

## **SYLLABUS**

*Spring Semester, January 23, 2023 – May 12, 2023*

**Department/Program:** Public Health, Minor  
**Course Title & Number:** PUBH/UEP 209: Health Policy (4 units)  
**Days and Times:** Wednesdays, 7:15pm-10:15pm  
**Course Dates:** Mon, 1/23/2023 – Fri, 5/12/2023  
**Course Location:** [TBD]

**Course Instructor:** Alicia O. Carranza, MPH, MCHES®, NBC-HWC, CTSS, DrPH(c)  
**Contact Information:** [carranzaa@oxy.edu](mailto:carranzaa@oxy.edu)

**Office Hours:** Office hours will be held every Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm.  
Students can also schedule an appointment by contacting me by email or speaking with me before or after class.

### **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

## **Course Website**

<https://moodle.oxy.edu/course/view.php?id=37746>

## **Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the process of enacting healthy policy in the United States, including the role of legislators, government agencies, judges, community-based organizations, corporations, and individuals.
2. Understand the unique and diverse organizational structures of the U.S. Health Care system and how it impacts access to and quality of care.
3. Analyze the impact of policies on individual and population health.
4. Explain strengths, weaknesses and feasibility of policy approaches that aim to promote health, prevent disease, and improve health services delivery.
5. Frame and analyze complex health policy challenges, synthesize, and effectively communicate ideas through written and oral work.
6. Explain the organization of the health care system, including principles and examples of health insurance and health care finance.
7. Identify the interplay between social determinants of health and health policy.

## **Course materials:**

### *Required*

Sara E. Wilensky and Teitelbaum, Joel B., *Essentials of Health Policy and Law*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett Learning.

(<https://www.amazon.com/Essentials-Health-Policy-Joel-Teitelbaum/dp/1284151581?asin=1284151581&revisionId=&format=4&depth=1>)

- We will also read several news articles, journal articles, fact sheets, and cases as noted on the syllabus. They will either be linked from the syllabus or posted on Moodle.

## **Course Structure and Requirements**

This course will utilize lecture, discussions, in-class activities, and videos.

Instructors' Evaluation ( E Ó <

2. Student engagement and contributions to in-class discussions, online discussion threads (where applicable), team projects, and individual activities. Our goal is to assess student comprehension, and the ability to demonstrate appropriate applications and integration of essential course content. Each student will gain a better understanding of building healthy systems when he or she reads all the assigned readings prior to class and is prepared to participate actively in specified activities during each class session.
3. Assignments, In-class Activities, and Participation in Online Discussions. Each student will be required to seek ways to demonstrate active engagement during each module, and to respond to input from the instructor and other students in the course. The instructor will monitor this interaction and student participation will be noted as part of the engagement portion of the grade.
4. Deliverables. Each student must complete and submit all written assignments on the dates due. Late assignments will be penalized unless a prior legitimate excuse is provided in advance of the class.
5. Intellectual integrity. Each student must adhere to the highest ethical standards for academic conduct. This topic is addressed in detail under the course syllabus “Occidental College Policies” section entitled “Statement of the Shared Academic Integrity Commitment.”

### **Reading:**

Students are expected to read all assigned texts prior to the class in which they’ll be discussed and be prepared to engage in informed discussions regarding those texts. The breakdown of the reading assignments is found later in the syllabus in the **Course Summary Table**.

### **Discussions (20%):**

Participation is expected as the work that we do in class is critical to your understanding of the material and you will be giving feedback to your peers on many occasions. Discussion and small group activities, in class and online, supply the opportunity for you to demonstrate your learning and put it into practice and allow me the opportunity to assess whether you are grasping the relevant concepts. However, if there is a medical issue or family emergency, please let me know; I recognize that other life issues can sometimes arise unexpectedly. If you must miss class due to an official Oxy event, or due to reasons of faith or conscience, please let me know as early in the semester as possible.

Students must be prepared to comment on readings as they relate to the lecture and present an informed viewpoint on issues arising in discussion. 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.



**Health Policy Project (20%):**

The health policy project for the semester is to apply all that you have learned to develop a health policy analysis of a health problem of your choice. You will write a policy analysis of a current health issue proposing at least two options. This document should briefly summarize the current issue and discuss its relevance to health policy, either in the United States or abroad. You should also discuss your recommendations and/or informed perspective on the issue.

The analysis must include the following sections as outlined in p. 312 of the required textbook.

1. Problem Identification
- 2.

**Extra Credit (up to 3%):**

**There will be two (2) extra credit opportunities available for the entire semester. Both are due by or before May 7, 2023 at 11:59pm.**

Extra credit #1 – 1.5%

As you will learn, advocacy is critical to health policy. Pi0Phk 4(achea)lh apo icy] TJETQq0.00000912 0 612 7



## **Student Workload**

Based on 10 to 11 contact hours per quarter for 1 lecture unit, a minimum of 30 contact hours per quarter for 1 lab unit, and at least three hours each week per unit of credit of outside preparation is expected for graduate students.

Please note the following on response times:

1. Announcements will be posted on Moodle

2. Keep in mind, the homework assignment, project, or exam will be re-graded in its entirety, and there is a possibility that other errors will be found that had previously been overlooked. A request for a re-grade may thus result in a lower score, not just a higher score.

### **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 away during class time. Tablets and laptops may be used only for activities directly related to class.

### **Course Evaluation Feedback**

We have a system in place to elicit student feedback. We want to urge you to participate in the midterm course evaluation. The instructor will receive de-identified results that can be used in developing plans to address any apparent deficiencies. You will have another opportunity to contribute with the end of term course evaluation. Please work with us to continue strengthening our curriculum and teaching quality

### **Civility in Discourse**

Please respect each person and the ideas they bring to class.

