The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

300.610.01 Public Health Policy

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-10:50 am - Sommer Hall
Summer Term 2019-2020

Instructor:
Professor Joshua Sharfstein, MD
Professor of the Practice in Health Policy and Management
BSPH W1033F

Teaching Assistants (TAs):

Lead TA: Kelly Anderson kelly.anderson@jhu.edu

Student Last Name, FI Assigned TA: abeam10@jhu.edu
Abdul-Malak → Chen, D Abby Baum
Chen, L → Hawk Linda Chyr lchyr@jhmi.edu
Hawkins → Malone Crystal Perez cperez20@jhmi.edu
Mansilla → Shao Rachel Presskreischer rpress@jhu.edu
Shea → Zil-E-Ali Ali Ruth aruth3@jhu.edu

TA Office Hours:

Thursdays 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm. Office hours will be held in:
• July 11: W2017
• July 18: W1214
• July 25: W2015
• August 1: W2015
• August 8: W4013
• August 15: W2015
• August 22: W2015

Required Books:


Note: You can purchase either the 3rd or 4th edition of this book.
Course Description:

Introduces MPH students to the many opportunities in public health policy to improve the health of populations in communities around the world. Focuses on identifying decisionmakers, framing problems and key questions, developing and evaluating policy options, and advocating for change. Also provides an introduction to some major policy challenges facing public health, such as tobacco, lead poisoning, chronic disease, addiction, and violence.

Course Goal:

The course’s goal is to help students develop skills needed to improve health through public health policy.

Course Objectives:

1. Students should recognize the power of different types of public health policies to improve health and save lives.
2. Students should be able to identify and describe the role of key decisionmakers for specific policy issues.
3. Students should be able to define policy questions in a way that evidence and ethics can be brought to bear on designing response options.
4. Students should be able to assess policies using multiple criteria (including cost, equity, cultural values and practices, and impact) and recommend preferred policies based on this assessment.
5. Students should be able to compare the organization, structure and function of health care, public health and regulatory systems across local, national, and international settings.
6. Students should be able to advocate to improve political, social, and economic policies that will improve health in diverse populations.

Course Prerequisites: None

Optional Reading for Students Interested in the Politics of Health Policy:


Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a documented disability who requires an academic accommodation, please contact Betty H. Addison in the Office of Career Services and Disability Support: dss@jhsph.edu, 410-955-3034, or Room E-1140.
## Assignments and Due Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz #1</td>
<td>Monday, July 8th @ 11:59 pm</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessing a Policymaker</td>
<td>Monday, July 15th @ 11:59 pm</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem Statement and Policy Question Activity*</td>
<td>Tuesday, July 16th @ 11:59 pm</td>
<td>Pass/Fail (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria Activity*</td>
<td>Thursday, July 25th @ 11:59 pm</td>
<td>Pass/Fail (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Memo</td>
<td>Monday, August 12th @ 11:59 pm</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz #2</td>
<td>Friday, August 23rd @ 11:59 pm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elevator Pitch</td>
<td>Friday, August 23rd @ 11:59 pm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional: Comment on 2 Classmates’ Elevator Pitches</td>
<td>Sunday, August 25th @ 11:59 pm</td>
<td>Bonus 2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students who are unable to participate in class on these dates will be able to make up the work through a separate written assignment. To complete the make-up assignment, you must email Kelly Anderson at kelly.anderson@jhu.edu within 72 hours of missing the class.

