



University of North Texas
College of Health and Public Service
Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services
PUBH 4050 Public Health and Health Policy

Welcome to PUBH 4050 Public Health and Health Policy Fall 2023 course. My name is Professor Brinta Thomas. I will be your instructor for this class. I look forward to introducing you to the concepts and processes of policies and the policymaking process.

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Number and Title: PUBH 4050 Public Health and Health Policy
Meets: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-1:50 PM
Location: Business Leadership Building (BLB) 050
3 Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Brinta Thomas, M.H.Sc., B.S., ACUE-EOTP
Phone number: 405-875-9609
Office hours: In-person before or after class
Virtual office hours: Tuesday/Thursday 2:00pm – 3:00pm
OR by appointment
Email: Brinta.Thomas@unt.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is intended to provide students with an understanding of the social, ideological, economic, and political elements that drive health policies. The course will examine the US healthcare system as well as the roles of major stakeholders in health policymaking. Students will learn about the policymaking process and how they may influence it. Students will get acquainted with the legal system and the critical role it plays in the discussion, establishment, and implementation of health policy. The course will also cover important aspects of health policy such as health inequality, access to healthcare, health policy economics, healthcare reform in the United States, and public health preparedness.

PRE-REQUISITES

Recommended prerequisite(s): PUBH 1010, PUBH 2010, PUBH 2015 (ONLY for Public Health Majors).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the concepts of health policy and policymaking
2. Describe the legal system and legal concepts that impact health policy
3. Discuss the ethical dimensions of healthcare and public health policy



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4. Analyze the impact health policy has on disparities in health, access to care, and healthcare costs
5. Understand the responsibilities of different agencies and branches of government
6. Discuss federal health insurance programs and their impact on health
7. Detail the differences between public and private health insurance
8. Understand health care economics and its relationship to health policymaking
9. Discuss the main perspectives and methods used to examine healthcare policy
10. Understand the relationship between politics, research, and health policy

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Required Textbook:

Wilensky, S. E., & Teitelbaum, J. B. (2020). Essentials of health policy and law. 4 th edition. Jones and Bartlett Learning. ISBN: 9781284151589

Additional Required Readings: Readings will be posted in Canvas throughout the semester

TECHNICAL SKILL REQUIREMENTS

Students will need access to Canvas, have the ability to download and upload files, send and receive emails, and communicate with fellow students in various electronic formats, including video conferencing.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site \(http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.html\)](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.html)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In-Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Here are the five major ways I will assess a student's performance in this course. **Students are required to attend class** and complete the reading assigned in the textbook and the supplemental readings. Students are required to complete weekly reflections to assess their understanding of the material.

The reflections center on the material presented the same week. A final exam will be held at the end of the semester. It will cover all material discussed during the semester and will be taken in Canvas. Finally, students will be given a chance to assess their work in the course.

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation	15 @ 10 points each 150 points	15%
Quizzes	15 @ 20 points each 300 points	30%
Policy Brief	250 points	25%
Policy Analysis	300 points	30%
Total Points Possible	1000 points	100%

GRADING

All of the components of a student's grade will have a point value system, based on A being equivalent to a 4.0. Points will be given based on a student's performance, such as the number of correct answers for each quiz, writing skills, research skills, and ability to illustrate comprehension of all course topics.

Total Points Possible for Semester/Grading Scale = 1,000

1000 – 900 = A
899 – 800 = B
799 – 700 = C
699 – 600 = D
599 – 500 = F



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Participation:

Students are required to complete the readings assigned in the textbook and review the supplemental material before class on Monday. Participation points are earned by attending class each week – in-person. Weekly participation is worth 10 points a week which adds up to 150 points total for the semester. Please reach out to me if you are not able to attend.

Quizzes:

All quizzes are due on Fridays before 5:00 PM which will be taken on Canvas. You cannot make up a quiz if it is submitted past the deadline. **No late work is accepted in this course.**

Policy Brief:

Students will complete a three to four-page policy brief. Readings will be assigned and a policy brief written based on the information. The policy brief will be worth 250 points. Due dates are listed in the calendar. See the Policy Brief Guidelines and Rubric for more details.

