

Politics of Health  
POLS 484/584-01  
Saint Louis University  
Spring 2014

Dr. Emmanuel Uwalaka  
McGannon Hall Room 150

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Office Hours:

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Classroom: Beracha (BBH)  
221  
R: 4:20-6:50 p.m.  
T: 11:30-12:00  
R: 3:00-4:00 pm  
And by Appointment

### **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to offer students political and analytical insights into understanding some health policy issues in the U.S. and the developing world. It examines how power relations and values help determine choices made about how to confront health issues. Of particular interest in this course is the current health care reform in the U.S and AIDS pandemic in Africa. We shall explore the political and philosophical debates surrounding health issues. The course is organized around the following themes.

- Theory, ideology and politics: Critical perspectives
- Paradigmatic differences about ethical implications of health care
- The health of individuals
- Individuals, society, and health obligations to other societies
- Institutions and Health Policy  
Civil Society: Politics and Health Policy
- Challenges/effective responses
- In addition, there will be case studies that illustrate and probe the topics outlined above.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of the course the students will

- 1) understand the political and philosophical underpinnings of any health policy issue
- 2) be familiar with the political roles of individuals, societies, institutions, and political leaders relative to health policy
- 3) be able to identify and classify the major factors affecting a major health issue
- 4) to develop skills in case analysis

### **Texts (Required)**

- Morone et al. 2008. Health Politics and Policy, 4<sup>th</sup> edition New Yourk, Delmar Cengage Learning (Required)
- Illingworth, Patricia and Wendy E. Parmet. 2006. Ethical Health Care, New Jersey: Pearson/Prentice Hall (Required)
- Renne, Elisha P. 2010. The Politics of Polio in Northern Nigeria, Indiana, Indiana University Press (Required)
- Bernheim et. 2015. Essentials of Public Health Ethics. Burlington, MA (Required)

The required books are available for purchase at the University bookstore—Barnes & Noble, Busch Student Center. In addition, a set of supplemental readings is required. These materials can be accessed through Pius Library E-Reserve system. Password is **polhealth**

### **Course Requirements**

Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually. Students are required to sign the roll at each session, and a record of attendance will be maintained. This instructor allows only four unexcused and undocumented class absences. The sanction for a breach of this rule is a grade of AF (excessive absence). Students will be expected to complete assigned readings, participate in class discussions, prepare for case studies, and write a research paper. All reading assignments should be done prior to the assigned class date. There will be a mid-term examination. During class, **cell phones must be turned off or to vibrate mode**. If you need to respond to a call, please step outside the room.

**Research Project: Due April 29.** You will turn in a short research design paper (1-3 pages), which sketches your research question, your tentative answer (or hypotheses), and what kind of evidence you will collect to evaluate your hypotheses. You should also include a working bibliography of sources you will investigate. This will be due on **January 28**. A first draft (version) of your paper is advised (due on **April 22**) so that you can get intense feedback on your analysis prior to turning in your completed paper. Paper should be between 15-20 pages (undergrads) and 20-25 (grad students) excluding bibliography.

**Note: No papers should be submitted electronically unless there is an agreement between student and professor.**

### **Course Grading**

Mid-term	30%
Participation in seminar discussion	30%
Other class participation (attendance, maintaining collegiality, respect for diversity of viewpoints, etc.)	10%
Research paper	30%

The numerical equivalents of letter grades are:

93-100 = A	83-86 = B	80-82 = B-
90-92 = A-	77-79 = C+	73-76 = C
87-89 = B+	70-72 = C-	60--69 = D
Below 60 = F		

**NOTE: Final grades will not be changed unless there is an error in computation.**

## **COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Your attention is hereby drawn to the College of Arts & Sciences on Academic Honesty. Copies of the full policy statement are available at the libraries. A general statement on the policy is stated:

Students are expected to be honest in their academic work. The University reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. Such conduct shall include cases of plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes. Violations should be reported to your course instructor, who will investigate and adjudicate them according to the **Policy on Academic Honesty of the College of Arts & Sciences**. If the charges are found to be true, the student may be liable for academic or disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion by the University.\*

\*Adapted from Student Handbook

### **Disability**

If you are learning, sensory, or physically challenged, and feel that you need special assistance in lectures, accommodations, examinations, etc., please contact the Office of Disabilities Services during regular office hours or by appointment. Please telephone the office at 314 977-2930, or visit Room 131 in the Academic Resource Center, 3840 Lindell Blvd. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. The first week of the session is the most appropriate time for these discussions. All matters pertaining to the discussion shall be held and treated in strict confidence.

**Course Outline and Reading Assignments** (This schedule may be interrupted by documentary films.)

#### **Jan. 14 Course Overview**

**Ideas, Concepts, Theory and Ideology that Shape Health Politics and Policy :**

- Jan. 21** Hofrichter, Richard, "Public Health as Social Justice"  
Ch. 10, pp. 267-284  
Stone, Deborah, "Values in Health Policy: Understanding Fairness and Efficiency" in Morone et al Chap. 1, pp. 24-37  
Wermuth, Lauie, "Theoretical Foundations for Studying Health Inequalities" (eres polhealth1)  
Bambra et al. 2005. "Towards a Politics of Health." Health Promotion International, vol 20, June 2 pp. 187-193 (eres polhealth8)
- Jan. 28** Rice, Tom, "Markets and Politics" in Monrone et al, Chap. 2 pp. 37-48  
Morone, James, "Morals and Health Policy" in Morone et al, Chap. 3 pp. 49-60  
Wermuth, Lauie, "Thinking Socially About Health." (eres polhealth2)

Brown, D. Lawrence, "Arenas in the Mosaic of Health Politics" in Morone et al pp. 61-69  
Childress and Bernheim, A Framework for Public Health Ethics," Chapter 1 of Essentials of Public Health Ethics.

