

Perspectives on Health Care Policy

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21:920:318

Summer 2024

Professor: Jesse Liss, PhD

Email: jl2578@newark.rutgers.edu

Virtual office hours:

Tuesdays at 12 – 1 PM

(See Canvas for Zoom link & schedule)



Course Description

The pandemic has not only uprooted “normal life,” but it has laid bare drastic disparities in health and medical care among different populations in the US and globally. The focus of the course is perspectives on US healthcare policy and law, which shape the public and private sector arrangements of health care delivery. First, we identify critical US healthcare debates in terms of competing perspectives on barriers to healthcare between providers and patients. Next, we apply and analyze three main social science traditions that are common in healthcare policy: (1) market-oriented perspectives, (2) social protection perspectives, and (3) social justice perspectives. Finally, we evaluate competing healthcare policy reforms theoretically and empirically.

Readings:

No book purchases required.

“This course has received an 'Open and Affordable Textbooks Program award from the Rutgers University Libraries. The OAT Program supports textbook affordability at Rutgers by encouraging courses to adopt educational materials that are freely available, available at a low cost (compared to similar courses), or part of the Rutgers University Libraries' electronic collections, and thereby free of charge to Rutgers University students. As a student in this course, you will be asked to provide feedback on this initiative at the end of the semester.”

Hybrid Course Structure

~~This is a hybrid course that follows relevant university policies and guidelines:~~

- ~~• Attendance: As per university policy, “Students are expected to be in attendance at all regularly scheduled course meetings.”~~
- ~~• Course schedule: The course schedule and learning module schedule are in the syllabus (this document), towards the end.~~
- ~~• Class schedule: The class meeting schedule follows the university class schedule and is detailed under Announcements on Canvas. For any unexpected changes, I will email and edit the class schedule announcement on Canvas.~~

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. (Apply and Analyze) Students will be able to problematize critical US healthcare debates in terms of barriers to care between providers and patients, including synthesizing explanations of high barriers to healthcare.
2. (Apply and Analyze) Students will be able to apply and analyze *market-oriented* perspectives and stakeholders in US healthcare politics, including engaging arguments of market competition, efficiency, market imperfections, and innovation.
3. (Apply and Analyze) Students will be able to apply and analyze *social protection* perspectives and stakeholders in US healthcare politics, including engaging arguments of consumer protections and social safety nets as responses to political crisis and market abuse.
4. (Apply and Analyze) Students will be able to apply and analyze *social justice* perspectives and stakeholders in US healthcare politics, including engaging arguments of social and racial health disparities produced by social disadvantage and historical racial and social injustices.
5. (Evaluate) Students will be able to conceptualize quantifiable measurements of policy outcomes as a basis for comparing competing policy proposals.

Student Evaluation and Grade Policy:

Five Written Assignments	50 percent of final grade
Five Discussion Boards	50 percent of final grade

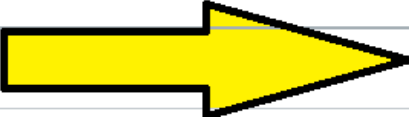
Percentage Conversion to Letter Grade:

A (90% or above), B+ (85-89), B (80-84), C + (79-75), C (70-74), D (65-69), F (64 and below)

Final Grade Calculation

Student final grades are an average of ten assignments (five written assignments and five discussion board assignments). To view your grades, click *Grades* on the Canvas navigation panel (example below).

Assignment Four Assignments	Dec 18 by 11:59pm	75	100
Assignment One Assignments	Dec 18 by 11:59pm	100	100
Assignment Three Assignments	Dec 18 by 11:59pm	90	100
Assignment Two Assignments	Dec 18 by 11:59pm	100	100
Discussion Board Five Assignments		85	100
Discussion Board Four Assignments		90	100
Discussion Board One Assignments		100	100
Discussion Board Three Assignments		80	100
Discussion Board Two Assignments		100	100
Assignments		91.5%	915.00 / 1,000.00
Total		91.5%	915.00 / 1,000.00



In the example above, the student has a total average of 91.5%, which is converted to an A letter grade based on the letter grade conversion on page two.

Written Assignments

- There are five written assignments.
- Each written assignment is worth ten percent of the final grade.
- You may optionally work with one partner on written assignments, but you must each individually upload your work and put both names on the TOP of the assignment submission.
 - There is a discussion board on canvas beneath the syllabus where you can find a partner
- You can find directions and grade rubrics for each assignment within each module.
- There are soft due dates listed below, these are target due dates
 - There is no grade point penalty for missing the soft due dates.
 - However, if you miss the soft due date, then do not expect a quick turnaround on the grading of your submitted assignment. That is, if you miss the soft date, then I will grade your assignment on my schedule.
- **The hard deadline for all written assignments is July 3 at 11:59 PM.**
 - *Late assignments are unacceptable.* The reason for this is that the due date is already pushed back as far as possible to provide extra flexibility. My own grades are due to the university shortly after this due date. For this reason, I will not accept late work.
 - Extensions are only possible *with prior approval and documented medical or health excuse.*
- As you submit work throughout the semester, I aim to grade your assignment submissions within one week of your submission.
- **You may revise and resubmit each assignment as many times as you wish up until July 3.**

