

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS**

Course Syllabus

**EMHA 701 – The U.S. Healthcare System, Programs, Politics and Policy
Semester/Year: Fall 2021**

Course Description:

Examines the manpower, financing and major service components of the US health care system. Addresses major issues of healthcare access, costs, and quality of care. Special emphasis on the role of government regulation and public policy in the system.

Course Narrative:

This six-week course provides executive students an overview of the U.S. healthcare system including the policy programs, providers and payment systems. It also addresses key issues in healthcare services today. It provides a thorough survey of the policies and structures of the U.S. healthcare system, a historical analysis of the development of the current system, and the organization and administration of healthcare services today and for the future. Participants will examine the healthcare system in terms of equity, appropriateness and effectiveness of the way healthcare services are delivered and how we pay for them. 3 credit hours.

EMHA Objectives:

- A1. Healthcare Issues and Trends (Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the healthcare industry and trends involved in provision, coverage, and access to care)
- A2. Standards & Regulations (Identify standards, laws, regulatory and accreditation criteria applicable to health care organization)
- A3. Populations' health and status assessment (Identify basic theory, concepts and models of health promotion, disease causation and prevention; analyze trends using primary and/or secondary community and health status data)
- A5. Healthcare payment system (develop a strong understanding of the reimbursement process for healthcare in the United States including the private and public sector payers). B2. Interpersonal Communication and working in teams (Build collaborative relationships, create, participate in and lead teams)
- C1. Personal and Professional Ethics (Adhere to ethical personal and business principles; exhibit ethical behaviors)
- D1. Health Economics (Analysis and application of economic theory and concepts to business decisions)
- D2. Organizational Dynamics and Governance (Apply organizational theory and behavior to develop, assess, design or redesign healthcare organizations)
- D7. Information Management/Understanding and Using Technology Skills (Apply techniques and methods to plan, design, implement and assess information flow and communication) D12. Quality Improvement/Performance Improvement (Define and assess quality and performance)
- D14. Health policy formulation, implementation and evaluation (Identify policy issues and key stakeholders;

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design and evaluate policy strategies)

D15. Human Resources (Apply methods and techniques related to the management of healthcare organization employees and professional staff).

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, it is expected that students will be able to:

Course Objective(s)	Competency	Level	Teaching Method	Assessment Method
Explain how healthcare policies are formed, from ideas to implementation and the activities in between at federal, state and local levels of government.	A1; A2; A3; A4; B2; C1; D1; D2; D6; D10; D12; D13	Basic	Articles Text Videos	Debate Discussion Boards Annotated Bibliography Policy Paper #1 Policy Paper #2 Presentation
Be able to explain the barriers to healthcare access: differentiate among the availability, accessibility and acceptability of healthcare among diverse populations.	A1; A3; D12	Basic	Articles Text Videos	Debate Discussion Boards Annotated Bibliography Policy Paper #1 Policy Paper #2 Presentation
Describe the spectrum of the healthcare delivery system including organizations and the workforce.	A1; A2; B2; C1; D2; D13	Basic	Articles Text Videos	Discussion Boards Annotated Bibliography Policy Paper #1 Policy Paper #2 Presentation
Describe the various organizational and ownership structures of the healthcare delivery system.	A1; A2; D1; D2	Basic	Articles Text Videos	Discussion Boards
Describe payment systems for healthcare: be able to discuss the different payers for healthcare services, how services are charged, and how health payment systems function.	A4; D1	Basic	Articles Text Videos	Discussion Boards Policy Paper #1 Policy Paper #2 Presentation
Be able to compare and contrast the unique characteristics of the U.S. healthcare system with healthcare systems in other countries.	A1; D1	Intermediate	Articles Text Videos	Discussion Boards
Address the role of technology on healthcare and its influence on treatment, cost and quality.	D6; D10	Basic	Articles Text Videos	Discussion Boards

Explain healthcare quality in terms of performance, delivery, measurement and assessment.	A3; D10	Basic	Articles Text Videos	Debate Discussion Boards Annotated Bibliography Policy Paper #1 Policy Paper #2 Presentation
Relate the role of ethics in healthcare delivery including the implementation of healthcare delivery and policies that test the role of ethics in healthcare for healthcare professionals and individuals.	A2; A3; C1	Intermediate	Articles Text Videos	Debate Discussion Boards Annotated Bibliography Policy Paper #1 Policy Paper #2 Presentation
Be able to develop and defend policies to improve the healthcare delivery system.	A1; D12	Advanced	Articles Text Videos	Debate Discussion Boards Annotated Bibliography Policy Paper #1 Policy Paper #2

Required Text:

- Leiyu Shi and Douglas Singh, (2015) *Delivering Health Care in America: A Systems Approach, Enhanced 6th Edition*. Jones and Bartlett. ISBN-13: 978-1284074635
- Additional readings, videos, etc. are assigned to students throughout the course. Access will be provided to these resources via WebCampus.

