American Health Policy
HSOC-150
Spring 2011
MW 11:00-11:50AM, Friday sections
402 Cohen Hall

Professor Beth Linker
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Office hours: M 1:00-3:00, or by appointment
Course description: This lecture course will introduce students to a broad range of topics that fall under the heading of American health policy. Its main emphasis will be on the history of health care in America from the U.S. Civil War to Obama care. The primary objective of the course will be to consider why the United States, until very recently, remained one of the only industrialized nations to have a private, non-nationalized health care system. Some of the themes addressed include: private health insurance (such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield), industrial health and workmen’s compensation, the welfare state (in Europe, Canada, and the U.S.), women’s health, especially maternal and infant care programs, Medicare/Medicaid, the Clinton Health Plan of 1993, injured soldiers, the Veterans Administration, and Obama care.

Course Objectives: The goal of this course will be to answer the following questions:

| What is the difference between socialized and private-market medicine? |
| Why is the United States one of the only industrialized nations to, until recently, have a private, non-nationalized, non-federalized health care system? |
| Why has U.S. health insurance historically been a benefit given through places of employment, rather than a universal birth-right available to every citizen? |

Course Format:

| Lecture, Monday and Wednesday, 402 Cohen Hall, 11:00-11:50AM |
| Section Meetings with: |
| TA, Whitney Laemmli, Friday 11-noon, MCNB 410 (section 402) |
| TA, Whitney Laemmli, noon-1pm, Cohen 392 (section 403) |

Course Assignments and Grading:

Participation (20%): Attendance in lecture and Friday sections is required. A large portion of this grade will be determined by the degree to which you come to Friday sections prepared and ready to discuss the assigned readings from the week.

Midterm exam (20%): In-class bluebook exam. You will be tested on information discussed in your readings, lecture, and Friday sections. Format of exam: identification and essays, both long and short. Wednesday, March 2, 11:00-11:50AM

History and Health Policy Essay (30%): For this assignment, you will need to read Lawrence R Jacobs and Theda Skocpol, Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know (Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2010). This book summarizes Obama’s health care plan. Your job for this assignment is to write an essay that answers the following question: Is Barak Obama’s health care plan an improvement over what preceded it? Why or why not? Whether you answer this question in the affirmative or not, you will need to explain your rationale using HISTORICAL evidence. Most of your evidence will come from class lectures, discussions, and readings. However, you will also be asked to reference at least two sources from a short health care policy history bibliography that will be handed out in class. The essay should be approximately 2000 words in length. All papers should be double-spaced, one-inch margins, and 12-point font, with the word count printed at the end of the paper. This essay is Due Monday, April 25th at the beginning of class. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. For an explanation of what constitutes plagiarism, please refer to the university’s Academic integrity policy.
Students who violate these policies risk failing the course.

**Final exam** (30%) In-class bluebook exam. You will be tested on information discussed in your readings, lecture, and Friday sections. Format of exam: **Cumulative**, identification and essays, both long and short. **Tuesday, May 3, 9:00-11:00AM**

**Student Conduct:** Laptops are NOT permitted in lecture. Smart phones should be stowed away so as to not present a distraction to me, you, or the other students.

**Readings:**
The following books* and materials are **required:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LKA</td>
<td>Laurie Kaye Abraham, <em>Mama Might be Better off Dead</em> (Chicago, 1993).</td>
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<tr>
<td>S&amp;F</td>
<td>Susan Sered and Rushika Fernandopulle, <em>Uninsured in America</em> (California, 2007).</td>
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<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>“course pack” readings available on Penn’s Blackboard</td>
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*Books can be found at [Penn Book Center](http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html), 130 S. 34th Street, 215-222-7600.