- Feb. 4** Butler, Anthony, "South Africa's HIV/AIDS Policy, 1994-2004: How Can it be Explained?" (eres polhealth6)  
Wermuth, Laurie, "Underdevelopment and Health" (eres polhealth5)  
Bayer, Ronald, "HIV Prevention—Sexual Ethics and Responsibility", in Illingworth & Parmet, Ch 3, pp. 143-146  
Etzioni, Amitai, "HIV Sufferers Have a Responsibility", pp. 140-142.  
Bernheim and Bonnie, "The Political and Legal Context of Public Health Ethics" chapter 3 of Essentials of Public Health Ethics..

### **Ethical Obligations of Health Care Providers and Pharmaceutical Companies**

- Feb. 11** Galvao, Jane, "Brazil and Access to HIV/AIDS Drugs: A Question of Human Rights and Public Health" (eres polhealth3)  
Etzioni, Amitai, "HIV Testing of Infants: Privacy & Public Health", in Illingworth and Parmet, Ch. 4, pp. 234-242.  
"Should International Drug Companies Provide HIV/AIDS Drugs to Africa Free of Charge?"  
Yes: Akin, Jimoh  
No: Siddhartha Mukherjee (eres polhealth7, pp. 210-219)  
Childress, "Immunization: Protection Through Vaccination" Chapter 7 of Essentials of Public Health Ethics

### **Individuals, Society, and Health Obligations to Other Societies**

- Feb. 18** Resnik, David B., "Developing Drugs for the Developing World: An Economic, Legal, Moral, and Political Dilemma", in Illingworth & Parmet, Ch. 6, pp 443-455.
- Kopelman, Loretta M., "Female Genital Circumcision and Conventionalist Ethical Relativism", in Illingworth & Parmet, pp. 484-499.  
"Should Female Genital Cutting be Accepted as a Cultural Practice?"  
Yes: Richard A. Shweder  
No: Liz Creel, et. al in Moseley, William Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial African Issues. (eres polhealth7, pp. 190-209)

### **Institutions and Health Policy**

There will be an in-depth examination of their role in current U.S. health care reform debate

- Feb. 25** Peterson, Mark "Congress" in Morone et al Chap. 4, pp. 72-94  
How a bill is passed. Discuss in relation to the health care reform debate

Blumenthal, David and James Morone, "The Presidents" in Morone et al Chap. 5 pp. 95-126  
How does the President get his bill passed in Congress?  
Thompson, Frank and James Fossett "Federalism" in Morone et al Chap. 7, pp. 153-172  
Mujuzi, Jamil, Female Genital Mutilation: A Glimpse at the Abolition Process, Journal of African Law/volume 56/Issue 01/April 2012, pp 139-150.

**Mar. 4**                    **MID-TERM EXAM**  
Writing a Scholarly Paper

**Mar. 11**                **SPRING BREAK**

### **Civil Society: Politics and Health Policy**

**March 18**            Hacker, Jacob "Privatizing Health Politics" in Morone et al, Chap. 9 pp. 202-222  
Light, Donald "American Health Care: Inefficient, Inequitable, and Costly" in Morone et al, Chap. 10 pp. 223-248  
Brodie, Mollyann and Robert Blendon "Public Opinion" in Morone et al, Chap. 11 pp. 249-270

**March 25**            Orsini, Michael "The Politics of Naming, Blaming and Claiming: HIV, Hepatitis C and the Emergence of Blood Activism in Canada (ereserve)  
Jacobs, Lawrence R "Institutions and Culture: Health Policy and Public Opinion in the U.S. and Britain" (ereserve)

**April 1**                **Challenges/Effective Responses: POLIO/HIV/AIDS**  
Renne, Elisha, Chap. 3 "Politics and Polio in Nigeria."  
Siplon, P. D, "Power and the Politics of HIV/AIDS," Chap. 2 in Harris and Siplon (ereserve)  
Renne, Elisha, Chap. 4 Islam and Immunization in Northern Nigeria

**April 8**                Cheru, Fantu, "Debt Adjustment and the Politics of effective Response to HIV/AIDS in Africa" (ereserve)  
Harris, P. G, "Global Politics and HIV/AIDS: Local, National, and International Perspectives," Chap.1, in Harris and Siplon  
Renne, Elisha, Chap. "Polio, Disability, and Begging."

**April 15**              Ciczianny, Marika "The Political Economy of HIV/AIDS in India" Chap. 6 in Harris and Siplon  
Renne, Elisha, Chap.6 "Polio in Northern Nigeria and Northern Ghana  
"                    "                    Chap. 7 "The Ethics of Eradication"

*Human Subjects in Medical Research*

**April 22** Angell, Marcia, “the Ethics of Clinical Research in the Third World”,  
in Illingworth & Parmet, Ch. 7, pp. 523-526.  
Meadley, Keymanthri, “HIV Vaccine Trial Participation in South Africa—  
An Ethical Assessment,” Ibid., pp. 527-537.

**April 29** Reflection and Discussion. Research Paper Due

**LAST DAY OF CLASS**