HEALTH POLICY IN A GLOBAL WORLD

Class code

Instructor Details
Prof. Adolfo Rubinstein M.D, MSc, PhD

Instituto de Efectividad Clínica y Sanitaria. Ravignani 2024. Buenos Aires

Class Details
Health Policy in a Global World
Thursday from 2PM to 5PM

Instituto de Efectividad Clínica y Sanitaria. Ravignani 2024 (between Soler and Nicaragua)

Prerequisites
N/A

Class Description
This course introduces students to key concepts in health policy formation, implementation and evaluation in a global context. Using a comparative lens, students explore organization, financing and delivery of health care services and health systems around the world and examine the role of governmental, private, and non-profit agencies in delivering health care and other services. The course is multidisciplinary, employing public policy, sociological, political science, economic, and ethical perspectives. The overall goal is to build an understanding of the fundamental ideas, issues, and problems currently debated in global health policy and management and to provide a foundation for future studies and careers in the global health field. Epidemiology in a Global World and Health and Society in a Global Context are recommended but not required pre-requisites for the course.

Desired Outcomes
By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:
- Discuss the ways in which public policy decisions affect health care and health outcomes;
- Understand the fundamentals of evidence-based public health
- Develop health information search strategies
- Identify the major components of health care systems;
- Describe how social, economic, and political factors affect health insurance and payment systems, access to and utilization of healthcare, and the supply, training, and remuneration of health care providers;
- Discuss frameworks and ethical and quality issues that arise in assessing health care provision and system performance;
- Explore the interactions between global health policies and global burden of disease
Use publicly available data sources to describe and discuss outcomes and features of health care systems across the world; and
Compare the health system features (OECD countries and developing countries) and discuss their implications.

**Assessment Components**

**GRADING**

- Short Assignments (5) 40%
- Paper Outline 15%
- Final Paper 35%
- Class participation 10%

**CLASS EXERCISES AND SHORT HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS**

This class includes many class exercises that are designed to be completed within class, within groups. Some class exercises or activities may include asking you to summarize some key points of the readings, or participate in a policy debate where one group has to argue in favor or against a particular policy or relevant health issue, so be prepared. In addition, several class exercises have homework assignments attached to these class exercises that must be completed after the class and that will make use of the class discussion.

**FINAL PAPERS**

This course requires a final paper. You must select a health policy and management issue of your choice. You may select a health policy and management issue of your choice (for instance, infectious diseases, maternal mortality, malnutrition, NCDs burden, behavioral and lifestyle risks, diabetes, health system reform), a country, and a population for your paper. For example, in the last class, students have written papers such as “Challenges and Strategies for improving emergency care for reducing maternal mortality in selected LA countries”, “The HIV/AIDS Outbreak and Epidemic in Argentina and the United States”, or “Challenges and Strategies for reducing domestic violence in Argentina”. Your paper should use articles we reviewed in class in addition to the additional sources you find. A bibliography of at least 10 sources that you identified (not assigned in class) must accompany the paper. Additional sources that appear on this syllabus may also be included. A one page concept idea with a brief background and the specific aims, as well as the preliminary bibliography of the sources you plan to use is due by October 29th and is worth 15% of your grade.

The final paper should be 8-10 double spaced pages in length, with formatted references and a bibliography that makes use of Endnote, Refworks or another bibliographic software available from the library website. IF YOU HAVE NOT USED THESE BEFORE, PLEASE FAMILIARIZE YOURSELVES WITH THE SOFTWARE EARLY IN THE SEMESTER. Bibliography and references are not included in the page limit. Papers must use 12 point font, include one inch margins on top and bottom, half-inch on the side. Pages must be numbered, cover page should include student’s name, N number, and date. Papers are due via email on Thursday December 4th, before 2pm. Late papers will not be accepted, unless you have my prior approval. No exceptions. On December 4th session, students will present their project to the class (ppt suggested). Each presentation should take 10’ with 5’for Q&A.
Assessment Expectations

Grade A: The student makes excellent use of empirical and theoretical material and offers well structured arguments in his/her work. The student writes comprehensive essays / exam questions and his/her work shows strong evidence of critical thought and extensive reading.

