Public Health 198, Lecture 6: Understanding Healthcare

Term & Units: Spring 2018, 2 Units

Lecture Time / Location: Thursday 6-8pm, 235 Dwinelle

Decal Main Contact Email: healthcaredebatedecal@gmail.com

Introduction:

With the growing inequality in America and the large proportion of uninsured Americans, chances are that everyone knows someone that has been adversely affected by not having health insurance. As Berkeley students, there is not enough campus initiative about this topic and many prospective healthcare workers are uneducated about the fields they are entering. Much of what this class is designed to do is to provide a broad perspective of the most pressing issues in healthcare. Whether you are a prospective politician, doctor, or economist, this class is designed to teach the fundamentals of health care policies in the United States and around the world and give you the tools to navigate the healthcare system yourself. This class will also help you make more informed decisions when voting and effectively debate issues regarding healthcare policy.

Learning Objectives:

We hope you will leave this class with:

-an understanding of the critical terms addressed in healthcare rhetoric

-the current status of the health care reform act and its implementation

-the skills to navigate the healthcare system and debate controversial topics related to healthcare policy

-an awareness of the pro and con perspectives on universal healthcare

-a personal stance on our healthcare system today

Methods of Instruction:

This course will be taught using a combination of lectures, discussions, debates, and hands-on activities.

Semester Outline:

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| Date | Lecture #: Topics, Readings |
| 1/25/18 | Lecture 1: Introduction  (1)<http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/1420-13.pdf>  (2)<http://guides.wsj.com/personal-finance/insurance/how-to-shop-for-health-insurance/> |
| 2/1/18 | Lecture 2: Types of Insurance  (1)<http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/1420-13.pdf>  (2)<http://guides.wsj.com/personal-finance/insurance/how-to-shop-for-health-insurance/> |
| 2/8/18 | Lecture 3: Signing Up for Insurance  (1)<http://www.kff.org/uninsured/upload/1420-13.pdf>  (2)<http://guides.wsj.com/personal-finance/insurance/how-to-shop-for-health-insurance/> |
| 2/15/18 | Lecture 4: The Affordable Care Act    (1)<http://affordablehealthca.com/timeline-obamacare/>  (2)<http://obamacarefacts.com/how-will-obamacare-affect-me/>  (3)<http://obamacarefacts.com/supreme-court-obamacare/>  (4)<http://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/Covered-California-is-a-model-for-the-whole-nation-10856782.php?t=3878da8c17&cmpid=twitter-premium> |
| 2/22/18 | Lecture 5: The 2016 Elections and Republican Plans for Healthcare Reform    (1)<https://www.donaldjtrump.com/policies/health-care/>  (2)<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/health-care/>  (3)<https://berniesanders.com/medicareforall/> |
| 3/1/18 | **Midterm: Covers Lectures and Readings 1-5** |
| 3/8/18 | Lecture 6: The Pharmaceutical Industry  (1)<http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-evils-of-big-pharma-exposed/5425382>  (2)[http://www.usnews.com/opinion/policy-dose/articles/2016-11-03/californias-prop-61-wuld-raise-costs-and-limit-access-to-necessary-drugs](http://www.usnews.com/opinion/policy-dose/articles/2016-11-03/californias-prop-61-would-raise-costs-and-limit-access-to-necessary-drugs) |
| 3/15/18 | Lecture 7: Healthcare around the World  (1)<http://www.veoh.com/watch/v19243569aQj7ZexY?h1=Sick+Around+the+World> |
| 3/22/18 | Lecture 8: Health Disparities and Public Health, **Big Debate Topic Announced**  (1)<http://www.apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2014/07/30/10/48/the-role-of-public-health-in-ensuring-healthy-communities>  (2)<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/magazine/public-health-economy-election/> |
| 3/29/18 | **Spring Break: Class Cancelled** |
| 4/5/18 | Lecture 9: Guest Lecture and Final Remarks |
| 4/12/18 | **Big Debate** |
| 4/19/18 | **Final** |

Point breakdown:

Attendance: 20% (20 points)

Participation: 20% (20 points)

Big Debate: 10% (10 points)

Midterm: 25% (20 points)

Final: 25% (20 points)

Total: 100% (100 points)

For a passing grade, you must secure 70% (70) of the points.

Office Hours:

Our office hours are by appointment only. Emails will be answered within 48 hours on weekdays to the best of our abilities. We would greatly prefer talking through difficult concepts with you in person rather than exchanging emails back and forth.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and we will be taking attendance. There will be two allowed excused absences and one allowed unexcused absence. If you have more than two excused absences or one unexcused absence, you will fail the class. Please email us at [healthcaredebatedecal@gmail.com](mailto:healthcaredebatedecal@gmail.com) at least 24 hours before your absence for it to be considered excused. The subject of your email must be in the format [Name - Excused Absence]. Late notifications will be considered unexcused. You must be present for the midterm, final, and big debate in order to pass the class. If you know ahead of time that you will not be present for these dates, please contact us ASAP.

