



The School of Law and Government
Master's Programme in Public Policy

Health Policy

LG 5063

Spring 2022

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Available hours:

Wednesdays 5 - 7 pm
(except for the reading week
btw Feb 13-19)



Module description

This is a master's level module on health policy. This module introduces students to the study of key components of health policies from a public policy approach. The health policy components covered in this module include the contemporary relevance of the public health approach; key pillars of health care systems and their major components: health care financing, delivery and regulation; the international political economy of access to medicines; mental health policies; sexual and reproductive health policies; the health policy response to the current pandemic and; finally, the politics of health and health care. No disciplinary background except pursuing a master's degree in social sciences is required.

Outline of the module

Week 1 - Jan 14 - Introduction (no reading assigned for the first class)

Week 2 - Jan 21 - *A brief history of public health policy*

Core reading: Leys, C. 2010. Health, health care and capitalism. *Socialist Register*, 46, pp.1-28.

Recommended reading: Rosen, G. 1993. Chapter VI: Industrialism and the Sanitary Movement (1830-1875), In *A History of Public Health*, Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp.168-269.

Week 3 - Jan 28 - *Social determinants of health*

Core reading: Marmot, M. 2005. Social determinants of health inequalities. *The Lancet*, 365(9464), pp.1099-1104.

Recommended reading: Pickett, K. and Wilkinson, R., 2010. *The spirit level: Why equality is better for everyone*. Penguin UK.

Week 4 - Feb 4 - *Public health policy case study: Tobacco control policies*

Core reading: Holden, C. and Lee, K. 2009. Corporate power and social policy: the political economy of the transnational tobacco companies. *Global Social Policy*, 9(3), pp.328-354.

Recommended reading: World Health Organization. 2021. WHO report on the global tobacco epidemic 2021: Executive summary, pp.3-7.

Week 5 - Feb 11 - *Financing health care and access*

Core reading: Blank, R., Burau, V. and Kuhlmann, E. 2017. Chapter 3 - Funding, provision and governance, In *Comparative health policy*. Bloomsbury Publishing, pp.71-79.

Recommended reading: World Health Organization. 2021. Tracking universal health coverage: 2021 global monitoring report, executive summary, pp. v-x.

Week 6 - Feb 18 - *Health care systems*

Core reading: Blank, R., Burau, V. and Kuhlmann, E. 2017. Chapter 1 - Comparative health policy: An introduction, In Comparative health policy. Bloomsbury Publishing, pp.6-14.

Recommended reading: Reibling, N., Ariaans, M. and Wendt, C. 2019. Worlds of healthcare: a healthcare system typology of OECD countries. Health Policy, 123(7), pp.611-620.

No class on Feb 25, reading week

Week 7 - Mar 4 - *Pharmaceutical policy and access to medicines*

Core reading: Shadlen, K.C., Sampat, B.N. and Kapczynski, A. 2020. Patents, trade and medicines: past, present and future. Review of International Political Economy, 27(1), pp.75-97.

Recommended reading: UN Secretary-General, 2016. The United Nations secretary-general's high-level panel on access to medicines report: promoting innovation and access to health technologies: Executive summary. pp.7-11.

Week 8 - Mar 11 - *Mental health policy*

Core reading: Tomes, N., 2006. The patient as a policy factor: A historical case study of the consumer/survivor movement in mental health. Health Affairs, 25(3), pp.720-729.

Recommended reading: Mental Health Europe. 2021. Policy brief: Human rights and mental health, pp.1-6.

Week 9 - Mar 18 - *Sexual and reproductive health policy*

Core reading: Lane, S.D. 1994. From population control to reproductive health: an emerging policy agenda. Social Science & Medicine, 39(9), pp.1303-1314.

Recommended reading: UNESCO. 2021. The journey towards comprehensive sexuality education - Global status report, pp.6-10.

Week 10 – April 1 - *Health response to the COVID-19 pandemic*

Core reading: Forman, R., Atun, R., McKee, M. and Mossialos, E., 2020. 12 Lessons learned from the management of the coronavirus pandemic. Health Policy, 124(6), pp.577-580.

Recommended reading: The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. 2021. COVID-19: Make it the Last Pandemic, A Summary, pp.1-7.

