

PPD 325: FUNDAMENTALS OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

FALL 2023 (4 UNITS)

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS, 12:00-1:50 PM

VPD 106

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Genevieve P. Kanter, PhD; Associate Professor of Public Policy

Office Hours:

- Tuesdays and Wednesdays 8:30-10:30 am by Zoom.
 - Make appointments [online](#). Appointments are in 15-minute blocks. You may book multiple blocks if you need additional time. A Zoom link will be included in the confirmation e-mail.
- You may also approach me during the mid-class break or immediately after class for brief questions and clarifications.

Office Location: VDP 512-J

Email: gkanter@usc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to health policy. It focuses on the institutions, structures, and incentives that govern the provision and regulation of health care in the US. Students will strengthen their ability to recognize and describe key health policy issues and use economic and data-based reasoning to analyze these issues. The course is a gateway to the Minor in Health Policy and to the Health Policy and Management track of the B.S. in Public Policy.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the structure of the major sectors in the health care industry, their business challenges, the policy issues they face, and how business and policy interact in that setting.
- Identify and describe leading contemporary health policy problems and their causes.
- Apply economic and statistical reasoning to analyze and evaluate health policy issues.

PREREQUISITE(s): None.

CO-REQUISITE(s): None.

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT: None

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION: Background in or a principles course in microeconomics is helpful.

COURSE NOTES

The course meets twice each week for sessions that include interactive lectures, discussions, case studies, student debates, and student presentations. Students are expected to complete all required readings and

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tasks prior to class, and should come to class ready to ask questions and engage in in-class discussions and activities. On occasion, students may be cold-called to answer questions or express their opinions.

Lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard shortly prior to each class. Students are advised to download the slides to follow along and make notes during class. The slides are made available as a learning aid, but note that there is usually material presented during class that is not included in the slides.

REQUIRED READINGS AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

- The required textbook for this course is: Feldstein PJ, Melnick G. *Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective, 8th Edition*. Health Administration Press, 2023. (ISBN-10: 1640553428; ISBN-13: 978-1640553422).
 - Selected chapters from this book are required reading. Other chapters will be helpful for providing background for debates and presentations.
- There will be two case studies which can be purchased from Harvard Business Publishing for \$4.25 each. They are [Hospital ED Overuse](#) and [Obamacare](#). Please wait until closer to the case discussion dates to purchase.
- Additional required readings will be publicly accessible, available through USC Libraries, or posted on Blackboard.

OPTIONAL READINGS AND SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

INTRODUCTORY MICROECONOMICS AND HEALTH ECONOMICS REFERENCES

- Principles of economics textbooks
 - Hutchinson E. [Principles of Microeconomics](#). University of Victoria. Open-source (**FREE!**).
 - Mankiw, NG. *Principles of Economics* or *Principles of Microeconomics*, [any edition]. Cengage.
 - Acemoglu D, Laibson D, List JA. *Microeconomics*. Pearson.
- Health economics textbooks
 - Henderson JM. *Health Economics and Policy, 8th edition*. Cengage, 2022.
 - Bhattacharya J, Hyde T, Tu P. *Health Economics*. Red Globe Press, 2013.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The course grade will be based on performance on a midterm exam, a final exam, a policy debate, an oral presentation (plus background 1-pager), quizzes, and class exercises. The distribution of assignment weights is as follows:

ASSIGNMENT	% OF GRADE
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	30%
Policy Debate	10%
Policy Presentation + Background 1-Pager	13%
Quizzes	12%
Class Exercises	15%
TOTAL	100%

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DESCRIPTION OF CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1. MIDTERM EXAM

There will be an in-class, closed book midterm exam. It will consist of multiple choice and short answer (essay) questions. You may be asked to interpret graphs and statistics. The midterm exam is scheduled for **Monday, October 9, 2023**.

2. FINAL EXAM

There will be a closed book final exam. It will be similar in format to the midterm exam but longer in duration. It will be comprehensive, covering material prior to the midterm exam. The final exam will be administered during **Final Exam week**, date TBA (when scheduled by the USC registrar).

3. POLICY DEBATE

Students will work in assigned teams (i.e., each side will have 2 or more members) to debate a health policy topic. Each debate will be about 20-25 minutes. Each participant will be expected to make at least one oral presentation during the debate, either presenting an argument or a rebuttal. Team assignments will be announced by Week 3, and debate topics will be chosen by teams on a first-come, first-served basis (administered via Blackboard). Additional details about the debate format and a rubric will be provided. Ten percent (10%) of the debate grade will be based on team member rating of your contribution to debate preparation.

