Ethical Issues in Health Policy: Public Health and Health Care
Syllabus & Reading List

Course Number: 306.625.01, 3 units
2nd Term, 11/2/12 – 12/21/12 (no class 11/23/12)
Seminar: Fridays 9:00-11:50 am, W3030

Instructor: Holly Taylor, PhD, MPH
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Office: 1809 Ashland Ave., Deering Hall 205
Office hours: Fridays 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm or by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:
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Description This course begins with an exploration of ethics, the moral relevance of health and the use of ethics in the assessment of health policy. Students will become acquainted with a number of theories of justice. Student will explore contemporary health care and public health policy issues (e.g. American Coverage Act, population-based exposure environmental toxins) using the lens of ethical analysis to supplement other approaches to policy analysis.

Course Objectives
1) Introduce students familiar with health policy to the role of ethics in assessment of policy options.
2) Identify and consider ethical issues relevant to health policy development and implementation.
3) Analyze policy options with new-found ethical skills and begin to reason through appropriate courses of action

Prerequisite Completion of 300.645.01 MAKING CHANGE THROUGH POLICY, or 300.600.81 INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH POLICY, or 300.651.01 INTRODUCTION TO THE U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM, or equivalent.
Academic Ethics  It will be assumed that students are familiar with and will abide by the Academic Ethics policy of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.  https://my.jhsph.edu/Resources/PoliciesProcedures/ppm/PolicyProcedureMemoranda/Students_01_Academic_Ethics.pdf

Interested students can also view a computer based module on the policy at:  https://apps4.jhsph.edu/academicethics/.

Course Text Articles listed below available via Welch e-Reserves.  Readings are required unless noted.

Course Website available via CoursePlus

Methods of Evaluation

Class Participation. You will come to class prepared to discuss articles assigned for each course session.  If at all possible, notify Instructor in advance if you know you will be absent.

Article Assignment. Every week, starting Week 2 you will answer one question:  What does this article have to do what we are learning in course?  and develop one question for the class to consider - about one of the required readings assigned for that Week.

You must complete this exercise for at least 4 of the 6 sessions (Weeks 2-7).  There will be a drop box available for submissions.  Your assignment must be received by 8:00 am EST the morning of class to receive credit.

Paper. You will write a paper (at least 8 and no more than 10 pages double-spaced) of an ethics/health policy topic of your choice.  We will post well-written papers from past years.

You will apply your newly acquired ethical analysis skills to a health policy topic.  The paper will be due on the last day of class (5:00 pm EST, December 21, 2012).  Any papers received late will be penalized one full grade for every 24 hours it is submitted after the deadline (e.g. an A paper will be given a B if received after 5:00 pm EST 12/22/12).

- By the December 10, 2012 (9:00 am EST) you will submit a topic for review and approval by instructor.  Students are welcome to submit their proposed topics earlier in the term.
- You can also submit a proposed outline for review and feedback.  We will hold extra office hours during the week of 12/10/12 to meet with students. Submission of an outline is recommended but not required.
Laptops  Preference is that you turn your laptops off during class. If you plan to take notes on your laptop please disable your wireless connection.

Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topic</th>
<th>Case</th>
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<tbody>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>11/2/12</td>
<td>Defining Terrain for Course</td>
<td>HPV Vaccine Environmental</td>
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<td>Introduction to Framework for Analysis</td>
<td>Tobacco Exposure</td>
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<td><strong>Health Care Policy</strong></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>11/9/12</td>
<td>Health Disparities (Haywood)</td>
<td>Obesity</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>11/16/12</td>
<td>Health Reform: Affordable Care Act</td>
<td>Managed Care</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Break (no class 11/23/11)</td>
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<td><strong>11/28/12, 4:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>Robert H. Levi Leadership Symposium Public Event:</td>
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<td>Screening of “Weight of the Nation” followed by a</td>
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<td>(Auditorium).</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>11/30/12</td>
<td>Evidence-based Decision-Making</td>
<td>Lead/Housing</td>
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<td><strong>Public Health Policy</strong></td>
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<td>12/7/12</td>
<td>Public Health Ethics Screening Programs</td>
<td>Motor Vehicle Crash Fatalities</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>12/14/12</td>
<td>Access to Potentially Harmful Products</td>
<td>Medical Marijuana</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>12/21/11</td>
<td>Allocation of Scarce Resources (Krubiner)</td>
<td>Kidney Allocation Policy</td>
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Paper Topic Due (12/10/12 9:00 am EST)

Paper Due (12/21/11 5:00 pm EST)
11/2/12 Week 1: Introduction
Topic: Defining Terrain for Course
Introduction to Ethics; Moral Relevance of Health; Ethics and Health Policy;
Introduction to Framework for Analysis

Readings:


Puts the ethics of health policy in context, relatively new enterprise.


