



University of North Texas
College of Health and Public Service
Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services
PUBH 4050 Public Health and Health Policy
Fall 2026

Welcome to the PUBH 4050 Public Health and Health Policy Fall 2026 course. My name is Dr. Naomi Meier. I will be your instructor for this course. I look forward to working with you this semester as we examine health policy, the policymaking process, and the vital role the legal system plays in the development and implementation of policy.

Course Information

Course Number and Title: PUBH 4050 Public Health and Health Policy
Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:20 pm – 3:40 pm
Location: Terrill Hall 120
3 Credit Hours

Instructor Information

Naomi Meier, DrPH, MS
Office Location: Chilton Hall 218H
Phone number: (940)369-8096
Email: naomi.meier@unt.edu *Use this email – please do not message me through Canvas*
Please include the course number in your email subject line. In most cases, I will reply to emails and messages left at the department within 48 hours.
Office hours: Wednesdays from 1 pm – 3 pm or by appointment
Zoom link for Office Hours <https://unt.zoom.us/j/82477358068>
In-person or virtual options are available

Teaching Assistant

Keerthiga Rameshbaba email: keerthiga.rameshbaba@unt.edu

Pre-Requisites

Recommended prerequisite(s): PUBH 1010, PUBH 2010, PUBH 2015

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to social, ideological, economic, and political forces that influence health policymaking. The course will involve an examination of the US health care system and the role of key players in health policymaking. Students will become familiar with the policymaking process and ways to impact the process. The course will familiarize students with the legal system and the vital role it plays in the debate, creation, and implementation of health policy. The course will also focus on essential factors in health policy including inequality in health, access to healthcare, the economics of health policy, healthcare reform in the United States, and public health preparedness.

Course Objectives

- Understand the concepts of health policy and policymaking
- Describe the US legal system and legal concepts that impact health policy
- Discuss the ethical dimensions of healthcare and public health policy
- Analyze the impact health policy has on disparities in health, access to care, and healthcare costs
- Understand the responsibilities of different agencies and branches of government
- Discuss federal health insurance programs and their impact on health
- Detail the differences between public and private health insurance
- Understand healthcare economics and its relationship to health policymaking
- Discuss the main perspectives and methods used to examine healthcare policy
- Understand the relationship between politics, research, and health policy

Required Materials

Wilensky, S. E., & Teitelbaum, J. B. (2023). *Essentials of Health Policy and Law*. 5th Edition. Jones and Bartlett Learning ISBN: 9781284247459 The 4th Edition of the textbook will suffice for this course.

Supplemental, or extra, required material may be assigned to review. Any additional required readings will be posted in Canvas each week and will be available electronically.

Technical Support

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk](#) site

[Email](#)

Sage Hall, Room 130

(940)565-2324

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](#)

Technical Requirements

We will be using Canvas as our main platform for interaction this semester. You will need regular access to the internet, Canvas, and Zoom (including a webcam and microphone). We will be using programs in the Microsoft Office Suite including Word and PowerPoint. You will also have to access Adobe Acrobat Reader for pdf files. Finally, you will need to have the ability to upload and download files, send and receive emails with/without attachments, and communicate with fellow students in various electronic formats such as videoconferencing. Check the electronic resources available to students through the College of Health and Public Service as well as the library to see if they offer laptops and webcams for students to check out.

Course Requirements

A student's performance in this course will be assessed in five different ways including weekly participation, weekly discussions, and three projects. See below for the points breakdown, details about the assignments, and late work policies. Additional information for each assignment will be posted in Canvas.

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Participation	15 @ 10 points each Total 150 points	15%
Discussions	15 @ 20 points each Total 300 points	30%
Policy Fact Sheet	100 points	10%
Policy Brief	200 points	20%
Policy Analysis	250 points	25%
Total Points Possible	1000 points	100%

Participation:

Students are required to attend class. They are also required to complete the readings assigned in the textbook and review the supplemental material before class on Tuesday. Participation points are earned by attending class. Each time attendance is taken it is worth 10 points.

Discussions

Students are required to participate in weekly discussions worth 20 points each. Discussions will become available Monday of each week. Students are required to complete the following weekly:

Thursday by 11:59pm – post your response to the discussion question/s (15 points each week)

Sunday by 11:59pm – comment on a fellow student's post (5 points each week)

Policy Fact Sheet

Students will complete a one to two-page policy fact sheet worth 100 points. See Canvas for more details.

Policy Brief

Students will complete a three to four-page policy brief. The policy brief is worth 200 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. The Policy Analysis is worth 250 points. The Policy Analysis Guidelines and Rubric will be posted on Canvas later in the semester.