Grading Scale:

Points in %	Letter Grade
93-100	A
90-91	A-
87-89	B+
81-86	B
80	B-
70-79	C
<70	F

Any grade below a “B” will not qualify for graduate credit. A student who receives a B- or lower will be placed on academic probation.

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Grading Components:

Total Points available for the course: 100 pts.

Item	Number of Assignments	Points	Total Points
Debate	1	15	15
Discussion Boards	4	8	32
Policy Papers	2	15	30
Policy Paper Concept	1	5	5
Annotated Bibliography	1	5	5
Presentation	1	13	13
TOTAL			100

Carefully review rubrics for clarification on how Discussion Boards and Written Assignments will be graded.

Assignment Overviews:*Debate:*

Debate teams will be assigned during the first week of class. Debate topic will focus on current events in the healthcare field. Each team will take a “pro” (support the position) or a “con” (oppose the position) stance, as advised by faculty. Assigned teams will collaborate in their designated discussion area preparing a response (either pro or con, as assigned) for a policy issue. Once the statement is posted, the other team(s) will post a rebuttal. The initial team position should be approximately 500-750 words in length. The rebuttal may be less, approximately 500 words. Be sure to use citations and references

Discussion Boards:

Discussion Boards will be based on a variety of current healthcare topics, introduced by online articles or other media. Students are required to post an initial response of approximately 500 words in length with reference(s). You are to provide a well thought out comment or criticism of peers’ postings, as well. Constructive criticism, the posting of a question or an alternative related idea is encouraged, as opposed to simply agreeing with or commending a peer’s post. Each of these posts should be approximately 250-300 words and include at least one citation/reference in support of your comment. Students should participate by the deadlines for full credit. A minimum of one response to a peer is required.

Health Policy Papers (2):

For Policy paper # 1, you have your choice of one of three topics from the following selection (APA format is required):

Topic 1: Should patients be concerned about privacy related to their medical devices? What duty does industry have in addressing this vulnerability in device development prior to go-to-market, and how does industry stay ahead of hackers to protect patients?

OR

Topic 2: Should pharmaceutical prices be government controlled to protect consumers? If so, why and how? If

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not, what alternative do you propose? How does a pharmaceutical CEO serve shareholders and patients simultaneously?

OR

Topic 3: How do you demonstrate “time in on the job?” This topic is intended as a reflection relative to the following Ted Talk from this week: “The Inflection Point of Medicine.”

Explain the concept of “time in” on the job and how you see this healthcare delivery attribute play out in your organization. Is it contradictory to expect healthcare professionals to deliver this level of personalized care in a climate of intense compliance issues? Is providing the new EHR to patients possible, or do policies and legislation dictate how care is to be provided? (ex. with the backdrop of the ACA, HIPAA, and HITECH Act, does the new EHR get moved to the back burner?) Should practitioners focus on “time in?” Why or why not – and if they should, how do they devote time and energy to this aspect of care delivery?

The policy paper should be no more than 3-4 pages in length. Be sure to include at least 3-5 reputable resources.

Papers are uploaded to Assignments.

Policy Paper # 2 Concept: For this paper you will be researching/writing ring about a new healthcare policy to improve the distribution of healthcare services). Consider a policy that covers one of the covered areas in the course.

To understand what constitutes a policy topic see this [health affairs website](#).

*Note, since this is a health services and policy course, topics should relate to service delivery, financing, ethics or quality/access of/to care.

In addition to listing the topic you will be proposing, include a brief outline with preliminary references (at least 4). This concept posting will be the initial step for the Policy Paper # 2.

This assignment is not the final Policy Paper # 2, just the concept, brief outline and preliminary reference you expect to use.

Annotated Bibliography:

Create an annotated bibliography, including your sources for policy paper #2, in APA format. Be sure to include at least five to seven reputable sources.

[Resource on Annotated Bibliographies](#)

Policy Paper #2 and Presentation:

This is the final policy you are creating that you began with your posting of the policy topic and outline. The final policy paper should be no more than 3-4 pages in length. Be sure to include at least 3-5 reputable resources.