Participation:

Participation is either contributing an important point during discussion, bringing up a relevant news article to discuss at the beginning of class, or answering a question during lecture. You will be required to participate four times over the course of the semester in order to get full credit. If you participate once during lecture, you will receive a 5/20 for participation, if you participate twice you will receive an 10/20, etc. This policy helps ensure that we can create a vibrant atmosphere for the class.

Readings:

Weekly readings are assigned on the syllabus and are reviewed in lecture. The readings are designed to help students get a feel for the material before coming to class and also create a more participatory environment.

Exams:

There will be one midterm and one final (cumulative) for the class. We will give practice exams the week before the actual exam in order to give you an idea of what kinds of questions you can expect. You must receive a 60% on both the midterm and the final in order to receive a passing grade for the class.

Big Debate:

Towards the end of the course, students will be expected to participate in a debate related to one of the topics covered over the semester. Format and topics will be handed out two weeks prior to the debate. This activity will give students the opportunity to critically think about and discuss the issues that we cover throughout the semester.

Important Dates (subject to change):

Midterm - 3/1/18

Big Debate - 4/12/18

Final - 4/19/18

Healthcare Resources:

We highly recommend you follow the following healthcare resources to keep up with developments in the healthcare industry and learn more about the American healthcare system:

Review of Basic Concepts:

Khan Academy:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/health-and-medicine/health-care-system/v/healthcare-system-overview>

Blogs / News:

The Incidental Economist (blog): [http://theincidentaleconomist.com/](http://theincidentaleconomist.com/%20)

The Health Care Blog: [http://thehealthcareblog.com/](http://thehealthcareblog.com/%20)

Healthcare Economist (blog): [http://healthcare-economist.com/](http://healthcare-economist.com/%20)

Kaiser Health News (independent of Kaiser Permanente): <http://khn.org/>

Modern Healthcare (healthcare business news): <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/>

Healthcare Triage: <https://www.youtube.com/user/thehealthcaretriage>

Global Health:

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): [http://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/oecdhealthdata.htm](http://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/oecdhealthdata.htm%20)

World Health Organization (WHO): [http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world\_health\_statistics/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/gho/publications/world_health_statistics/en/index.html%20)

The World Bank: [http://data.worldbank.org/](http://data.worldbank.org/%20)

United States:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS): <http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-andSystems/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems.html>, and [http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Dataand-Systems/Statistics-Trends-andReports/NationalHealthExpendData/index.html?redirect=/nationalhealthexpenddata/](http://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Dataand-Systems/Statistics-Trends-andReports/NationalHealthExpendData/index.html?redirect=/nationalhealthexpenddata/%20)

Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF): www.kff.org

California:

California Healthcare Foundation (CHCF): [www.chcf.org](http://www.chcf.org/)

Contact Your Elected Representatives

One of the goals of this class is to encourage you to get involved in the legislative process by contacting your elected representatives. Below, we have provided the contact information of a few representatives.

Kamala Harris (D-CA):

202-224-3553

[www.harris.senate.gov](http://www.harris.senate.gov)

Dianne Feinstein (D-CA):

202-224-3841

[www.feinstein.senate.gov](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov)

Mitch McConnell (R-KY, Senate Majority Leader)

202-224-2541

[www.mcconnell.senate.gov](http://www.mcconnell.senate.gov)

Barbara Lee (D, Alameda County Representative)

202-225-2661

[www.lee.house.gov](http://www.lee.house.gov)

Paul Ryan (R-WI, Speaker of the House):

202-225-3031

[www.paulryan.house.gov](http://www.paulryan.house.gov)

Regrade Policy:

Exam regrades must be submitted within 1 week of receiving your exam accompanied by a written statement with your request. We will not regrade the whole test and we will not give points back for answers that are not adequately portraying what was discussed in lecture.

Academic Honesty:

Cheating of any form will not be tolerated and will result in automatic failure of the class and action with the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

Expectations and How to Succeed:

We expect you to:

* + attend all lectures and supplementary sections if held
  + be respectful
  + come prepared for discussion in class

In return, you can expect us to:

* + create an atmosphere of respect
  + respond to emails in a timely manner
  + be prepared for discussion
  + be responsive to questions and concerns
  + let you know about events where you can apply your knowledge
  + help you succeed

Special Accommodations:

If you require any special accommodations, i.e. disabilities, injuries or anything else, please discuss this with us.