4. POLICY PRESENTATION AND BACKGROUND 1-PAGER

Students will work in assigned 2-3 person teams to make a 10 minute presentation on a health policy topic. Each participant will be expected to speak for similar shares of the allotted time. Teams will be expected to submit a half-page proposal summarizing their proposed topic and outlining main points of the presentation by Week 10. They will be required to provide a **1-page background note for distribution to the class by 12 noon the day before their presentation**. Additional details about the proposal, presentation, and 1-pager, as well as a rubric, will be provided. Five percent (5%) of the presentation grade will be based on the initial proposal, 10% will be based on the 1-pager, and 10% will be based on team member rating of your contribution to the policy presentation and 1-pager. There will be a 20% penalty for late proposals and 1-pagers.

5. QUIZZES

There will be 6 quizzes. The quizzes will generally cover material presented over the previous 2-3 classes. Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class, followed by class discussion. The 4 quizzes with the highest scores will count towards the course grade. There will be no make-up quizzes.

6. CLASS EXERCISES

Students will receive credit for their participation in in-class case discussions, in-class polls, surveys, and other activities. To ensure accurate accounting of your poll participation, please make sure you are registered for Poll Everywhere.

GRADING SCALE

Course final grades will be determined using the following scale:

GRADE	PERCENT
A	≥ 93
A-	≥ 90 & < 93
B+	≥ 87 & < 90
B	≥ 83 & < 87
B-	≥ 80 & < 83
C+	≥ 77 & < 80
C	≥ 73 & < 77

C-	≥ 70 & < 73
D+	≥ 67 & < 70
D	≥ 63 & < 67
D-	≥ 60 & < 62
F	< 60

CLASSROOM NORMS

Students are asked to maintain a respectful, constructive classroom environment. To this end, please remember to listen actively and attentively; ask questions if you do not understand a point raised or are curious about a related issue; and engage respectfully with the ideas presented in class, with the speakers, and your classmates. Please use phones, notebook computers, and laptops during class (breaks excepted) only for class-related activities.

COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICIES

BLIND GRADING

The midterm exam, final exam, and quizzes will be graded blind to ensure fair treatment to all students. This means that I will not know the identity of the student when I am grading their specific exam or quiz, or when calculating final grades. To ensure the integrity of the blind grading process, please include only your student ID number on exams and quizzes.

RE-GRADING

Because of the blind grading process, it is important to also maintain blindness in re-grading. If you believe that a mistake has been made in the grading of a quiz or exam question, please submit a request for a re-grade by doing the following:

1. Make a copy of the quiz or exam (as you will need your own copy to study for the final exam).
2. Write an explanation of where you think the error was made and why you believe your answer was correct.
3. Place the explanation and the original quiz or exam in a sealed envelope and drop the envelope off at the Schaeffer Center for Health Policy reception desk on the 3rd floor of VPD, asking for it to be forwarded to me.

Please submit requests for re-grades to Schaeffer Center reception on or before the last day of class (Wed, 11/29/2023). All re-grade requests will be evaluated *after* the Final Exam.

CLASS ATTENDANCE

I understand that students may have to miss class from time to time. You do not need to tell me if you have to leave class early, will be late, or will be unable to attend class. If you do have to miss class for any reason, you are responsible for reviewing the material covered and (if applicable) turning assignments in when they are due. In general, it is not possible to make up participation points if you have to miss class. Note that not all content covered in class will be on the lecture slides, so you may want to check in with a fellow student if you do have to miss class.

E-MAIL GUIDELINES

- Please e-mail me about any typos or errors you see on slides and any clarifications you need for assignments (of course, you are also welcome to mention them in-person).
- As mentioned above, you *do not* need to e-mail me on issues related to class attendance (e.g. if you are not able to attend) or to confirm appointment scheduling.

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- If you have substantive questions about or difficulty with specific topics, these are better addressed in-person (after class or during office hours) rather than by e-mail.
- Try not to be offended if you do not receive a response; this is because of the volume of e-mails rather than intended neglect (please remind me of your question in class or with a follow-up e-mail).

TECHNOLOGICAL PROFICIENCY AND HARDWARE/SOFTWARE REQUIRED

Students will need access to and proficiency in the use of Blackboard.

USC TECHNOLOGY RENTAL PROGRAM

If you need technology resources—such as a laptop or an internet hotspot—to successfully participate in this course, you may be eligible for the university’s equipment rental program. For further information, please see: [USC Computing Center Laptop Loaner Program](#).

USC TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT LINKS

- [Zoom information for students](#)
- [Blackboard help for students](#)
- [Software available to USC Campus](#)

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university’s mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or “recycle” work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity’s website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

In this course, unless otherwise instructed, all of your work in this course should represent your own completely independent work. Any student found to have committed acts of misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, mis-representing AI-generated text as your own work, misconduct of research, breach of confidentiality, or illegal or unlawful acts) will be subject to the sanctions and procedures as decided by Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards.

STUDENTS AND DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services](#) (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

[Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment](#) - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

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Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

[USC Emergency](#) - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

[USC Department of Public Safety](#) - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.