

**Course Title:** Health Politics and Policy – Spring 2022

**Course Number:** HBSP 0622 – 030 (MPH) // HBSP 0723 – 030 (PhD)

**Course Pre- and Co-requisite(s):** PHCO 0501: Health Systems and Policy

**Course Location:** Classroom 2A, SPH – Piscataway [starting Feb. 1 – remote in Jan.]

**Course Date & Time:** Tuesday, 6pm – 8pm

**Course Instructor:** Gwyneth M. Eliasson, JD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Health Behavior, Society, & Policy

**Contact Information:** Email: [ge69@sph.rutgers.edu](mailto:ge69@sph.rutgers.edu) **When emailing, please include the course number [HBSP 0622 or HBSP 0723] in the subject line.**

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Course Assistant:** None

**Course Website:** Canvas

**Required Course Text:** None. See Canvas for required readings.

**Additional/Supplemental Readings/Resources:** See Canvas for more materials.

**Course Description:** This course is designed to provide an in-depth analysis of the government institutions and processes that affect health policy in the American context. It has two primary goals: (1) to explore how the institutional arrangements of American government work with respect to the development of health policy, and (2) to review several health policy case studies and identify lessons from them. The course explores fundamental challenges that face all health policymakers, whatever the country or its level of economic development – and the array of policy instruments that can be deployed to address them. The readings, lectures, and writing assignments are designed to help you explore the ways in which choices of policy instruments and their implementation over time are shaped by the nature of government institutions, drawing on the U.S. as the fundamental frame of reference.

**Selected Concentration Competencies Addressed:** Each Concentration identifies competencies for each degree offered. The competencies addressed in this course for the MPH in Health Systems and Policy include:

- 1. Assess and delineate public health policies and practices recognizing legal and ethical implications for individuals and populations;
- 2. Assess community health needs, disparities, and the health care delivery system within the context of social, cultural, political, legal, and economic forces; and
- 3. Describe and evaluate the political, social, and institutional contexts in which health policies are developed.

Please visit the Concentration webpages on the School of Public Health's website at [sph.rutgers.edu](http://sph.rutgers.edu) for additional competencies addressed by this course for other degrees and concentrations.

**Course Objectives:** By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- A. Outline the policy process for improving the health status of populations.
- B. Identify important concepts, theories, and literature concerning policy making and administration.
- C. Recognize the legal and ethical bases for public health and healthcare policies and procedures.
- D. Describe the steps and procedures for the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health programs, policies, and interventions.

| Competency | Course Objectives(s) | Week(s)     | Assessment(s)                                                                                                |
|------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1          | A, B, C, D           | 1-8 & 10-16 | “Online 30” Discussion Boards; Online Midterm Examination; Policy Analysis & Presentation; Course Reflection |
| 2          | A, C                 | 1-8 & 10-16 | “Online 30” Discussion Boards; Policy Analysis & Presentation; Course Reflection                             |
| 3          | A, B, D              | 1-8 & 10-16 | “Online 30” Discussion Boards; Online Midterm Examination; Policy Analysis & Presentation; Course Reflection |

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

• **Course Expectations and Policies:**

- **Preparation:** Required readings should be completed BEFORE class sessions. Be sure to check Canvas Announcements for important course information.
- **Attendance and Participation:** Attendance at scheduled class sessions is expected. Participation – during class sessions (e.g., through Polls) AND on “Online 30” Discussion Boards – also is expected.
- **Assignments:** Submit all assignments to Canvas by their due dates. Be sure to spell check and proofread written assignments BEFORE submitting them.
- **Late Submissions:** Will receive a deduction of UP TO 1 point per day late.

• **Course Assignments – MPH Students:**

- **“Online 30” Discussion Boards:** Submit 2 posts: Your **1<sup>st</sup> post, due SATURDAY by 11.59pm**, responds to the Discussion Board question, and your **2<sup>nd</sup> post, due TUESDAY by 11.59pm**, responds to a classmate’s post. Your posts will be graded on the following 5 criteria: (1) Relevance: 1<sup>st</sup> post specifically answers the discussion question; 2<sup>nd</sup> post thoughtfully responds to a classmate – NOT 1-2 sentences of agreement; (2) Conciseness: Posts with a **1-paragraph/200-word maximum**; (3) Accuracy: Posts refer to information in

the Canvas module and/or Discussion Board prompt; (4) Thoughtfulness: Posts with a logical paragraph; and (5) Importance: Posts make 1-2 key points.