**Course Schedule and Reading Assignments (please refer to abbreviation key above):**

**Week 1**

**W Jan. 12** Why Health Policy?

**F Jan. 14**

- Discussion sections: **Introduction and the Experience of being Uninsured**

**Readings:**

**Week 2**

**M Jan. 17** 

- **NO CLASS; MLK DAY**

**W Jan. 19** The American Medical Profession: 19th to early 20th century


**F Jan. 21** Discussion sections: “Paying for Health Care, Then and Now”

- *B&G,* chpts. 1,2, &4.
**Week 3**  
**M Jan. 24**  
**America’s “First Social Security” System**  
*CP: Theda Skocpol (1992) Protecting Mothers and Soldiers, pp. 102-130.*

**W Jan. 26**  
**The Birth of National Health Insurance in Germany and Great Britain**  
*CP: Theda Skocpol (1992) Protecting Mothers and Soldiers, pp. 131-151.*

**F Jan. 28**  
Discussion sections: **“Access to Health Care, Then and Now”**  
*B&G: chpt. 3.*  
*S&F: chpt. 2, pp. 40-56.*

**Week 4**  
**M Jan. 31**  
**Health Insurance in Progressive-Era U.S.: The AALL Plan**  
*AD: preface and chpt. 1, pp.ix-24.*

**W Feb. 2**  
**The AMA and the Politics of Health**  
*AD: preface and chpt. 2, pp.25-48.*

**F Feb. 4**  
Discussion sections: **“Health Insurance as a Public Health Issue”**  
*B&G: chpt. 11.*  

**Week 5**  
**M Feb. 7**  
**Committee on the Costs of Medical Care**  
*AD: chpt. 3, pp. 49-71*  

**W Feb. 9**  
**New Deal Medicine: Social Security for Whom?**  

**F Feb. 11**  
Discussion sections: **“From the Mouths of Policy Makers”**  

**Week 6**  
**M Feb. 14**  
**America’s Welfare State: the Role of Gender and Race**  

**W Feb. 16**  
**A Case of the Blues: The Rise of the Modern Hospital and Private Insurance**  
F Feb. 18  Discussion sections: “Health and the Working Class”
          
          *S&F: chpt. 5, pp. 86-106.*

Week 7  
M Feb. 21  **What’s Happening in the Great White North?**
          

W Feb. 23  **Truman and Wagner-Murray-Dingell Bill**
          
          *AD: chpt. 4, pp. 72-100.*

F Feb. 25  Discussion sections: “The Prospects of National Health Insurance in North America in the 1940s”
          

Week 8  
M Feb. 28  **Hill-Burton Act**
          
          *AD: chpt. 5, pp.101-130.

W Mar. 2  **Midterm Examination**

F Mar. 4  Sections Cancelled: No Class

Week 9  
Mar. 7-11  **NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK**

Week 10  
M Mar. 14  **Separate but Equal? Race and Mid-century Health Care**
          

W Mar. 16  **Medical McCarthyism**
          

F Mar. 18  Discussion sections: **“Precursors to Medicare and Medicaid”**
          
B&G: chpt. 12.*

Week 11  
M Mar. 21  **“The Golden Age of Medicine”**
          
W Mar. 23 **Medicare**  
*AD:* chpt. 6, pp.131-156.  

F Mar. 25 **Discussion sections:** **Inner-City Health Care**  
*B&G:* chpt. 13. [Suggested reading, but not required]  
*CP:* Lisa Levenstein “A Hospital of Their Own” in *A Movement Without Marches*, 157-180

Week 12  
M Mar. 28 **Medicaid**  
*JE:* chpt. 3-4, pp. 44-91.  

W Mar. 30 **The Civil Rights Movement and Health Policy**  

F April 1 **Discussion sections:** **Technology and Health Policy**  
*LKA:* Chpt. 11 &13, pp. 179-197, 213-231.  
*JE:* Chpt. 5-6, pp.92-122.

Week 13  
M April 4 **Medical Research and Health Policy**  

W April 6 **Meanwhile in Canada…: Health Care goes National**  
F April 8  Discussion sections: “Canada Health Act of 1984 and Its Aftermath”
CP: Canada Health Act, “Overview.” pp. 1-7

Week 14
M April 11  The Birth of Managed Care: What is it?
JE: chpt. 7 & 8: 123-162

W April 13  TBA

F April 15  Discussion sections: “Emergency Rooms as Primary Care Centers”
LKA: chpt. 4-6, pp. 60-110.

Week 15
M April 18  The Clinton Health Care Reform

W April 20  The Failure of the Clinton Reform
JE: chpt. 12, 244-251.

F April 22  Discussion sections: in-class review session

Week 16
M April 25  ESSAY DUE (at the beginning of class)
Obama Care: Lessons from the past

Week 17
T May 3  Final Examination: 9:00-11:00AM

*The syllabus is subject to change at any point in the semester. If a change occurs, students will be given fair warning.