Ethics framework to guide ethical decisions in practice, attention to role of state/local practitioners and policy makers.

Recommended:


One of the first articles to propose a framework for evaluation of public health interventions. Cited by all efforts since.


Follow-up to Churchill. Where do we go from here?

Reference:


Extended and dense version of Powers/Faden theory of social justice. Those with background/interest in justice/social justice may want to read.
11/9/12 Week 2: Health Care Policy Topic: Health Disparities
Guest Lecturer: Carlton Haywood Jr., PhD, MA; Core Faculty, Berman Institute of Bioethics; Associate Faculty, Welch Center for Prevention, Epidemiology, and Clinical Research; Assistant Professor, Division of Hematology, The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

CASE for discussion: Obesity

Readings:


Provides excellent review of meaning of language/terms we use to describe population differences related to health status. Also makes link to disparities and social justice.


Relays the importance of using broad lens when social determinants of health.


Great summary of multiple efforts by Hopkins faculty to explore how socioeconomic differences predict health outcomes.

11/16/12 - Week 3: Health Care Policy
Topic: Affordable Care Act: Health Reform

CASE for discussion: Managed Care

Readings:


Tour de force regarding health care reform options and challenges/barriers in pursuing different options.

Concise argument in favor of the moral duty of all citizens to buy insurance.


Concise summary of Supreme Court decision on ACA.

Recommended:


Critique of cost control implications of ACA.

Video of Som Saha BI Seminar on Berman Institute of Bioethics You Tube channel.

Accessible review and critique of the Oregon Health Plan made by Somnatha Saha, MD, MPH Chair of the State of Oregon's Health Services Commission, group charged with prioritizing health services to enable the creation of a rational and cost-effective benefits package for Medicaid beneficiaries

Reference:


Extended and dense ethical analysis of reliance on markets for health care access and delivery from Powers/Faden book on their theory of social justice.

11/23/11 - Thanksgiving Recess
11/30/12 - Week 4: Health Care Policy
Topic Evidence-based Decision Making; role of evidence in health policy; role of evidence in ethical decision-making; ethics of conducting health care policy research; conducting research in context of public programs

CASE for discussion: Lead/Housing

Readings:


*Example of how politics influence adoption of evidence based public health policy.*


*Report of study conducted in Oregon that randomly assigned uninsured individuals eligible to receive access to health care or not.*


*Report of study conducted to measure influence of withholding social benefits on child immunization rates.*

Recommended:


*Article does a great job of describing challenges when considering application of genetic tests to identify individual health traits are considered for use at population based level. Article may be tough going for those without basic understanding of genetics.*

12/7/12 Week 4: Public Health Policy
Topic: Public Health Ethics and Screening Programs

**Proposed Paper Topic/Outline Due** Monday December 10, 2012 by 9:00 am (EST) to Course Drop Box
**CASE for discussion:** Motor Vehicle Fatalities

**Readings:**


*Classic article that reviews key concepts in ethics of public health policy.*


*Along with Kass article posted as reference for Week 1 (i.e. those interested might want to consider reading it now if you haven’t yet), an early presentation of ethical issues to consider when evaluating public health interventions.*


*Great example of thorough ethical analysis of public health policy intervention.*

**Reference:**


**12/14/12 - Week 5: Public Health Policy**

**Topic:** Access to Potentially Harmful Products

**CASE for discussion:** Medical Marijuana

**Readings:**


*Administration’s policy and programmatic approach to reduce tobacco use.*

*Review of legal challenges Industry has made in response to efforts to regulate Food industry.*


*A comprehensive review of the tactics the Tobacco Industry used to divert attention from tobacco’s risk to the nation’s health. Written by one of foremost Historians of Science and Public Health.*

**12/21/12 - Week 7: Public Health Policy**

**Topic: Preparedness**

**Two Paper Due** Submit by 5:00 pm (EST) to Course Drop Box

**CASE for Discussion:** Congressional Hearing on Kidney Allocation

**Readings:**


*Traces history of what is now a classic tension in public health between individual liberty and state interest in promoting individual actions that contribute to overall health of the community.*


*Article defines four key problems when considering resource allocation in health care setting.*


*Concise summary of key issues related to FDA approval for daily use of antiretroviral therapy to reduce risk of HIV.*