nov. 19	Comparative health systems / 1 st Amendment wrapup	<p>Nov. 19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bayer et al: The FDA and Graphic Cigarette-Pack Warnings – Thwarted by the Courts <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welch, Why I prefer French health care Rodwin, The health care system under French national health insurance: Lessons for health reform in the United States Harden, Japan’s health care system has many advantages, but 	<p>Nov. 19 Comparative health systems paper due</p> <p>Last day to submit extra credit paper(s)</p>

		<p>may not be sustainable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ikegami, In Japan, all-payer rate setting under tight government control has proved to be an effective approach to containing costs • Sick around the world: United Kingdom • Commonwealth Fund, International profiles of health care systems: England (pp. 49-59) • Commonwealth Fund, International profiles of health care systems: France (pp. 59-69) • PubMed Health, Health care in Germany: The German health care system • Tatara et al., Japan health system review <p>Nov. 21 No class (Thanksgiving break)</p>	
Week 14 Nov. 26 & 28	Global Health & Comparative health systems: Student presentations	<p>Nov. 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global health presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group 1: Uruguay ○ Group 2: Nigeria <p>Nov. 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global health presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Group 3: Cuba ○ Group 4: Switzerland • Course review, reflections 	
Week 15 Dec. 3	American Drug policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest speaker: Peter Davidson, UCSD School of Medicine • Illicit drug policy and the health of people who use drugs 	
FINAL EXAM Dec. 14, 1-4PM	Comprehensive exam		

Because 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 September November 15, 2018.