See Canvas or the Course Calendar on the last page for due dates

IMPORTANT - It is your responsibility to go to the Weekly Instructions in Canvas to find all assigned materials including the required supplemental readings

Late Work Policy

Any work submitted after the deadline will lose points. All assignments are set to close in Canvas 24 hours after the deadline. Once a quiz, assignment, or exam is closed, you may not submit work without emailing me. Please contact me if you have any issues meeting a deadline.

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 will result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

You may not use any of your work from other courses or work you have written for a job, volunteer work, internship, etc. The work you submit for this must be original and generated by you only for this course.

All work submitted will be analyzed through Turnitin. Any work you submitted for other courses, etc. may be flagged by Turnitin. Plagiarism is a serious matter and will not be accepted. I am available to offer guidance for your work. The UNT Writing Center is also a good resource.

Use of AI (example ChatGPT)

You may use AI to find information for the assignment, but you must trace the information generated by the AI system back to the original source. If you cannot trace it back to an existing source, I do not consider it a reliable resource. **Do not use Grammarly, MS paraphrasing, or any other writing enhancing software.** Turnitin will flag this work as AI and you will lose points for this.

Please remember that some AI systems can perpetuate biases present in their training data. When using AI, be conscious of potential biases and strive for equity and inclusivity. Please use AI with caution. I want you to become familiar with gathering correct information from reliable sources using AI and using AI to craft the information you include in your assignments and your work once you graduate. If you have any questions, please let me know.

I will use Turnitin software to screen for plagiarism and the use of AI-generated information. You will lose most of the points for the assignment if your paper contains a large amount of plagiarized or AI-generated material. Work on tracing your information back to the original source.

Suggestions: Keep your notes, outlines, and drafts of your work to show your research process in the event your Turnitin score is high. Practice tracing any information you find using AI back to its original source. If you have questions about your work, feel free to contact me.

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 quality of information posted in the weekly quizzes, writing skills, research skills, and ability to illustrate comprehension of all course topics. Each assignment will include a rubric for specific details on grading criteria.

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

Point Range = Grade (1000 – 900 = A / 899 – 800 = B / 799 – 700 = C / 699 – 600 = D / 599 – 500 = F)

Course Expectations

As the instructor of 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

COVID-19 Policies

Please see the [UNT COVID-19 Information](#) page for current policies. The policies includes following the [Centers for Disease Control guidance](#). Please contact me if you cannot complete your work for the week because you are ill or experiencing other issues related to COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me before the work due date. If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](#) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or another health care provider.

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 will result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

My addition: You may not use any of your work from other courses or work you have written for a job, volunteer work, internship, etc. The work you submit for this must be original and generated by you only for this course.

Work submitted will be analyzed through Turnitin. Any work you submitted for other courses, etc. may be flagged by Turnitin. Plagiarism is a serious matter and will not be accepted. I am available to offer guidance for your work. The UNT Writing Center is also a good resource.

UNT Policies continued

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodations for students with disabilities. I aim to make success in this course attainable for all students. Please reach out to me about accommodation options. Students seeking accommodation should 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. For additional information see the [Office of Disability Accommodation website](#). 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 Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](#).

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct](#) to learn more.

UNT Policies continued

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off-campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically-Delivered Courses

This course employs lecture capture technology to record class sessions. Students may occasionally appear on video. The lecture recordings will be available to you for study purposes and may also be reused in future course offerings. I will provide accommodations for students who do not wish to appear in class recordings. No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image. However, the instructor is encouraged to let students know the recordings will be available to them for study purposes.

Copyright Notice

Some or all the materials on the course website may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the express and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies. Additional copyright information may be located on the UNT website.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

Federal Regulation

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](http://www.ecfr.gov/) (<http://www.ecfr.gov/>). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

The paragraph reads:

(G) For F-1 students enrolled in classes for credit or classroom hours, no more than the equivalent of one class or three credits per session, term, semester, trimester, or quarter may be counted toward the full course of study requirement if the class is taken online or through distance education and does not require the student's physical attendance for classes, examination or other purposes integral to the completion of the class. An online or distance education course is a course that is offered principally through the use of television, audio, or computer transmission including open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, or satellite, audio conferencing, or computer conferencing. If the F-1 student's course of study is in a language study program, no online or distance education classes may be considered to count toward a student's full course of study requirement.

Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses continued

University of North Texas Compliance

To comply with immigration regulations, an F-1 visa holder within the United States may need to engage in an on-campus experiential component for this course. This component (which must be approved in advance by the instructor) can include activities such as taking an on-campus exam, participating in an on-campus lecture or lab activity, or other on-campus experience integral to the completion of this course.