Your narrated PowerPoint presentation will be on the policy you developed and will provide more detail on the slides and in speaker notes. The presentation should be 7-10 minutes in length.

See Individual Policy Papers/Presentation Rubric for grading criteria.

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Additional Considerations:*Program Use of Student Work:*

Assignments completed for this course may be used as evidence of student learning in accreditation reports. Students who do not wish their work to be used for accreditation purposes must inform the course instructor in writing by the end of late registration. Your participation and cooperation are appreciated.

Assignment Details:

Each week, you must read all assigned readings. All assignments due by 11:59 pm PST on due date.

Note: UNLV Tech Support is only available until 11 pm PST on weekdays, so plan accordingly.

Other UNLV Policies:

You are also responsible for reviewing and complying with the academic policies found [here](#).

EMHA 701 Course Schedule:

Assignments and due dates may be subject to change at the discretion of the instructor and with the appropriate notice to students through announcements on WebCampus.

DATES	TOPICS & ASSIGNMENTS (Due by Midnight)	RESOURCES
Unit 1	Overview to Understanding the U.S. Healthcare System	
Module 1	<p>Overview and Organization of the US Healthcare System</p> <p>Introduction of debate topic/team prep.</p>	<p>Text: Shi and Singh - Chapters 1-3, 13</p> <p>Resources:</p> <p>Morone, J. A. (2010). Presidents and health reform: from Franklin D. Roosevelt to Barack Obama. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 29(6), 1096-1100.</p> <p>Eibner, C. & Nowak, S. (2018, July 11). The Effect of Eliminating the Individual Mandate and the Role of Behavioral Factors. The Commonwealth Fund.</p> <p>Jost, T.(2017, Dec.20). The Tax Bill and the Individual Mandate, and What Does it Mean? Health Affairs Blog.</p> <p>Altman, D. (2021, Jan. 11). Joe Biden’s New Health Care Agenda and CMS’s Big Role in It. Kaiser Family Foundation/Health Reform.</p> <p>Tikkanen, R., et. al (2020, June 5). International Health Care System Profiles – United States. The Commonwealth Fund.</p> <p>Obama’s Deal -- Watch the Frontline Video of the passage of the Affordable Care Act of 2010.</p> <p>WHO: Financing Healthcare. (2011).</p>

	Debate	<p>The ACA is a hotly contested policy in both public and private forums that has definitively impacted healthcare and the healthcare market in the United States. Presently there is the potential for significant change to the ACA, through both legislative and executive lanes, the form and impact and of which is relatively uncertain.</p> <p>Assigned Positions:</p> <p><u>Pro (Group A)</u> – The ACA has had a tremendous and positive impact in the United States on healthcare consumers in terms of cost, quality and access and is not in need of legislative or rulemaking agency modification.</p> <p><u>Con (Group B)</u> – The ACA is a flawed policy with a number of definitive negative impacts on cost, quality and access in the United States and is in need of significant revision from both legislative and rule-making bodies (CMS, IRS, etc. etc.).</p> <p>Your group also must be prepared for a rebuttal statement based on the other group’s initial posted position. Each group should come to a consensus based on everyone participating. Positions regarding the debate are expected to support assertions with evidence/quality researched literature support. Each team’s initial response should be posted by Thursday with the rebuttal no later than Sunday</p>
Module 2	Healthcare Policy: Formulation, Implementation and Modification Healthcare and the Law	<p>Resources:</p> <p>National Health Expenditure Data 2015 Highlights (2015). Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.</p> <p>Gostin, L. (1995). The Formulation of Health Policy by the Three Branches of Government. NCBI/NIH.</p> <p>Campos, P.A. & Reich, M.R. (2019, Aug. 7). Political Analysis for Health Policy Implementation. Taylor & Francis Online.</p> <p>Distinguishing Policy Modification from Policy Initiation (2020, Dec. 16). GUWS Medical.</p>