### Regrading Policy
We do not encourage requests for regrades. However, if you would like to request a regrade, please send an email to the lead TA, Kelly Anderson at kelly.anderson@jhu.edu. The email should cite the assignment instructions, explaining the basis for your concern, and attaching the original assignment and the feedback you have received to date. If your email makes a persuasive case for a re-grade, Kelly Anderson and Dr. Sharfstein will re-grade the assignment from scratch. The grade you receive may be higher or lower than the original grade provided.
Course Schedule

Session 1: Tuesday, July 2, 2019

9 am: Course Overview and Logistics (Dr. Josh Sharfstein and Kelly Anderson)
10 am: Core Lecture 1: What is Public Health Policy? (Dr. Keshia Pollack Porter)

Reading:
- Syllabus
- Pollack Porter KM, Rutkow L, McGinty EE. The Importance of Policy Change for Addressing Public Health Problems. Public Health Reports. 2018; 133(S1): 9S-14S.

Session 2 (NO CLASS): Thursday, July 4, 2019

Session 3: Tuesday, July 9, 2019

9 am: Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (Ruth Ann Norton)
10 am: Core Lecture 2: Assessing Policymakers (Dr. Josh Sharfstein)

Reading:
- Norton RA, McKnight M, Lewis J. Preventing Falls with Healthy Homes. Creating a Safe Environment for Older Adults to Age in Place. Green and Healthy Homes Initiative. October 2018. Available at: https://www.greenandhealthyhomes.org/publication/preventing-falls-with-healthy-homes/.

Session 4: Thursday, July 11, 2019

9 am: Reducing Health Disparities Through Policy (Dr. Darrell Gaskin)
10 am: Core Lecture 3: Writing for Policy (Dr. Josh Sharfstein)
Reading:
- Memo from Robert Behn, Harvard Kennedy School

Session 5: Tuesday, July 16, 2019
9 am: Core Lecture 4: Defining the Problem Statement and the Policy Question (Kelly Anderson)
10 am: Group Activity - Defining the Problem Statement and Policy Question:
   - Kelly Anderson - W2015
   - Abby Baum - W2017
   - Linda Chyr - W2030
   - Crystal Perez - W3030
   - Rachel Presskresicher - W4030
   - Ali Ruth - W5008

Reading:

Session 6: Thursday, July 18, 2019
9 am: Gun Policy (Dr. Daniel Webster)
10 am: Intersection of Criminal Justice and Health Policy (Dr. Stuart Schrader)

Reading:
Optional Reading:
- Vesla Weaver and Amy Lerman, “Political Consequences of the Carceral State” American Political Science Review, 2010

Session 7: Tuesday, July 23, 2019
9 am: Interview with a Policymaker (Dr. Fran Phillips and Dr. Josh Sharfstein)
10 am: US Healthcare System (Dr. Aditi Sen)

Reading:
- To be announced

Session 8: Thursday, July 25, 2019
9 am: Overdose Prevention Sites (Dr. Susan Sherman)
10 am: Group Activity - Selecting and Using Factors to Evaluate the Policy of Establishing Overdose Prevention Sites:
- Kelly Anderson - W2015
- Abby Baum - W2017
- Linda Chyr - W2030
- Crystal Perez - W5030
- Rachel Presskresicher - W4030
- Ali Ruth - W3008

Reading:
- To be announced

Session 9: Tuesday, July 30, 2019
9 am: Injury Policy (Dr. Andrea Gielen)
10 am: The Master Plan - My Journey from a Life in Prison to a Life of Purpose (Chris Wilson and Dr. Josh Sharfstein)

Reading:

Session 10: Thursday, August 1, 2019
Small Group Discussions Led by Faculty Members
(You must sign up for your desired session on the CoursePlus Wiki)

1. Prescription Drug Pricing - Dr. Mariana Socal (Wolfe W5030)

2. Health Information Technology/eHealth - Dr. Jonathan Weiner (HH 391)

3. Injuries in Low and Middle Income Countries - Dr. Abdul Bachani (Wolfe W4030)

4. Addiction Policy - Dr. Brendan Saloner (Wolfe W5008)
   a. Reading: To be announced

5. Policing and Public Health - Dr. Cass Crifasi (HH 901)

6. Maternal and Child Health - Dr. Cynthia Minkovitz (Wolfe W3030)

7. Politics, Presidents and Health Care - Dr. Kavita Patel (Wolfe W2030)
   a. Reading: To be announced

Session 11: Tuesday, August 6, 2019
9 am: Comparative Health Policy (Dr. Gerard Anderson)