**Grading Rubric for “Online 30” Discussion Boards**

**0 points:** No credit – NO response posted

**2.5 points:** 1<sup>st</sup> post submitted, but NO 2<sup>nd</sup> post responding to a classmate

**4 points:** Insightful 1<sup>st</sup> post + less thoughtful 2<sup>nd</sup> post responding to a classmate

**4.5 points:** Insightful 1<sup>st</sup> post (but posted AFTER Saturday 11.59pm) + insightful 2<sup>nd</sup> post responding to a classmate

**5 points:** Full credit – insightful 1<sup>st</sup> post + insightful 2<sup>nd</sup> post responding to a classmate

- **Online Midterm Examination:** The midterm examination will be **1 short answer (essay) question** on health politics and policy. Your **1-page answer** should be single-spaced, 12-point font, with parenthetical citation in APA format. (An APA Style resource is posted in Canvas.) This exam will be open for **2 hours**, during the scheduled class time.
- **Health Policy Analysis and Presentation:** This assignment has **4 components**: (1) Outline 1: Using the posted Outline 1 template form, you will propose a health policy issue and a political stakeholder (client) for that issue, with at least 3 initial references; (2) Outline 2: Using the posted Outline 2 template form, you will provide a Problem Statement of 1-2 questions, three (3) Options of 1 sentence each, and a Recommendation of 1-2 sentences; (3) Policy Analysis: Using the posted Policy Analysis template form, you will write a **1-page document** (single-spaced, 10-point font) with these **5 sections**: (i) Problem Statement; (ii) Background; (iii) Landscape; (iv) Options; and (5) Recommendation. On the document’s 2<sup>nd</sup> page, list **at least 3 references**, in APA format; and (4) Presentation: Be sure to review the posted Health Policy Analysis & Presentation Checklist/Rubric, then **upload your document by 6pm** – BEFORE the start of the Week 14 or Week 15 class session that you signed up for – and present your analysis. \*Further details will be discussed in class.\*
- **Course Reflection:** In a text entry or by a file upload, answer this question: What is your **biggest “take-away”** from this course? Write your personal reflection – NOT a research paper. Be sure to read the Public Health Writing Guide on “Reflections” for tips. Your reflection will be graded on the following 5 criteria: (1) Relevance: At least 1 course topic selected; (2) Conciseness: **1-page answer**, single-spaced, 12-point font; (3) Accuracy: Specific course content discussed; (4) Thoughtfulness: 2-3 organized paragraphs, with a logical transition between paragraphs; and (5) Importance: 2-3 key points made.

• **Assignment Grading – MPH Students**

- |                                                                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| • 10 “Online 30” Discussion Boards (5 pts. each)                                  | 50 pts.        |
| • Online Midterm Examination                                                      | 10 pts.        |
| • Policy Analysis: Outline 1 (5), Outline 2 (10), Analysis (10), Presentation (5) | 30 pts.        |
| • Course Reflection                                                               | <u>10 pts.</u> |

TOTAL: 100pts

• **Course Assignments – PhD Students:**

- **“Online 30” Discussion Boards:** Submit 2 posts: Your **1<sup>st</sup> post, due SATURDAY by 11.59pm**, responds to the Discussion Board question, and your **2<sup>nd</sup> post, due TUESDAY by 11.59pm**, responds to a classmate’s post. Your posts will be graded on the following 5 criteria: (1) Relevance: 1<sup>st</sup> post specifically answers the discussion question; 2<sup>nd</sup> post thoughtfully responds to a classmate – NOT 1-2 sentences of agreement; (2) Conciseness: Posts with a **1-paragraph/250-word maximum**; (3) Accuracy: Posts refer to information in the Canvas module and/or Discussion Board prompt; (4) Thoughtfulness: Posts with a logical paragraph; and (5) Importance: Posts make 1-2 key points.

**Grading Rubric for “Online 30” Discussion Boards (see page 3 (above))**

- **Online Midterm Examination:** The midterm examination will be **1 short answer (essay) question** on health politics and policy. Your **1-2-page answer** should be single-spaced, 12-point font, with parenthetical citation in APA format. (An APA Style resource is posted in Canvas.) This exam will be open for **2 hours**, during the scheduled class time.
- **Health Policy Analysis and Presentation:** This assignment has **4 components**: (1) Outline 1: Using the posted Outline 1 template form, you will propose a health policy issue and a political stakeholder (client) for that issue, with at least 5 initial references; (2) Outline 2: Using the posted Outline 2 template form, you will provide a Problem Statement of 1-2 questions, three (3) Options of 1 sentence each, and a Recommendation of 1-2 sentences; (3) Policy Analysis: Using the posted Policy Analysis template form, you will write a **1-page document** (single-spaced, 10-point font) with these **5 sections**: (i) Problem Statement; (ii) Background; (iii) Landscape; (iv) Options; and (5) Recommendation. On the document’s 2<sup>nd</sup> page, list **at least 5 references**, in APA format; (4) Presentation: Be sure to review the posted Health Policy Analysis & Presentation Checklist/Rubric, then **upload your document by 6pm** – BEFORE the start of the Week 14 or Week 15 class session that you signed up for – and present your analysis. \*Further details will be discussed in class.\*
- **Annotated Bibliography of Health Policy Analysis:** Your annotated bibliography must include a **minimum of 5 new references** with a summary of the main points, in APA format.