If such an on-campus activity is required, it is the student's responsibility to do the following:

- (1) Submit a written request to the instructor for an on-campus experiential component within one week of the start of the course.
- (2) Ensure that the activity on campus takes place and the instructor documents it in writing with a notice sent to the International Student and Scholar Services Office. ISSS has a form available that you may use for this purpose.

Because the decision may have serious immigration consequences, if an F-1 student is unsure about his or her need to participate in an on-campus experiential component for this course, they should contact the UNT International Student and Scholar Services Office (telephone 940-565-2195 or email internationaladvising@unt.edu) to get clarification before the one-week deadline.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use "I" statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual's experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people's ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as "YELLING!"
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using "text-talk" unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](#) for more information

For all other UNT Policies, please go to the [Student Handbook](#).

UNT 10 Academic Rights

Each student is encouraged to review the following academic rights and responsibilities and to seek clarification from the associate dean of the college or school in which he/she is enrolled.

Protection of Constitutional Freedoms —

- Students and all other members of the university community are guaranteed the constitutional freedoms of speech, peaceful assembly, petition and association.
- Responsibility: Students and others must exercise their rights by lawful means subject to university rules and regulations regarding time, location, method and duration. Students may not disrupt the operations of the university or interfere with the rights of others to exercise their constitutional freedoms.

Academic Freedom —

- Students and all other members of the university community are guaranteed the rights freely to study, discuss, investigate, teach, conduct research and publish as appropriate to their respective roles and responsibilities. In the classroom and in conference students have the right within the scope of the course of study to state divergent opinions, challenge ideas and take reasoned exception to the data or the views offered.
- Responsibility: Students and faculty share the responsibility to protect and to preserve conditions which are conducive to the learning process, including withholding judgment on matters of opinion, ensuring a fair hearing for divergent viewpoints and observing rules of courtesy in the classroom.

Academic Standards —

- Students have the right to know the standards of academic performance established for each course in which they are enrolled.
- Responsibility: Students are responsible for seeking clarification of any standard in question at the beginning of the term, for preparing assignments in advance of each class session and for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Rules applying to academic dishonesty must be followed, including those related to plagiarism and cheating.

Academic Evaluation —

- Students have the right to be evaluated solely on an academic basis, without regard to issues of diversity, opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students have the right to review tests and other written work after the instructor has evaluated them and are accorded protection through the Grade Appeals Procedure against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation.
- Responsibility: Students are responsible for bringing academic grievances first to the attention of the instructor who performed the evaluation in an effort to resolve the issue. If the matter cannot be settled at this level, it may be appealed in writing as outlined in the Grade Appeal Policy.

Improper Disclosure —

- Except when disclosure may be required by state or federal law, students have the right to confidentiality of information about views, beliefs and political associations which they may share privately with instructors, advisors or academic counselors. Judgment of ability and character may be provided under appropriate circumstances, normally with the knowledge and consent of the student.
- Responsibility: Students have the responsibility to state clearly what is and what is not confidential disclosure.

UNT 10 Academic Rights continued

Personal Safety —

- Students have the right to a classroom environment that is free of obvious hazards to safety and security.
- Responsibility: Students are responsible for compliance with university rules and regulations prohibiting firearms, explosives, incendiaries and weapons of any kind on the campus. Students are also responsible to abide by all health/safety rules and procedures in all academic courses and laboratories.

Illegal Drugs and Alcohol —

- Students have the right to a learning environment free from illegal drugs and alcohol.
- Responsibility: Students are responsible for compliance with university rules and regulations prohibiting possession, use or distribution of illegal drugs or alcohol in classroom buildings.

Disruptions —

- Students have the right to pursue an education without disruption or interference and to expect enforcement of norms for acceptable classroom behavior that prevents disruption of the teaching/learning process.
- Responsibility: Students may not disrupt class or any other university process by any means whatsoever (including sideline conversations, comments, arguments, noise of any kind or other activity which would hinder access to or utilization of academic information).

Non-discrimination —

- Students have the right to learn in a classroom environment where diversity is respected.
- Responsibility: Students are responsible for respecting diversity and for behaving courteously to both faculty members and other students in the classroom regardless of difference in race, creed, color, religion, age, nationality, sex, sexual orientation or disability status.