The organisation of the module

The module will be delivered through live sessions that will take place via Zoom. If you have not used Zoom before the *Student's Zoom Guide* (see below) might be useful.

We have been allocated two hours each week (Fridays between 18:00 - 20:00). I will be delivering the lecture in the first 40 minutes of our weekly sessions and receive any questions that you might have about the lecture. We will then give a short minute break. After the break, we will continue with a class discussion.

Please make sure to read the assigned material for the respective week (see folders for each week) before our live sessions as this will substantially increase the quality of our classes.

Only lectures will be recorded. This means that Q&A sessions on lectures and our class discussions will not be recorded, and thus will not be available to you later. However, a great deal of learning takes place through the interactions of motivated participants. You will have a lot to learn from other participants of this module, therefore, I will invite you to attend all sessions. You will also find the presentation slides of the lectures in each week's folder after the completion of the class.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge-based learning objectives:

- LO1 - Gain familiarity with key concepts and principles in public health and health care policy.
- LO2 - Identify the difference between public health and health care policy, and its importance.
- LO3 – Explain the organisation of the health care system, including principles and types of financing health care.

Skills-based learning objectives:

- LO4 - Learn a framework for analysing a range of health policy issues.
- LO5 - Understand, compare and critique health policies of different countries based on available comparative data.
- LO6 - Conduct a health policy analysis.

Participation requirements

I expect you to:

- Make the core reading before the class;
- Attend lectures and class discussions regularly;
- Write two short reflections;
- Write a short proposal for your final paper;
- Write a final paper.

I am here to help in whatever way I can. You will have the recording of each week's live lecture available and lecture slides on the Loop page of this module.

All information about our module is already available on the Loop page. Any class postponements or any other urgent announcement will go directly to your DCU student email. For personal matters, please contact me directly by email and every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours.

But if there are still things that are not clear to you, you can always send me an email or make an appointment with me. If you would like to talk to me in person, please do so during my office hours (Wednesdays btw. 5-7 pm). Please book a slot in advance using the link below: <https://calendly.com/volkan-yilmaz/lg5063>

I am an easy to reach instructor and I do reply to student emails within 24 hours. However, it is my policy not to answer student emails at weekends, on official holidays and during the reading week between Feb 21-and 27, and I make no guarantee to answer an email that arrives after 5:15 PM on the same day.

Assessment Overview

| # | Title | Word length | Weighting | Expected workload | Description | Required reading | Deadline |
|---|---|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1 | Short reflections (on two weeks' topics that you will choose) | 500-750 words | 20% each (40% in total) | 4 hours each (8 hours in total) | You are expected to find a news story relevant to the topic of the week, explain the issue at hand (250 words at most) and reflect on the issue using the concepts, and approaches you have learned in the module (500 words at most). | All articles in the required reading section on the Loop page for the module. | First Thursday at midnight after the relevant lecture. Please submit your short reflections via Loop. You are expected to submit these short reflections two times during the semester. In other words, you will select two weeks (out of ten weeks with reading assignments except the first and the last weeks of the classes) on which you will submit a short reflection. Short reflections should be submitted on Thursdays (until midnight) after the relevant lecture. For example, if you choose to write a reflection on the second week's topic (lecture date: Jan 21), then you must submit your reflection on Jan 27. |

| # | Title | Word length | Weighting | Expected workload | Description | Required reading | Deadline |
|---|-------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------|---|--|--|
| 2 | Proposal | 300 words and the list of resources you will be using. | 10% final paper proposal | 16 hours | Come up with a potential question for your final papers until March 27. It should also include a plan explaining how you will go about answering that question. | All relevant articles in the required reading section on the Loop page for the module and at least five journal articles directly on the topic of your final papers. | Proposal to be submitted by March 27th via e-mail. |
| 3 | Final paper | 4000-5000 words including a bibliography | 50% final paper | 48 hours | Your final papers will provide an analysis of a health policy issue that you choose to focus on. Please submit your final papers via Loop. | All relevant articles in the required reading section on the Loop page for the module and at least five journal articles directly on the topic of your final papers. | Final papers to be submitted by April 20, midnight via Loop. |