Module 3	Access to Care and At-Risk Populations	<p>Text: Shi and Singh - Chapter 11</p> <p>Resources:</p> <p>Stevens, R. (1991). Can the government govern? Lessons from the formation of the Veterans Administration. <i>Journal of health politics, policy and law</i>, 16(2), 281-305.</p> <p>Bedlin, H. & Phillips, M. (2021, June 2). Biden Budget Invests in Aging Programs. National Council on Aging.</p> <p>Sommers, B. D. (2013). Stuck between health and immigration reform—care for undocumented immigrants. <i>New England Journal of Medicine</i>, 369(7), 593-595.</p>
Unit 2	Comparative Systems in Healthcare and Healthcare Providers	
Module 4	Comparative Systems in Healthcare	<p>Resources:</p> <p>Albrecht, T. (2009). Privatization processes in health care in Europe—a move in the right direction, a ‘trendy’ option, or a step back? <i>The European Journal of Public Health</i>, 19(5), 448-450.</p> <p>Is Canada the Right Model for a Better U.S. Healthcare System? (2017, May 19). Knowledge@ Wharton.</p> <p>Videos:</p> <p>Sick Around the World.</p>
Module 5	Healthcare Professionals: Physicians and ambulatory care Nurses Other healthcare professionals	<p>Text: Shi and Singh - Chapters 4 & 7</p> <p>Resources:</p> <p>Kuo, Y. F., Loresto, F. L., Rounds, L. R., & Goodwin, J. S. (2013). States with the least restrictive regulations experienced the largest increase in patients seen by nurse practitioners. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 32(7), 1236-1243.</p> <p>Smiley, R.A., et. al. (2021, April). The 2020 National Nursing Workforce Survey. <i>Journal of Nursing Regulation</i>, (12) 1, S1-S-96.</p> <p>Zhang, X., et al. (2020, Feb. 6). Physician Workforce in the United States of America: Forecasting Nationwide Shortages. U.S. National Library of Medicine/NIH.</p>
	DB Post # 1 Due	Initial post to DB

	Policy Paper #2 Concept Posting	<p>Policy Paper #2 topic posted with references posted Post your policy paper #2 topic (for the policy brief) outline to Assignments with preliminary references (at least 4) this week. Identify a current policy or propose a new health care policy to improve the distribution of health care services. Consider a topic that covers one of the covered areas in the course.</p> <p>To understand what constitutes a policy topic go to Health Affairs.</p> <p>Note, since this is a health services and policy course, topics should relate to service delivery, financing, ethics or quality/access of/to care.</p> <p>Continue to work on this policy paper in the coming weeks. The final version of this Policy Paper will be due in the final week of the course.</p>
Unit 3	Hospitals as Health Delivery Systems	
Module 6	Hospitals as Health Delivery Systems	<p>Text: Shi and Singh - Chapter 8</p> <p>Resources: Kane, N. M., Singer, S. J., Clark, J. R., Eeckloo, K., & Valentine, M. (2012). Strained local and state government finances among current realities that threaten public hospitals' profitability. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 31(8), 1680-1689.</p> <p>Fact Sheet: Hospital Billing Explained. (2017, September), American Hospital Association.</p> <p>LaPointe, J. (2018, Feb. 8). The Role of the Hospital Chargemaster in Revenue Cycle Management. Revcycle Intelligence, Xtelligent Healthcare Media.</p> <p>Meier, B., Craven McGinty, J., & Creswel, J. (2013, May 8). Hospital billing varies wildly, government data shows. <i>New York Times</i>.</p> <p>Ayers, A. (2021) Advertised Wait Times Negatively Skew Patient Perceptions Regarding Nonemergent Encounters., <i>Journal of Urgent Care Medicine</i>.</p> <p>Weiner, S. G. (2013). Advertising emergency department wait times. <i>Western Journal of Emergency Medicine</i>, 14(2).</p>

Module 7	Long-term Care: Nursing facilities, Home Health, Rehabilitation facilities Healthcare and the Elderly Mental Healthcare	Text: Shi and Singh - Chapter 10 Resources: What is Long-Term Care? (2017, May 1). National Institute on Aging. Brown, J. R., Goda, G. S., & McGarry, K. (2012). Long-term care insurance demand limited by beliefs about needs, concerns about insurers, and care available from family. <i>Health Affairs</i> , 31(6), 1294-1302. Issue Policy #1 – What Do the Data Tell Us? (2008). The State of Mental Health and Aging in America. Centers for Disease Control.
	DB Post # 2 Due	Initial post to DB
Module 8	Pharmaceutical Industry and HC Technology	Text: Shi and Singh - Chapter 5 Videos: Bhojrul, S. (2014). EHR: The Inflection Point of Medicine. TedTalk. Shah, Dr. R. (2015). The New Disrupters in Healthcare: Patients and Pharmacists. TedTalk. Best, J. (2020, Jan. 14). Could Implanted Medical Devices Be Hacked? The BMJ. Criss, D. (2019, Oct. 2). Software Vulnerabilities in Some Medical Devices Could Leave Them Susceptible to Hackers, FDA Warns. CNN Health. Kosarich, D. (2016, Sept. 27). Mylan's EpiPen Pricing Crossed Ethical Boundaries. Fortune.
	Policy Paper #1 Due	
Module 9	Private Health Insurance	Text: Shi and Singh - Chapter 6, beginning of chapter to p. 213

