**Course Director**  
Maria Clay, PhD

**Duration**  
2 weeks

**Course Goal(s)**  
This course introduces students to health care policy and delivery in the U.S., focusing on the components and workings of the multiple systems that define, describe and shape the provisions of health services.

**Educational Objectives**  
Health policy consists of various elements that collectively form an overarching framework in which health is promoted and care is given. Normally, these elements consist of:

I. **Financing health and health care.** Included in this are issues of:
   a. Who pays for health care (insurance types, providers/government)
   b. How are providers reimbursed (what is actually paid for)
   c. Mechanisms for controlling costs
   d. Rationing care

II. **How is health organized**
   a. Role of hospitals, FQHC, Health Departments, etc.
   b. New models of health care delivery (e.g., medical home, ACO)
   c. Role of Physicians and Hospital/Hospital Systems

III. **Workforce Development**
   a. How is medical education (UME and GME) funded
   b. Differing models of care (e.g., Interprofessional Team Based Care)
   c. Changes in Practice Acts and Implication for Medicine

IV. **Governmental Initiatives**
   a. Quality & Standards
   b. ACA: Present and Proposed Changes

V. **Social Determinants of Health**
   a. How Social Determinants are affected by and affect health policy and laws

Student will choose one of these topics and research it thoroughly, through independent study, culminating in a 1200-1500 word reflection paper and in-person meeting with the course director.

**Course Readings**  
To be chosen by student

**Course Activities/Experience**  
Assignment over the two-week block is to read 10-15 articles in one of these major areas (e.g., financing health and health care) or in a subcategory (e.g., role of physicians and hospitals). Then complete (a) a brief annotated bibliography of the articles you read, and (b) do a reflection paper (1200-1500 words) on the meaning to you of what you read.
in these articles. Send course director the annotated bibliography and reflection paper to review, then set up a 30 minute meeting to discuss in person what you take away from this independent study.

Alternatively, you may want to read a text on health policy (e.g., Understanding Health Policy: A Clinical Approach, 7th edition by Bodenheimer and Grumbach -- there is a kindle edition and a rent option on Amazon). Write a 1200-1500 reflective paper on the meaning to you of a health care system based on your chosen textbook. Again, send the reflection paper to the course director and set up a 30 minute meeting to discuss.

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<tr>
<th>Student Performance &amp; Assessment</th>
<th>Evaluation of student’s performance will be based on his/her selection and completion of readings, submission of final paper, and meeting with course director.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other Info</td>
<td>Flexibility in timing of coursework may be approved by course director, especially during interviewing season.</td>
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