### Syllabus: HA 5581: Health Policy in the United States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject/Curricular Designation</td>
<td>HLTH-ADM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catalog Number</td>
<td>5581</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Health Policy in the United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Description</td>
<td>This course helps students develop an understanding of the determinants of health, major current health policy issues, and health policy making in the United States. The public policy process and its effects on the organization, financing, and delivery of health care are examined in detail. The roles of key players in health policy formulation and the public policy responses to current health policy are also examined.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credit Hours</td>
<td>3 credit hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisites/Co-Requisites</td>
<td>NONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restrictions/Exclusions</td>
<td>Restricted to graduate level students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Component (format)</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Instructional Mode</td>
<td>Classroom based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required and Recommended Materials</td>
<td>Required:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o One book from the book review list (posted on Blackboard).</td>
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<td></td>
<td>o Additional readings (journal articles, reports, etc.) assigned throughout the semester.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Required textbooks are available at the UMKC bookstore as well as other book sellers.</td>
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### Evaluation and Grading Criteria

1. **Current issue report (15%)**: This is an individual assignment. For this assignment, you will identify a contemporary news story on a topic related to health policy and facilitate a short class discussion.
2. **Book memo and discussion (25%)**: This is an individual assignment. For this assignment, you will write a review (approximately 6 pages) of a book from the book review list and lead a class discussion to share your findings.
3. **Health reform debate (15%)**: This is a team assignment. For this assignment, you will argue in favor or opposition to an assigned resolution. Depending on the number of students in class, 2 or 4 teams of 3-4 students will be formed.
4. **Policy analysis term paper (35%)**: This is an individual assignment. You will conduct an in-depth analysis (18-20 double-spaced pages) of a federal or state legislative policy related to health care. **Please electronically submit your topic for approval by October 24.**
5. **Class participation (10%)**: Attendance and class participation is very important for everyone to benefit from the course. Therefore, please read all assigned readings before coming to class. You are expected to attend classes and contribute to a meaningful discussion of the topic of the day. Your grade for this component will depend on class attendance and raising valid points, expressing opinions, and sharing experiences in class.
Assignment weights shown in parentheses above will be used to determine the final course grade according to the scale shown below (there will be no curve). Detail instructions for completing the assignments will be made available through the course Blackboard site.

**Grading Scale:** The following grading scale will be used to determine the final course grade (total points obtained as a percent of maximum 350 total points possible).

\[
\begin{align*}
A &= 95\% \\
A- &= 90-94\% \\
B+ &= 87-89\% \\
B &= 83-86\% \\
B- &= 80-82\% \\
C+ &= 77-79\% \\
C &= 70-76\% \\
C- &= 67-69\% \\
D &= 60-69\% \\
F &= 59\% \\
\end{align*}
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**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

**Master of Public Administration (MPA) Health Services Administration emphasis area competency:**

#1. Analyze and synthesize diverse stakeholder perspectives in health services.

#2. Articulate and communicate health policy positions to key decision makers.

**HA 5581 student learning outcomes:**

1. Students should be able to describe the major current health policy issues.
2. Students should be able to describe the health policymaking process.
3. Students should be able to identify various perspectives of health reform.
4. Students should be able to critically analyze specific health policies and offer policy alternatives.

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**Course Expectations, Course Policies, Requirements and Standards for Student Coursework and Student Behavior**

1. Students are required to use the Blackboard site set up for this course. Most course-related information and documents will be posted on this site. All electronic communications pertaining to the course will be done through Blackboard and/or your UMKC e-mail account. You can access Blackboard at https://blackboard.umkc.edu/index.html using your UMKC login and password.

2. I consider your enrollment in this course an implicit commitment to attend classes and participate in class activities. Therefore, you are expected to regularly attend class sessions and contribute to the classroom discussion. Please read all assigned readings before coming to class. If you have a reasonable excuse (such as illness, family emergency, etc.) for missing a class, please inform me as soon as you can, preferably before class. Please note that this provision does not exempt you from participating in group activities, and being present during group presentations.

3. Once finalized, no request for changing the debate teams or presentation schedules will be entertained. Absence during the debate or assigned presentation/discussion will result in zero score for the individual concerned.

4. For the team/group project, all members are expected to devote equal share of effort in completing each component of the project. Do not take turns in completing project components individually—this beats the purpose of group assignments. All members of the group are individually and collectively responsible for the project and will receive same points. However, if there is a concern about lack of contribution or participation of certain team member(s) in completing the assignment, please bring it to my attention. Additionally, a peer evaluation will be completed at the end of the assignment. If a student receives an average of 80% or less in peer evaluation completed by all members of the team/group, the project grade for the individual in question will be determined by multiplying the team score by the proportion of points received in peer evaluation. Please refer to the course Blackboard site for details on group process, accountability, and peer evaluation.

5. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments must be submitted electronically via Blackboard and are due at the start of class on respective due dates.

6. No credit will be awarded for assignments received late.

7. You are expected to complete individual assignments individually and group assignments within your group. Any violation will result in a zero grade for that assignment. If any questions arise, please direct those to me, not to other students or groups.

8. Please plan your schedule and commute to class in a manner that allows you to be seated in the classroom before the start of the class period.
9. Visit http://www.umsystem.edu/ums/rules/collected_rules/programs/ch200 to familiarize yourself with the university policies pertaining to student conduct. Particularly, please review the information pertaining to plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty. If unsure, please ask me. I take these issues very seriously.

10. Tests, classroom exercises, and other assignment materials belong to the instructor. You are not allowed to distribute those to anyone else, nor are you allowed to acquire or possess without permission any such material from previous offerings of this course by this instructor.

11. You are expected to demonstrate professionalism in your appearance, conduct, discussions, presentations, and assignments.

12. Inclement weather policy: In the event of threatening weather conditions classes may be cancelled at the discretion of the UMKC central administration. Please consult the UMKC website and/or listen to radio/TV broadcasts for official announcements. You can also subscribe to UMKC Alert! Emergency Mass Notification System (http://www.umkc.edu/umkcalert/default.asp).

13. While the provisions of this syllabus are as accurate and complete as possible, the instructor reserves the right to change any provision herein if circumstances so warrant. Every effort will be made to inform the students about the changes as quickly as possible. It is the responsibility of each student to know what changes, if any, have been made to the provisions of the syllabus and to complete the course requirements accordingly.

14. It is the students’ responsibility to know important dates on the academic calendar, including the last day to withdraw from class without academic penalty.