		<p>Resources:</p> <p>Fronstin, P., Sepúlveda, M.,J., & Roebuck, M. C. (2013). Consumer-directed health plans reduce the long-term use of outpatient physician visits and prescription drugs. <i>Health Affairs</i>, 32(6), 1126-34.</p> <p>Seervai, S. (2019, Jan. 11). The Future of Health Care Marketplaces. The Commonwealth Fund Podcast.</p> <p>Associated Press. (2021, June 6). Biden Turns to Obama to Help Boost Health Plan Enrollment. <i>Modern Healthcare</i>.</p> <p>Video:</p> <p>Pauly, M. (2015). Does employer-sponsored health insurance have a future?</p>
	DB Post #3 Due	Initial post to DB
Module 10	Medicare and Medicaid	<p>Text: Shi and Singh - Chapter 6, pp. 214-end of chapter</p> <p>Resources:</p> <p>Rappleye, E. (2015). 100 things to know about Medicare and Medicaid - in 2015.</p> <p>Siskos, C. (2021, March 17). Medicare Basics: 11 Things You Need to Know. Kiplinger Newsletter.</p> <p>Medicaid (2021, June 7). Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions: Interactive Map. Kaiser Family Foundation.</p> <p>Bhandari, N., Shi, Y., & Jung, K. (2016). Patient experience of provider refusal of Medicaid coverage and its implications. <i>Journal of health care for the poor and underserved</i>, 27(2), 479-494.</p> <p>Rudowitz, R., Musumeci, M. & Garfield, R. (2021, Jan. 15). Medicaid: What to Watch in 2021. Kaiser Family Fndtn.</p>

Module 11	Managing Patient Care Managed Care Accountable Care Organizations Patient Centered Medical Homes	Text: Shi and Singh - Chapter 9 Resources: Gold, J. (2015, Sept. 14). Accountable Care Organizations Explained. Kaiser Health News. Defining the Patient Care Medical Home (n.d.) AHRQ. Cotton, P. (2018, Sept. 10). Patient-Centered Medical Home Evidence Increases with Time. Health Affairs Blog.
	Annotated Bibliog.	Create an annotated bibliography, including your sources for policy paper #2, in APA format. Annotated Bibliography Resource
Unit 3	Health and Healthcare Outcomes	
Module 12	Controlling Costs: Why and How to Contain Them	Resources: Porter, M. (2010). What is value in health care? <i>NEJM</i> . 363(26); pp. 2477-81 Brill, S. (2013). Bitter pill: Why medical bills are killing us. How outrageous pricing and egregious profits are destroying our health care. Time Magazine Altman S. & Mechanic, R. (2018, July 13). Health Care Cost Control: Where Do We Go from Here? Health Affairs Blog.
Module 13	Quality of Care Issues in Healthcare	Resources: Websites: HCAHPS Survey/HCAHPS The Joint Commission Hospital Compare NEJM Catalyst. (2018, March 1). What is Pay for Performance? New England Journal of Medicine. HCAHPS: Patients' Perspectives of Care Survey. (2020, Feb. 11). CMS.gov
	DB # 4 Post Due	
Unit 4	Ethics and End of Life Choices	

	<p>Ethical Issues Clinical Ethics Management Ethics Marketing Ethics</p>	<p>Resources: Solomon, M., et.al. (2016, Oct.). Ethical Issues in Advertising and Promotion of Medical Units. Romanian Journal of Ophthalmology,60 (4), 216-218.</p> <p>ACHE Code of Ethics</p> <p>What are Palliative Care and Hospice Care? (2021, May 14). Institute on Aging/NIH.</p> <p>Baldelomar, R. (2016). Where is the line between ethical and legal?</p>
	<p>End of Life Choices</p>	<p>Resources: Freyer, F. (2016). At end of life in Mass., hospital care is big cost.</p> <p>Maynard, B. (2015). Brittany Maynard Legislative Testimony.</p> <p>The Conversation Project – website.</p>
	<p>Policy Paper #2 Due</p>	<p>Policy Paper #2: Identify a current policy or propose a new health care policy to improve the distribution of health care services. Consider a topic that covers one of the covered areas in the course. To understand what constitutes a policy topic go to Health Affairs. Note, since this is a health services and policy course, topics should relate to service delivery, financing, ethics or quality/access of/to care.</p>