Please abide by the rules of netiquette and display professionalism, at all times, whether you agree with someone's point of view or not. Please see page 15 under '**Professionalism**' for more information.

### **Course Summary Table**

#	Lecture Date	Topic/Course Element & Details	Assignment Due Date
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Course overview

1 1/25/2023

3 2/8/2023 Law and the Legal System (Ch. 3)

12	4/12/2023	Guest Speakers: Truth Initiative ( <i>Tentative</i> ) TBD	
13	4/19/2023	Healthcare Quality Policy and Law (Ch. 12) Healthcare for special populations (children, disabled, elderly, mentally ill) Aging and long-term care	Online discussion 5 4/23/2023 by 11:59 pm
14	4/26/2023	Disability and Policy Issues	Health Policy Analysis 4/26/2023 by 11:59 pm
15	5/3/2023	Organizational Policies & Health	
16	5/8-5/12	Comprehensive Exam	Final Exam 5/10/2023 at 7:15 pm

***\*Please note: This course summary, and syllabus, are***

that they have not cheated, plagiarized, fabricated, or falsified information; nor assisted others in these actions.

Link to Student Handbook (which includes the framing of the commitment, definitions of Academic Ethics, and Process for alleged violations of the commitment)

### **Title IX statement, and statement of role of faculty member as a mandatory reporter**

In the event that you choose to write or speak about having experienced sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual exploitation or any other form of sexual and/or gender-based harassment, as a designated Responsible Employee, I must notify the Title IX Office. They will contact you to let you know about accommodations and support services at Oxy and reporting options both on and off-campus. You have no obligation to respond to the Title IX Office or to meet with them to discuss support services and reporting options.

If you do not want the Title IX Office notified, instead of disclosing this information to your instructor, either through conversation or a class assignment, you can speak confidentially with the following people on campus:

Oxy's Survivor Advocate, Project SAFE (survivoradvocate@oxy.edu)

Emmons Counseling (For appointments, call: 323-259-2657)

Rev. Dr. Susan Young, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life (young@oxy.edu)

The sexual misconduct policy, along with additional resources, can be found at: <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>. If you would like to contact the Title IX Office directly, you can email Title IX Coordinator Alexandra Fulcher at [afulcher@oxy.edu](mailto:afulcher@oxy.edu) or call 323-259-1338.

be excused from class for reasons of faith and conscience without academic consequence. While it is not feasible to schedule coursework around all days of conviction for a class as a whole, faculty will honor requests from individual students to reschedule coursework, to be absent from classes that conflict with the identified days. Information about this process is available on the **ORSL** website: <https://www.oxy.edu/office-religious-spiritual-life>

### **STUDENT RESOURCES AND SUPPORT**

**Emmons Wellness Center:** Your health and well-being impacts your learning and academic success. Symptoms such as anxiety, depression, loss of motivation, difficulty concentrating, strained relationships, and feelings of not belonging can occur. Emmons Counseling staff are committed to supporting the mental health needs of our students. Due to the nature of our work and the safety for all, Emmons counseling services will continue via teletherapy. Emmons will provide ongoing individual therapy, walk-ins, support groups and consultations through a virtual platform. Emmons staff will also support students with finding local therapy referrals. In case of an emergency or a crisis, there will be counselors onsite to assist the Oxy community. All students continue to have access to the 24/7 confidential hotline at (323) 341-4141. To get connected to any of the free, confidential services at Emmons call (323) 259-2657 or schedule an appointment online at <https://myhealth.oxy.edu> using your Oxy login credentials.

Emmons Wellness Center provides students with accessible, culturally sensitive, and high quality medical care, psychological counseling serviT0Y12 0 612 792 p0 G[(quality m)-3(ed)7t TJr re2 792 /F3

<https://www.oxy.edu/civil-rights-title-ix/sexual-respect-title-ix>

**Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation:** A policy that seeks to maintain an environment of mutual respect among all members of our community, reflecting the College's institutional values and expectations.

<https://www.oxy.edu/student-life/student-affairs/discrimination-harassment-retaliation>

**Advising Center:** Helping students navigate Core Program requirements and their academic  
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contact for course-related material, you will need to log into Moodle regularly. Your instructor will outline expectations for participation and modes of communication for the course as outlined above.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all required contact elements in a course. Attendance is required to attain the course objectives. Absences in excess of 15 percent may be sufficient cause for a failing or unsatisfactory grade to be recorded.

### **Professionalism**

NETIQUETTE: Please remember good Netiquette. In the online environment, we do not see the body language and tone of voice that accompanies responses and postings, so it is important to be mindful of your posts. Here are some tips:

Use Greetings; address your responses to individuals or the group.

When Unsure Don't Capitalize; only capitalize a word or phrase to emphasize it; capitalizing words generally means that you are shouting.

Discussion Boards; check the discussion board frequently and respond appropriately and in a timely manner. Remember, everyone has demanding schedules and many people need to plan ahead and cannot go to Canvas and respond in the discussion at the end of the week.

Headings; use appropriate Headings;

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

**Links to Student Academic Support Resources:**

The College has a wide range of Student Academic Support Resources. If you'd like to take advantage of the College's Academic Coaching resource, which offers one-on-one sessions fo.86 Ttvs612 71 offers one

<https://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/general-college-policies/discrimination-harassment-and-retaliation>

I strive to foster an inclusive classroom environment. Consistent with College policy on discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, I seek to maintain an environment of mutual respect among all members of our community. Please come to me with any concerns.

### **Land Acknowledgement**

Occidental College occupies the traditional territory and homelands of the Tongva people. Please click through to read more about the Gabrielino-Tongva tribe and about the practice of land acknowledgement.