Discussion Boards

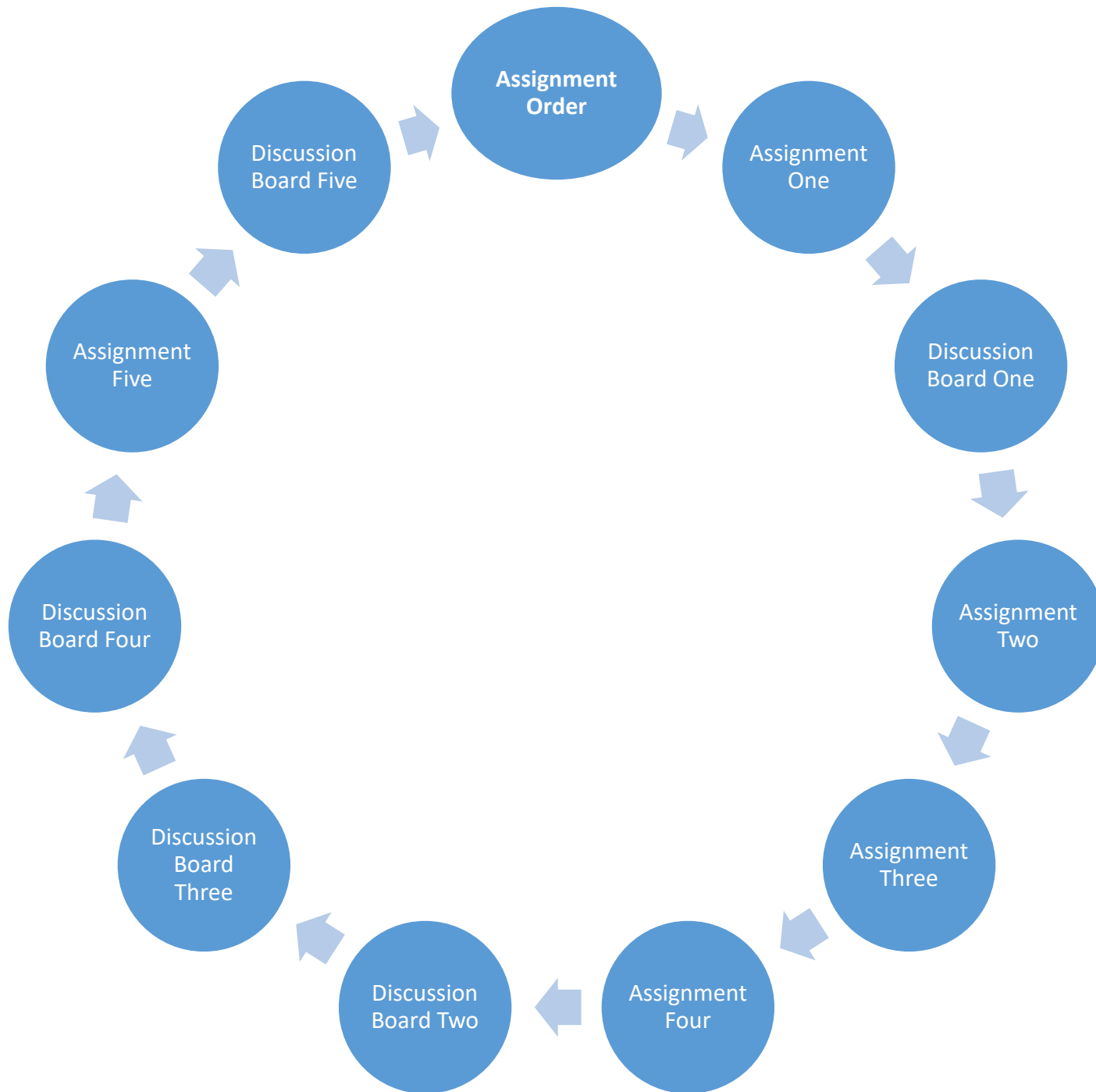
- Each discussion board (DB) is worth ten percent of the final grade.
- You can find directions and grade rubrics for each DB within each module.
- There are soft due dates listed below, these are target due dates
 - There is no grade point penalty for missing the soft due dates.
 - However, if you miss the soft due date, then do not expect a quick turnaround on the grading of your submitted assignment. That is, if you miss the soft date, then I will grade your assignment on my schedule.
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Target Due Dates

Assignment	Target Due Date
Assignment One	June 3
Assignment Two	June 10
Assignment Three	June 17
Assignment Four	June 24
Assignment Five	June 30
Discussion Board One	June 3
Discussion Board Two	June 30
Discussion Board Three	June 30
Discussion Board Four	June 30
Discussion Board Five	June 30

Time Management Announcement**Map of Assignments by Difficulty**

Hard Difficulty (up to 1.5 hours to completion)		Assignment Two	Assignment Three	Assignment Four	
Medium Difficulty (about 1 hour to completion)	Assignment One	Discussion Board Two	Discussion Board Three	Discussion Board Four	Assignment Five
Easy Difficulty (between 30-45 minutes to completion)	Discussion Board One				Discussion Board Five