• **Assignment Grading – PhD Students**

- |                                                                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| • 10 “Online 30” Discussion Boards (5 pts. each)                                  | 50 pts.        |
| • Online Midterm Examination                                                      | 10 pts.        |
| • Policy Analysis: Outline 1 (5), Outline 2 (10), Analysis (10), Presentation (5) | 30 pts.        |
| • Annotated Bibliography of Policy Analysis                                       | <u>10 pts.</u> |

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| TOTAL: | 100pts |
|--------|--------|

• **School-wide Uniform Grading Scale:**

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Grading Policy: 94 – 100 | A  |
| 90 – <94                 | A- |
| 87 – <90                 | B+ |
| 84 – <87                 | B  |
| 80 – <84                 | B- |
| 77 – <80                 | C+ |
| 70 – <77                 | C  |
| <70                      | F  |

**Course Schedule:**

- **Week 1 Topic: Health Politics & the Policymaking Process**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Course Syllabus module & Week 1 module
- **Week 2 Topic: Political Lobbying “Versus” Policy Advocacy**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 2 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #1 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 1/25
- **Week 3 Topic: Writing a Health Policy Analysis**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 3 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #2 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 2/1
- **CASE STUDIES 1: Successes & Failures – National Level**
- **Week 4 Topic: Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act (MCCA) of 1988**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 4 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #3 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 2/8
- **Week 5 Topic: Health Security Act of 1993**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 5 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #4 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 2/15
- **Week 6 Topic: Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 6 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #5 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 2/22
  - Assignment Due: Policy Analysis Outline 1 – due by 11.59pm Tu 2/22
- **Week 7 Topic: No Surprises Act of 2020**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 7 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #6 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 3/1
- **Week 8: No Class Session – Online Midterm Examination, Open 6pm – 8pm**
  - Assignment Due: Online Midterm Examination, due by 8pm Tu 3/8
- **Week 9: No Class Session – Spring Recess Week**

- **CASE STUDIES 2: Successes & Failures – State/Local Level**
- **Week 10 Topic: Health Reform in Massachusetts (2006)**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 10 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #7 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 3/22
  - Assignment Due: Policy Analysis Outline 2 – due by 11.59pm Tu 3/22
- **Week 11 Topic: Soda Taxes in California (2014 - )**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 11 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #8 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 3/29
- **Week 12 Topic: Vaccine Religious Exemptions in New Jersey (2019 – 2020)**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 12 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #9 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 4/5
- **Week 13 Topic: Harm Reduction in Atlantic City, NJ (2021 - )**
  - Assigned Readings Due: Week 13 module
  - “Online 30” Discussion Board #10 – 2 posts due by 11.59pm Tu 4/12
- **Week 14 Topic: Health Policy Analysis Presentations Day 1**
  - Assignment Due: Policy Analysis, due by 6pm Tu 4/19
- **Week 15 Topic: Health Policy Analysis Presentations Day 2**
  - Assignment Due: Policy Analysis, due by 6pm Tu 4/26
- **Week 16: No Class Session – Final Assignments**
  - MPH Assignment Due: Course Reflection, due by 11.59pm Tu 5/3
  - PhD Assignment Due: Annotated Bibliography, due by 11.59pm Tu 5/3

**Learning Management System:** Canvas will be used extensively throughout the semester for course syllabus, assignments, announcements, communication and/or other course-related activities. It is the student’s responsibility to familiarize themselves with Canvas and check it regularly. If you have difficulties accessing Canvas, please inform the instructor and Canvas Support ([help@canvas.rutgers.edu](mailto:help@canvas.rutgers.edu)). Canvas is accessible at [canvas.rutgers.edu](https://canvas.rutgers.edu).

**School of Public Health Honor Code:** The School of Public Health Honor Code is found in the School Catalog ([sph.rutgers.edu/academics/catalog.html](https://sph.rutgers.edu/academics/catalog.html)). Each student bears a fundamental responsibility for maintaining academic integrity and intellectual honesty in his or her graduate work. For example, all students are expected to observe the generally accepted principles of scholarly work, to submit their own rather than another’s work, to refrain from falsifying data, and to refrain from receiving and/or giving aid on examinations or other assigned work requiring independent effort. In submitting written material, the writer takes full responsibility for the work as a whole and implies that, except as properly noted by use of quotation marks, footnotes, etc., both the ideas and the works used are his or her own. In addition to maintaining personal academic integrity, each student is expected to contribute to the academic integrity of the School community by not facilitating inappropriate use of her/his own work by others and by reporting acts of academic dishonesty by others to an appropriate school authority. It should be clearly understood that plagiarism, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can lead to sanctions up to and including separation from the Rutgers School of Public Health.