Grade B: The candidate shows a good understanding of the problem and has demonstrated the ability to formulate and execute a coherent research strategy.

Grade C: Work is acceptable and shows a basic grasp of the research problem. However, the work fails to organize findings coherently and is in need of improvement.

Grade D: The work passes because some relevant points are made. However, there may be a problem of poor definition, lack of critical awareness, poor research.

Grade F: The work shows that the research problem is not understood; there is little or no critical awareness and the research is clearly negligible.

Grade conversion

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Exams and Submission of work

Final Exam dates cannot be changed under any circumstance.

Mid term exam dates will be scheduled with each professor and it must be before the break.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from examination (with authorization, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.).

Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

Final essays must be submitted to the professor in print and electronic copy. If the student is not in Buenos Aires, he / she must send a printed copy via express postal mail (i.e. FeDEX, DHL, UPS, etc) to the NYU Center in Buenos Aires – Anchorena 1314 - (C1425ELF) Argentina. This copy must arrive before or on the date of established deadline.
NYU's Global Programs (including NYU Buenos Aires) must adhere to a **strict policy regarding course attendance. No unexcused absences are permitted.**

- Each unexcused absence will be penalized by deducting 1% from the student’s final course grade.
- Absences are only excused if they are due to illness, religious observance or emergencies.
- Absences due to illness or mental health issues must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs, María Pirovano Peña **within one week** of your return to class.
- A doctor’s note excusing your absence is mandatory.

**The date on the doctor’s note must be the date of the missed class or exam**

- Being absent to any kind of examination must be informed at or before the time of said examination via email to the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs, Maria Pirovano Peña (mpp6@nyu.edu).
- Requests to be excused for non-illness purposes must be discussed with your professors prior to the date(s) in question. (If you want the reasons of your absence to be treated confidentially and not shared with your professor, please contact the Assistant Director of Academics Affairs, María Pirovano Peña mpp6@nyu.edu.)

- If students have more than four unexcused absences, they will fail the course.
- Each class lasts one hour and half or two hours. **Missing one class represents one absence. For those courses that meet once a week (three-hour block), missing one class represents two absences.**
- Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.
- NYU BA also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. Three late arrivals or early departures (10 minutes after the starting time or before the ending time) will be considered one absence. Missing more than 20 minutes of a class will count as a full absence.
- Please note that for classes involving a **field trip or other external visit,** transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.
- Make-up classes for Holidays are mandatory as regular scheduled classes.
- Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their professor and the Office of Academic Support in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

**Academic Accommodations**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information. Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

**Late Submission of Work**

Late work should be submitted **in person** to the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs during **office hours** (Mon – Fri, 9.30 am to 5 pm), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of
the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Assistant Director for Academics Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above.

Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

**Language Courses:** Work submitted within 2 days after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100-point scale. Written work submitted after 2 days after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

**Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time

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**Plagiarism Policy**

**Academic Integrity**

Academic Integrity is intimately related to the teaching and learning process. When writing research papers, you need to keep in mind that plagiarism includes the use of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally. It also includes presenting and/or paraphrasing discourse or ideas from a published work (in print or on internet) without quotation marks and clear without acknowledgment of the original source.

For formatting in your papers, refer to MLA guidelines.

On matters regarding academic integrity, refer to the section “Academic Standards and Discipline” in the College of Arts and Science Bulletin [http://bulletin.cas.nyu.edu/page/academic.policies#STANDARDS](http://bulletin.cas.nyu.edu/page/academic.policies#STANDARDS) and to “Statement on Academic Integrity” in NYU Expository Writing Program: Policies and Procedures: [http://www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/policies___procedures.html#statementacademicintegrity](http://www.nyu.edu/cas/ewp/html/policies___procedures.html#statementacademicintegrity)

All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the instructor.

It is expected that the student follow the rules on academic honesty and intellectual integrity established by NYU University.