Course Schedule*

*Schedule may change throughout the semester, I will give advance warning in these cases

Topics	Reading due prior to class
US health care in crisis	Read: Chapter One (“US Health Spending and What Drives It”) Reinhardt, Uwe E. 2019. <i>Priced Out: The Economic and Ethical Costs of American Health Care</i> . NJ: Princeton University Press Priced Out Princeton University Press
Module: Market-Oriented Perspectives	
Market-oriented principles	Read pages: 39-42, 45-46, 57-61 Hayek, Friedrich. 1945. <i>The Road to Serfdom</i> . Psychology Press. Suggested Read: Mankiw, Gregory. 2017. Why Health Care Policy is so Hard. The New York Times. Link: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/28/upshot/why-health-care-policy-is-so-hard.html?_r=0 Carroll, Aaron E. & Austin Frakt. 2017. Can the U.S. Repair Its Health Care While Keeping Its Innovation Edge? The New York Times. Link: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/09/upshot/can-the-us-repair-its-health-care-while-keeping-its-innovation-edge.html?
Application of market-oriented principles	Read: Pages 2157-2158 Rosenthal, Meredith B. 2009. “What Works in Market-Oriented Health Policy?” <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i> ; 360:2157-2160. What Works in Market-Oriented Health Policy? NEJM
Module: Social Protection Perspectives	
Social protections principles	Read: Introduction by Fred Block (pp: xxii- -xxix) & Chapter 19 (pp. 231-234): “Popular Government and Market Economy” Polanyi, Karl. 1944. <i>The Great Transformation: The Political and Economic Origins of Our Time</i> . Boston: Beacon Press, Second Beacon Paperback Edition.
Application of social protections principles	Read: Introduction & Chapter Six (“The Social Role of Health Care”) Reinhardt, Uwe E. 2019. <i>Priced Out: The Economic and Ethical Costs of American Health Care</i> . NJ: Princeton University Press
Module: Social Justice Perspectives	
Social justice principles	Read: Chapter 10 “The Health of Negroes” Du Bois, W. E. B. 1899. <i>The Philadelphia Negro</i> . University of Pennsylvania Press. Suggested Read: Shapiro, et. al. 2013. “The Roots of the Widening Racial Wealth Gap: Explaining the Black-White Economic Divide.” <i>Institute on Assets and Social Policy</i> , Research and Policy Brief 2013.

<p>Application of social justice principles</p>	<p>Read: Braverman, Paula, et al. 2011. "Health Disparities and Health Equity: The Issue is Justice." <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> 101: S149-S155</p> <p>Suggested Read: "Summary of the Affordable Care Act," Kaiser Family Foundation. Link: https://www.kff.org/health-reform/fact-sheet/summary-of-the-affordable-care-act/</p> <p>"The Medicare for All Act of 2021." <i>Physicians for a National Health Program</i> https://pnhp.org/the-medicare-for-all-act-of-2021/</p>
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Accommodation and Support Statement

Rutgers University-Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the University as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further its mission of access and support:

For Individuals Experiencing Disability: The Office of Disability Services (ODS) works with students with medical, physical, and/or mental conditions who encounter disabling barriers to determine reasonable and appropriate accommodations for access. Students who have completed the process with ODS and have approved accommodations are provided a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) specific to each course. To initiate accommodations for their course students must both provide the LOA and have a conversation with the course instructor about the accommodations. This should occur as early in the semester as possible. More information can be found at the [RU-N ODS website \(ods.newark.rutgers.edu\)](https://ods.newark.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS at (973) 353-5375 or via email at ods@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals who are Pregnant: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-5063 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Short-term Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can help with absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to [University Policy 10.2.7](#) for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (broken or sprained limbs, concussions, recovery from surgery, etc.). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Title IX Policy and Grievance Procedures located at <https://uec.rutgers.edu/wp-content/uploads/60-1-33-current-1.pdf>

For support related to Interpersonal Violence: The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance (VPVA) can provide any student with confidential support. VPVA is a confidential resource and does **not** have a reporting obligation to Title IX. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or

emailing run.vpva@rutgers.edu. VPVA also maintains a confidential text-based helpline available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support. Students do not need to be a victim/survivor of violence to receive assistance; any student can receive services, information, and support.

For Crisis and Concerns: The Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a plan of support plan and address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Connect with the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Psychological Support (Stress, Mood, Family Issues, Substance Use concerns and other personal challenges): The Rutgers University-Newark Counseling Center provides individual therapy and support groups for students dealing with psychological issues. To schedule an appointment, email counseling@newark.rutgers.edu or call (973) 353-5805.

Additional support is available to any RU-N student through Uwill services:

- Umatch: Teletherapy with flexible scheduling, starting with a free account.
- Uhelp: Crisis support at 833-646-1526 (available 24/7/365).
- Urise: Wellness-based video collection with a free account.

Access Uwill@RUN at <https://my.rutgers.edu> using your netid. Services are confidential and free.

For emergencies, call 911 or Rutgers University Police Department at (973) 353-5111.