

SPL 509: Health Policy & Politics



The Sick Child (1907), Edvard Munch

Instructor: Volkan Yılmaz
Fall 2018, Tuesdays btw. 14:00-17:00
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Course overview

This is a master's level social science course on health policy and politics. This course introduces students to the study of and current debates surrounding healthcare policies and politics including the political and historical foundations of public health and health care policies; comparative health care systems and their major components: healthcare financing, delivery and regulation; global health governance, mental health policies, sexual and reproductive health policies and finally the contemporary politics of health and health care. No disciplinary background except pursuing a master's degree in social sciences is required.

The organization of classes

I will lecture around 40-50 minutes at the beginning of the class to set the scene. After Q & A session following the lecture, we will give a short break. After the break, we will have a discussion session where each student is expected to contribute. Discussions will be based upon questions that you will come up with after engaging with assigned readings.

Requirements

I expect you to **read each week's assignments** before the class and to engage each week's readings in written form prior to classes. I call these written engagements with the assigned readings "**memos**". Memos should be written on at least **one of the assigned readings** of each week. In these memos, I expect you to summarize the main argument of the reading, write what you find most thought-provoking (including criticisms and/or appraisals) and come up with a discussion question that you would like to discuss in the class. The average length of these memos should be around 500 words only (around one A4 page with single-space). Please note that longer memos are not better memos. I expect you to send

them to me by email until each Saturday night (12:00 at the latest). **Fulfilling these three requirements (reading and writing) on time is key to ensure the quality of class discussions.** Late memos are not accepted, as they will not be useful in facilitating class discussion anymore. Even if you will not be attending one particular class for some reason, you are still expected to hand in a memo on time. Failing to hand in memos will affect your grade. I will read these memos, but will not grade them for “quality”. Memos will constitute 45 percent of your final grade (5 points for each of the 9 memos in total).

Class participation (not attendance, but participation to discussions) will constitute 15 percent of your final grade. You are also expected to attend all four Social Policy seminars on health inequalities organized by the Social Policy Forum and in collaboration with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute.

The term paper will constitute 40 percent of your final grade. All students are expected to write a term paper related to the topics covered in this course. All students should discuss their final paper topics with me and are expected to prepare a 2-3 page long final paper proposal with a list of empirical sources that they will cover and a bibliography by Dec 11. Papers are due Jan 8. Average expected length of papers will be 5000 words.

Grading scale: 90-100: AA; 80-89 BA; 75-79 BB; 70-74 CB; 65-69 CC; 60-64 DC; 55-59 DD; 50-54 F; 49-0

Reading List

Sep 25	Introduction
Oct 2	<p>The history of public health</p> <p>Compulsory: Rosen, George. (1993). <i>A History of Public Health</i>. Chapter VI: Industrialism and the Sanitary Movement (1830-1875), Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 168-269.</p>
Oct 9	<p>Social determinants of health</p> <p>Compulsory: Dorling, Danny. (2013). <i>Unequal health: The scandal of our times</i>. Policy Press.</p> <p>Recommended: Marmot, Michael. (2005). "Social determinants of health inequalities." <i>The Lancet</i> 365.9464: 1099-1104.</p> <p>Wilkinson, Richard G., and Michael Marmot. (2003). <i>Social determinants of health: the solid facts</i>. World Health Organization, 1-29.</p>

<p>Oct 16</p>	<p>The ideational foundations of health care systems</p> <p>Compulsory (all): Beveridge, William. (2000). "Social insurance and allied services." <i>Bulletin of the World Health Organization</i> 78.6: 847-855.</p> <p>Saltman, Richard B., and Hans FW Dubois. (2004). "The historical and social base of social health insurance systems." In (eds.) Saltman, Richard, Ana Rico, and Wienke Boerma. <i>Social health insurance systems in western Europe</i>. London: Open University Press: 21-32.</p> <p>Arrow, Kenneth Joseph. (2001). "Uncertainty and the welfare economics of medical care (American Economic Review, 1963)." <i>Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law</i> 26.5 (2001): 851-883.</p>
<p>Oct 23</p>	<p>Film screening: The Waiting Room (Director: Peter Nicks)</p>
<p>Oct 30</p>	<p>Health care under transformation</p> <p>Compulsory: Le Grand, Julian. "Quasi-markets and social policy." <i>The Economic Journal</i> 101.408 (1991): 1256-1267.</p> <p>Saltman, R. B. (2002). Regulating incentives: the past and present role of the state in health care systems. <i>Social Science & Medicine</i>, 54(11), 1677-1684.</p> <p>Recommended: Akin, John S., Nancy Birdsall, and David M. De Ferranti. <i>Financing health services in developing countries: an agenda for reform</i>. Vol. 34. World Bank Publications, 1987, 1-50.</p>
<p>Oct 31</p>	<p>Danny Dorling @ Boğaziçi</p>
<p>Nov 6</p>	<p>No class</p>
<p>Nov 13</p>	<p>Health promotion</p> <p>Compulsory (both): Mackenbach, Johan. (2012). The persistence of health inequalities in modern welfare states: the explanation of a paradox. <i>Social Science & Medicine</i>, 75(4), 761-769.</p> <p>McGinnis, J. M., Williams-Russo, P., & Knickman, J. R. (2002). The case for more active policy attention to health promotion. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 21(2), 78-93.</p>

Nov 15	Johan Mackenbach @ Boğaziçi
Nov 20	<p>Global health governance</p> <p>Compulsory: Beigbeder, Yves. (2018). <i>The World Health Organization: Achievements and Failures</i>. Routledge: 1-36.</p> <p>Holden, Chris., Lee, K., Gilmore, A., Fooks, G., & Wander, N. (2010). Trade policy, health, and corporate influence: British American Tobacco and China's accession to the World Trade Organization. <i>International Journal of Health Services</i>, 40(3), 421-441.</p>
Nov 27	<p>Policy in focus: Sexual and reproductive health policy</p> <p>Compulsory: Kokabisaghi, F. (2017). Right to sexual and reproductive health in new population policies of Iran. <i>Journal of Public Health Policy</i>, 38(2), 240-256.</p> <p>Yilmaz, V., Willis, P. (forthcoming) Sexual health policies in a polarized international political context: A comparative study of sexual health policy trends in Turkey and Britain.</p> <p>Recommended: Shepard, B. (2000). The "double discourse" on sexual and reproductive rights in Latin America: the chasm between public policy and private actions. <i>Health and Human Rights</i>, 110-143.</p>
Dec 4	<p>Policy in focus: Mental health policy</p> <p>Compulsory: Shorter, E. (2007). The historical development of mental health services in Europe. In <i>Mental Health Policy and Practice across Europe</i>, 15-33.</p> <p>Frank, R. G., Conti, R. M., & Goldman, H. H. (2005). Mental health policy and psychotropic drugs. <i>The Milbank Quarterly</i>, 83(2), 271-298.</p>
Dec 7	Hande Harmançı @ Boğaziçi
Dec 11	Fatemeh Kokabisaghi @ Boğaziçi
Dec 18	<p>The politics of health and health care</p> <p>Bambra, C., Fox, D., & Scott-Samuel, A. (2005). Towards a politics of health. <i>Health Promotion International</i>, 20(2), 187-193.</p>