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**Required Text(s)**

No required texts. Each class will need reading of recommended articles in advance.

**Supplemental Texts(s)**
**Week 1**

Introduction to the Course

Overview: Health Policy, Politics, systems and services

Hand in of assignment #1

**Required reading:**


**Week 2**

The Politics of Public Health Policy

[September 10th]

Exercise: Policy debate on sweetened sugary beverages

First assignment due (Jamison's paper)

**Required readings:**

3. Block J. A substantial tax on sugar sweetened drinks could help reduce obesity. BMJ 2013;347:

**Week 3**

Public Health services and evidence based interventions

[September 17]

Exercise: use of Gapminder tool to understand public health metrics

Hand in of assignment #2 (Gapminder exercise)

**Week 4**

Levels of care

[September 24]

Exercise: Primary care vs. Secondary care

**Required readings:**

2. Starfield B, Shi L, Macinko J. Contribution of Primary Care to Health Systems and
Week 5

[October 1st]

Health information search strategies

Health Search exercise

Second assignment due: Gapminder

[October 2nd]

Make-up for November 5

Rationing and technology assessment

Global Health Policy and Infectious diseases

Required readings


Week 6

[October 8ht]

Health Care Financing I (health markets, insurance schemes, health systems)

Exercise: Policy debate on health system financing

Required readings:


Week 7

[October 12-18]

Semester Break

Week 8

[October 22th]

Health care financing II (reimbursement of physicians and other health professionals and financial incentives)

Exercise: Payment methods and financial incentives

Required readings

Week 9
Access to health care
[October 29th]
Review of Outlines of the final paper

Required readings:


doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0045053

Week 10
Field trip
[November 5th]

Week 11
Quality of health care
[November 12th]
Third assignment due: hand in of the concept note and outline of the final paper

Week 12
Global Health Policy and chronic diseases.
[November 19th]
Global Health Policy and maternal and child health.

Week 13
[November 26th]
Do donors drive global health funding?
Millennium Development goals and Sustainable development goals
Fourth assignment due: progress report of the final paper

Week 14
[December 3rd]
Health care systems in developed and developing countries
Comparisons and performance indicators

Fifth assignment: Class Exercise on health system comparisons

Required readings:


Week 15

[December 10th]

Hand in of final presentations (must be submitted to the professor in print and also as electronic copy to arubinstein@iecs.org.ar)

Classroom Etiquette

The use of Blackberrys, phones and IPods in class are forbidden

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Your Instructor

Adolfo Rubinstein MD MSc PhD
Director and PI. South American Center of Excellence for Cardiovascular Health (CESCAS)
Director - General. Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (IECS)
Buenos Aires. Argentina
He is physician graduated cum laude from the University of Buenos Aires school of Medicine (UBA 1982); he completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires followed by a fellowship in primary care. He was Chairman of the Division of Family and Community Medicine at the Hospital Italiano until 2010. He received his Master of Sciences in Clinical Epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health in 1996 and the degree of Doctor in Medicine with concentration in Public Health from UBA in 2001. In 2002, he received a diploma in International Health Economics in the University of York, UK. Dr Rubinstein is Full Professor of Public Health, Full Professor of Family Medicine, and Director of the Master in Clinical Effectiveness of the school of medicine at UBA.

Prof. Adolfo Rubinstein is the founder and Director-General of the Institute for Clinical Effectiveness and Health Policy (IECS) and Director of the South American Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Health, (CESCAS), sponsored by the National institute of Health, Lung and Blood (NHLBI, NIH, USA. His research is focused on cardiovascular and NCD epidemiology and prevention, implementation science and policy research. Prof. Rubinstein has published numerous papers, textbooks and book chapters on cardiovascular disease and risk factors, different aspects of the practice of primary care, health policy research studies, economic evaluations and resource-allocation decision making. He has been appointed as independent investigator of the National Scientific Research Council of the Ministry of Science and Technology in Argentina and distinguished Scholar of the Lown cardiovascular health program at Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health.