Intellectual Property —

- Students have the right to expect that presentation of material in a class will be in compliance with copyright law and that their own creative work will not be disseminated or published without their permission.
- Responsibility: Students who receive written notification from a faculty member that the information provided in his or her course is the faculty member's intellectual property shall not distribute, use for commercial purposes, or create derivative works of the intellectual property without obtaining the express permission of the faculty member. Students shall not assume permission absent written notification from a faculty member. Students shall also respect and treat in similar manner, the intellectual property of other students.

Student Programs/Services/Organizations

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](#)
- [Academic Success Center](#)
- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [Writing Center](#)
- [Math Lab](#)

Library Resources

- [UNT Libraries](#)
- [UNT Library Research Support](#)
- Subject Librarian - Brea Henson [Email](#) and Phone: 940-369-7815
- [PUBH Subject Library Resources Page](#)
- [PUBH 4050 Public Health and Health Policy Course Guide](#)

Student Programs/Services/Organizations continued

Student Support Services

- Registrar
- Financial Aid
- Student Legal Services
- Career Center
- UNT Care Team
- Counseling and Testing Services
- Student Health and Wellness Center
- UNT Food Pantry
- ALL Programs and Services

Student Organizations

Did you know there are more than 400 student organizations at UNT? Joining an organization is a great way to meet other students with similar interests. There are clubs related to academics, recreation, advocacy, entertainment, and so much more. Many organizations offer students opportunities to gain leadership skills and network with others to expand career opportunities.

Student Organization Homepage

UNT Student Organizations Related to Public Health

For a full list of public health-related Student Organizations, go to the Student Organization page and search “public health”

- Public Health Alliance
- Future Without Poverty
- UNT Rotaract Club
- Black Health Professions Organization
- Global Medical Brigades
- Student Health Advisory Committee
- Health Occupation Students of America
- Pre-Physician Assistant Club
- Collaborative Urban Planning Association
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- Public Administration Student Association
- Alpha Epsilon Delta Health Pre-Professional Honor Society

Calendar

The semester calendar is posted below. It includes information for each week's topic, required weekly readings, and due dates for assignments. Remember, weekly supplemental material is not listed here. The Canvas course page is where you will find the supplemental materials, weekly modules, weekly instructions, discussions, the three course projects, grades, and more. Material for the course will be posted throughout the semester. These dates and topics are subject to change.

Week Dates	Module Topic	Materials to Review	Participation and Assignments
Week 1 8/17 – 8/23	Introduction to the course	Find access to textbook Readings in Module 1	Navigate course on Canvas Participation and Discussion 1
Week 2 8/24 – 8/30	The Role of Health Policy and Law	Chapter 1 Readings in Module 2	Participation Discussion 2
Week 3 8/31 – 9/6	Policy and the Policymaking Process	Chapter 2 Readings in Module 3	Participation Discussion 3
Week 4 9/7 – 9/13	Law and the Legal System	Chapter 3 Readings in Module 4	Participation Discussion 4
Week 5 9/14 – 9/20	Overview of the Healthcare System	Chapter 4 Readings in Module 5	Participation and Discussion 5 Policy Fact Sheet due 9/20
Week 6 9/21 – 9/27	What is Public Health?	Chapter 5 Readings in Module 6	Participation Discussion 6
Week 7 9/28 – 10/4	Individual Rights in Health Care and Public Health	Chapter 6 Readings in Module 8	Participation Discussion 7
Week 8 10/5 – 10/11	Structural and Social Drivers of Health and the Role of Law	Chapter 7 Readings in Module 9	Participation Discussion 8
Week 9 10/12 – 10/18	Health Insurance Health Economics	Chapters 8 and 9 Readings in Module 10	Participation Discussion 9
Week 10 10/19 – 10/25	Government Health Insurance Programs	Chapter 10 Readings in Module 11	Participation and Discussion 10 Policy Brief Due 10/25
Week 11 10/26 – 11/1	Health Reform in the United States	Chapter 11 Readings in Module 12	Participation Discussion 11
Week 12 11/2 – 11/8	The Art of Writing a Health Policy Analysis	Chapter 14 Readings in Module 7	Participation Discussion 12
Week 13 11/9 – 11/15	Healthcare Quality Emergency Preparedness	Chapters 12 and 13 Readings in Module 14	Participation Discussion 13
Week 14 11/16 – 11/22	Health Advocacy	Chapter 15 Readings in Module 14	Participation Discussion 14
11/23 – 11/29	Fall Break	No readings	No assignments
Week 15 11/30 – 12/6	Concluding Thoughts	Readings in Module 15	Participation and Discussion 15 Policy Analysis Due <u>12/4</u>
Week 16 12/7 – 12/11	Finals Week	No readings	No assignments