

SPL 509: Health Policy & Politics



The Sick Child (1907), Edvard Munch

Instructor: Volkan Yılmaz
Fall 2019, Mondays btw. 14:00-17:00
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Course overview

This is a master's level course on health policy and politics. This course introduces students to the study of following current debates surrounding health policies and politics: the contemporary relevance of the public health approach; changes in healthcare systems and their major components: healthcare financing, delivery and regulation; internal markets, public-private partnerships in healthcare, mental health policies & politics, sexual and reproductive health policies & politics and finally the politics of health and health care. No disciplinary background except pursuing a master's degree in social sciences is required.

Organization of classes

The course instructor will lecture around 50 minutes at the beginning of the class to set the scene, which will be followed by a Q & A session. After a short break, a discussion session will be held where each student is expected to contribute.

Requirements

Participants of the course are expected to **read all reading assignments of the week** before the class and to engage each week's readings in written form prior to classes. These written engagements with the assigned readings are called "**memos**". Memos should be written on **the assigned reading** of each week. In these memos, you are asked to summarize the main arguments of the reading material and write what you find most thought-provoking about them (including your criticisms and/or appraisals). The average length of these memos should be around 500 words only (around one A4 page with single-space). 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. Memos will constitute 45 per cent of your final grade (5 points for each of the 9 memos in total).

Class participation (not attendance, but participation in discussions) will constitute 15 per cent of your final grade.

The term paper will constitute 40 per cent 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 23	Introduction
Sep 25	Social policy seminar on ' Politics and health in the United States ' by Javier M. Rodriguez
Sep 30	The history of public health 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, pp.168-269.
Oct 7	Social determinants of health Wilkinson, Richard G., and Michael Marmot. (2003). <i>Social determinants of health: the solid facts</i> . World Health Organization, pp.1-29.
Oct 14	Health care and market failures Arrow, K. J. (2001). Uncertainty and the welfare economics of medical care (American Economic Review, 1963). <i>Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law</i> 26(5), pp.851-883.
	The ideational foundations of public health care systems

Oct 21	Beveridge, W. 2000. Social insurance and allied services. <i>Bulletin of the World Health Organization</i> 78.6, pp.847-855.
Nov 4	Film screening: ‘Sick around the world’ by Jon Palfreman
Nov 11	Internal markets in healthcare Le Grand, J., 2009. Choice and competition in publicly funded health care. <i>Health Economics, Policy and Law</i> , 4(4), pp.479-488.
Nov 18	Public-private partnerships in healthcare Murray, S.F., Bisht, R. and Pitchforth, E., 2016. Emplacing India's “medicities”. <i>Health & Place</i> , 42, pp.69-78.
Nov 25	Medical tourism De Arellano, A.B.R., 2007. Patients without borders: the emergence of medical tourism. <i>International Journal of Health Services</i> , 37(1), pp.193-198.
Dec 2	Policy in focus: Mental health policy & politics Spandler, H. and Calton, T., 2009. Psychosis and human rights: conflicts in mental health policy and practice. <i>Social Policy and Society</i> , 8(2), pp.245-256.
Dec 9	Policy in focus: Sexual and reproductive health policy & politics Seckinelgin, H., 2005. A global disease and its governance: HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa and the agency of NGOs. <i>Global Governance</i> , 11, pp.351-368.
Dec 16	The politics of health and health care Bambra, C., Fox, D., & Scott-Samuel, A. 2005. Towards a politics of health. <i>Health Promotion International</i> , 20(2), pp.187-193.