10 am: Policy Memo Assignment Workshop:
   ● Kelly Anderson - W2015
   ● Abby Baum - W2017
   ● Linda Chyr - W2030
   ● Crystal Perez - W5030
   ● Rachel Presskresicher - W4030
   ● Ali Ruth - W3008

Reading:

Session 12: Thursday, August 8, 2019
9 am: International Refugee Policy (Dr. Paul Spiegel)

10 am: Human Rights (Dr. Chris Beyrer)

Reading:
   ● International Refugee Policy Reading: To be announced

Session 13: Tuesday, August 13, 2019
9 am: Payment Reform (Dr. Josh Sharfstein)

10 am: Criminal Justice Reform (Doug Colbert)

Reading:
- Patel A, Rajkumar R, Colmers JM, Kinzer D, Conway PH, Sharfstein JM. Maryland’s Global Hospital Budgets--Preliminary Results from an All-Payer Model. New England Journal of Medicine 2015;373(20):1899-901. Criminal Justice Reform Reading: To be announced

Session 14: Thursday, August 15, 2019
9 am: Core Lecture 5: Making a Case for Public Health Policy (Ayelet Hines)
10 am: Tobacco Policy (Dr. Joanna Cohen)

Reading:
- Bobo K. The fundamentals of direct action organizing and choosing an issue.
- Tobacco Policy Reading: To be announced

Session 15: Tuesday, August 20, 2019
9 am: Chronic Diseases (Dr. Gerard Anderson)
10 am: Healthy Built Environments (Dr. Keshia Pollack Porter)

Reading:

Session 16: Thursday, August 22, 2019
9 am: 10 Lessons in Public Health (Dr. Al Sommer)
10 am: 10 Lessons in Public Health - Cont. (Dr. Al Sommer)

Reading:
- Al Sommer, 10 Lessons in Public Health. While we want you to read the entire book on your own, please focus on Lesson 1 and Lesson 10 for this lecture:
  - Lesson 1 available at: https://muse.jhu.edu/chapter/789581
  - Lesson 10 available at: https://muse.jhu.edu/chapter/789591
(JHED Hopkins ID will authenticate for full access to the content at the bottom of each page)
To ensure your questions, concerns, or comments go to the right person and are attended to in a timely manner, please look at the table below for whom to contact in a given situation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YOUR QUESTION</th>
<th>WHOM TO CONTACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To let us know you missed a lecture or will miss a lecture</td>
<td>We strongly advise that you attend every lecture, but we understand circumstances/emergencies arise that may make you unable to attend a lecture. In this case, there is no need to email us. Each lecture will be audio-recorded and the file posted to CoursePlus after the class. Slides from the lecture will also be posted to the Online Library in CoursePlus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To request the alternative assignment if you missed the in-person group activity</td>
<td>Email Kelly Anderson at <a href="mailto:kelly.anderson@jhu.edu">kelly.anderson@jhu.edu</a> within 72 hours of missing the group activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To request an extension of the deadline for your assignment</td>
<td>Email Kelly Anderson (<a href="mailto:kelly.anderson@jhu.edu">kelly.anderson@jhu.edu</a>) Extensions must be requested at least 24 hours before the assignment is due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To request technical support for CoursePlus or other software problems</td>
<td>Click on 'Help' at the top right of any page in CoursePlus to contact the Help Team at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To ask questions about course topics and assignments</td>
<td>Post your question to the CoursePlus Discussion Forum or go to TA office hours to discuss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To get additional guidance on your assignment before submission</td>
<td>Go to TA office hours. TAs cannot review entire drafts of your paper, but can discuss your ideas prior to submission</td>
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