**Students with Disabilities:** Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a

student must apply for Services by first completing a Registration Form with the Rutgers Office of Disability Services (ODS) at [ods.rutgers.edu](https://ods.rutgers.edu). The student will also be required to participate in an ODS intake interview and provide documentation. If reasonable accommodations are granted, ODS will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations which should be shared with your instructors as early in your courses as possible.

**Commitment to Safe Learning Environment:** The Rutgers School of Public Health is committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the School as a whole. Free expression in an academic community is essential to the mission of providing the highest caliber of education possible. The School encourages civil discourse, reasoned thought, sustained discussion, and constructive engagement. Provocative ideas respectfully presented are an expected result. An enlightened academic community, however, connects freedom with responsibility. The School encourages all students to disclose any situations where you may feel unsafe, discriminated against, or harassed. Harassment or discrimination of any kind will be not tolerated and violations may lead to disciplinary actions.

**Reporting Discrimination or Harassment:** If you experience any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. You may report such incidents to the [RBHS Title IX Office](#) or to the School of Public Health's [Office of Student Affairs](#). Rutgers University has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. If you experience any other form of discrimination or harassment, including racial, ethnic, religious, political, or academic, please report any such incidents to the School's [Office of Student Affairs](#). The School strongly encourages all students to report any incidents of discrimination or harassment to the School. Please be aware that all Rutgers employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers as listed in Appendix A to [Policy 10.3.12](#)) are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the School and potentially the University. For example, if you tell a faculty or staff member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty or staff member must share that information with the [RBHS Title IX Coordinator](#). If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find a list of resources in Appendix A to University [Policy 10.3.12](#). For more information about your options at Rutgers, please visit [Rutgers Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance](#).

**Graduate Student Computer Policy:** Students are required to possess a personal laptop, no older than approximately two years, that must meet minimum requirements which may be found online at: [sph.rutgers.edu/student-life/computer-support.html](https://sph.rutgers.edu/student-life/computer-support.html)

**Policy Concerning Use of Recording Devices and Other Electronic Communications Systems:** When personally owned communication/recording devices are used by students to record lectures and/or classroom lessons, such use must be authorized by the faculty member or instructor who must give either oral or written permission prior to the start of the semester and identify restrictions, if any, on the use of mobile communications or recording devices.

**Policy Concerning Use of Turnitin:** Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com (directly or via learning management system, i.e. Canvas) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site. Students who do not agree should contact the course instructor immediately.

**Withdrawal/Refund Schedule:** Students who stop attending their course(s) without submitting a completed [Add/Drop Course](#) form will receive a failing grade. Furthermore, students dropping to zero

credits for the semester are considered withdrawn and must submit a completed [Leave of Absence](#) form from the School of Public Health's Office of Student Affairs. The School of Public Health refunds tuition only. Administrative and technology fees are non-refundable. You may find the Withdrawal/Refund Schedule on the School of Public Health website at: [sph.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-calendar.html](http://sph.rutgers.edu/academics/academic-calendar.html)

### **Special Circumstances During COVID-19 (For Spring 2022)**

To keep our on-campus communities safe, compliance with all current guidance and policies as set forth in the [Guide to Returning to Rutgers](#) is required at all times and without exception. Students, faculty, staff, or visitors who do not comply with these policies will not be permitted to remain on-site. The use of face-coverings indoors \*IS\* required in classrooms and offices as well as shared spaces (such as hallways and bathrooms). Rutgers employees and students must use the [My Campus Pass](#) symptom checker, a self-screening application, each day when traveling to campus or entering a Rutgers building. Please remember to wash your hands, wear a mask while indoors, particularly in crowded spaces and groups, and stay up-to-date on university guidance by consulting the [Guide to Returning to Rutgers](#) and the university's [COVID-19 website](#).

In addition, the School of Public Health recognizes that students may experience challenges or be negatively impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, mental and emotional health toll from systemic racism, altered personal and professional obligations, and other crises existing at the moment in our local, national, and global communities. Students are encouraged to discuss these challenges and circumstances with their instructor, if they feel they may need additional support or temporary accommodations at the beginning or during this course. The course instructor may consider making reasonable temporary adjustments depending on the student's situation. If additional support is needed, students may reach out to the Office of Student Affairs ([studentaffairs@sph.rutgers.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@sph.rutgers.edu)) or any of the appropriate referral resources listed on the SPH Student Connect Canvas page.