Policy Analysis:

Students will complete a six to seven-page policy analysis. Students will choose a topic for the analysis. The Policy Analysis will be worth 300 points. Due dates are listed in the calendar. See the Policy Analysis Guidelines and Rubric posted on Canvas for more details.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

As the instructor in this course, I am responsible for:

1. Providing course materials that will assist and enhance your achievement of the stated course goals
2. Providing timely and helpful feedback within the stated guidelines
3. Assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone

As a student in this course, you are responsible for:

1. Reading and completing all requirements of the course in a timely manner
2. Working to remain attentive and engaged in the course and interact with your fellow students
3. Assisting in maintaining a positive learning environment for everyone. The instructor and students will share responsibility for each other's learning. Much of the class time will focus on application and discussion of information in the assigned readings. Required reading should be complete



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ATTENDANCE POLICY AND CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students are required to attend classes. Attendance will be taken throughout the semester. If a student does not attend class, they will potentially lose the ability to get credit for the course. They will also miss important information related to the course material, assignments, quizzes and the final exam. Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and group work. If group participation cannot be shown, the student could lose points on the group work project.

UNT POLICIES

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. *Work submitted may be analyzed by software for academic integrity.*

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu/>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Important Notice for F-1 Students



CALENDAR

Tentative calendar for the course, including information for each class date, each week's topics, required reading for each class, and the due dates for quizzes, assignments, projects and the final exam. Remember, supplemental readings are not listed here. It is your responsibility to go to Canvas to find the posted readings for classes. Readings will be posted throughout the semester. These dates and topics are subject to change.

	Module	Readings	Assignments
Week 1 8/21-8/25	Introductions Review Syllabus	Read through Syllabus	Participation Quiz 1 (Due 8/25)
Week 2 8/28-9/1	The Role of Health Policy and Law	Chapter 1	Participation Quiz 2 (Due 9/1)
Week 3 9/4-9/8	Policy and the Policymaking Process	Chapter 2	Participation Quiz 3 (Due 9/8)
Week 4 9/11-9/15	Law and the Legal System	Chapter 3	Participation Quiz 4 (Due 9/15)
Week 5 9/18-9/22	Overview of the United States Healthcare System	Chapter 4	Participation Quiz 5 (Due 9/22)
Week 6 9/25-9/29	Public Health Institutions and Systems	Chapter 5	Participation Quiz 6 (Due 9/29)
Week 7 10/2-10/6	The Art of Writing a Health Policy Analysis	Chapter 14	Participation Quiz 7 (Due 10/6)
Week 8 10/9-10/13	Individual Rights in Health Care and Public Health	Chapter 6	Participation Policy Fact Brief (Due 10/13) Quiz 8 (Due 10/13)
Week 9 10/16-10/20	Social Determinants of Health and the Role of Law	Chapter 7	Participation Quiz 9 (Due 10/20)



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Week 10 10/23-10/27	Understanding Health Insurance	Chapter 8	Participation Quiz 10 (Due 10/27)
Week 11 10/30-11/3	Health Economics in a Health Policy Context	Chapter 9	Participation Quiz 11 (Due 11/3)
Week 12 11/6-11/10	Health Reform in the United States	Chapter 10	Participation Quiz 11 (Due 11/10)
Week 13 11/13-11/17	Government Health Insurance Programs	Chapter 11	Participation Quiz 12 (Due 11/17)
Week 14 11/20-11/24	THANKSGIVING	THANKSGIVING	THANKSGIVING
Week 15 11/27-12/1	Healthcare Quality Policy	Chapter 12	Participation Quiz 13 (Due 12/1)
Week 16 12/4-12/8	Finals Week	No Readings	Policy Analysis Due Quiz 14/15 (Due 12/8)