<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Information</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course:</strong></td>
<td>90-861 Health Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Offering:</strong></td>
<td>Mini (6 units)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>HBH 1007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time:</strong></td>
<td>Mondays: 6:00-8:50 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dates:</strong></td>
<td>October 24, 2016 – December 8, 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Instructor:** | Elizabeth Van Nostrand, JD  
Assistant Professor of Health Policy and Management  
University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health  
Phone: 412.383.2231  
Email: schmidt@pitt.edu; ebjerke@andrew.cmu.edu  
Office hours: Please send an email requesting an appointment. I will be happy to meet with you at a mutually convenient time either in person or by phone. |
| **Teaching Assistant:** | Ishaan Chopra  
Email: ichopra@andrew.cmu.edu  
Office hours: Will finalize on first day of class based on convenience to students and via email. |

| Prerequisites | 90-836 Health Systems |

| Description | This course introduces students to the concepts, theories, and tools of health policy. The aims of this course are to provide students with (1) the ability to identify key problems facing the United States health system, (2) an increased appreciation for and understanding of health policy as an important and useful tool for enhancing population health, and (3) mechanisms to address a current health policy issue from legal, economic, behavioral, and political perspectives. In addition, students will be introduced to a cross-national comparison of health systems. |

| Course Materials | There is no required textbook for this course. Peer-reviewed journal articles from a variety of disciplines, legal cases, articles from the popular press, and policy analyses produced by government agencies, think tanks, and research organizations will be available to students. All readings will be available online unless otherwise specified. Readings not available electronically will be uploaded on CourseWeb. |

| Evaluation Methods | Please see the attached guidelines for your projects. Five assessments will be used to evaluate student performance.  
- Professionalism – 20%  
  o Students will be assessed individually using a rubric measuring attendance, class preparation, attitude, and arriving on time for class.  
- Health Policy White Paper – 20%  
  o Students will collaboratively write a 10-15 page paper that addresses a group selected current health policy or public health policy issue. Each Health Policy White Paper |
must be double spaced, using 11 point font. Endnotes must be used and will not count toward the page requirement.

- Students will be assessed as a group on the quality of their Health Policy White Paper using a rubric measuring quality of research, content, comprehensibility, organization, effort, and sophistication.
- The Health Policy White Paper is due by 6:00 p.m. on December 4, 2016 via email to Professor Van Nostrand and TA Ishaan Chopra. Please bring a hard copy of your paper to your presentation on December 5, 2016. Absolutely no extensions will be given without resulting in a reduction of grade. A 20% reduction will be made for each Health Policy White Paper turned in after 6:00 p.m. but before midnight on December 4, 2016. An additional 20% reduction will be made if the paper is turned in between 12:01 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on December 5, 2016. No Health Policy Paper will be accepted after 6:00 p.m. on December 5, 2016.

- Health Policy Presentation – 20%
  - Each group will present its policy recommendations to the class on December 5, 2016.
  - Each presentation should be about 20 minutes with an additional 5 minutes for questions and answers for a total of 25 minutes
  - Students will be assessed individually using a rubric measuring quality of research, information gathering, and communication.

- Peer Assessment – 20%
  - Students will be assessed by their group members using a rubric measuring the individual’s contribution to the group effort, completion of individual tasks, attitude, and, work ethic. Additional comments will also be solicited. The Peer Assessment evaluations will be averaged and collectively worth 20% of the individual’s final grade

- Health Policy Brief – 20%
  - Each student will prepare a 2-3 page policy brief on Medical-Legal Partnerships.
  - Each Health Policy Brief is due via email to Professor Van Nostrand and Ishaan Chopra by 6:00 p.m. on November 21, 2016. Please bring a hard copy of your brief to the November 21, 2016 class. Absolutely no extensions will be given without resulting in a reduction of grade. A 20% reduction will be made if your brief is turned in after 6:00 p.m. but before midnight on November 21, 2016. An additional 20% reduction will be made assessed for each subsequent day the brief is late.
  - Students will be assessed individually using a rubric measuring the quality of research, clarity of information, and use of data.
### Learning/Course Objectives

Specific instructional objectives include (but are not limited to) the following. Upon completion of the course, each student should be able to:

1. Understand critical issues facing the U.S. health system
2. Define health policy problems and assess alternative solutions
3. Analyze a range of contemporary health policies from legal, economic, behavioral, and political perspectives
4. Describe the role of interest groups and public opinion in health policy issues
5. Describe the United States health care system and compare it to others
6. Present and defend solutions to health policy problems
7. Prepare clear and concise policy papers and briefs

### Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99.0-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94.0-98.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91.0-93.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88.0-90.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84.0-87.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81.0-83.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78.0-80.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74.0-77.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71.0-73.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The grade of A+ is reserved for truly exceptional performance. **There will be no rounding.**

### Course/Topical Outline

Below is an overview of the course outline.

#### Class 1. October 24, 2016 Introduction to the Course and to Health Policy

Lecturer: Professor Van Nostrand

- **Topics**
  - Review of Syllabus, Course Expectations and Rubrics
  - Discussion of Group Projects and Presentations
  - Overview of What is Health Policy?
  - Introduction to Medical-Legal Partnerships
  - The Art of Structuring and Writing Public Policy Analysis: White Papers and Briefs

- **Required Reading**
  - An Introduction to Health in All Polices: A Guide for State and Local Governments

#### Class 2. October 31, 2016 The Impact of Social Determinants of Health and Health Disparities on Health Policymaking

Assignment: Group project proposal must be submitted to Professor Van Nostrand and Ishaan Chopra via email by 5:00 p.m. Proposals with comments will be returned to the groups on or before COB Friday, November 4, 2016

Guest Lecturer: Valarie Blake, JD, MA. Associate Professor, West Virginia University College of Law

- **Topics**
  - Health and Health Care Disparities
  - Social Determinants of Health
Policy and Law Options

- **Required Readings**


**Guest Lecturer:** Marian P. Jarlenski, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh

- **Topics**
  - Political Factors that Distinguish Health Policy from Other Public Policy Domains
  - Understanding of the Politics of the Affordable Care Act in the Context of the Current National Election
  - Presidential power in Health Policy Making
  - Class exercise to Build Skills in Political Advocacy and the Future of the Affordable Care Act

- **Required Readings**


**Lecturer:** Professor Van Nostrand

- **Topics**
  - Overview of Governmental Authority to Intercede in Health and Public Health Matters
  - Doctrine of Police Power
  - Right to Health Care
  - Right to Refuse Health Care

- **Required Readings**
  - Jacobson v. Massachusetts
  - Lochner v. New York
  - Cruzan v. Missouri
  - City of Newark v. J.S.

### Class 5. November 21, 2016. Assessing Health System Performance: How Does the U.S. Compare?

**Guest Lecturer:** Jacob S. Collins, MS, Advisory Services, International Division, UPMC

- **Topics**
  - Review of the US Health Care System
| Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty | Plagiarism and other forms of academic misrepresentation are taken extremely seriously. Misrepresentation of another’s work as one’s own is widely recognized as among the most serious violations. The violation is clearly flagrant when it occurs as plagiarism on a required paper or assignment or as cheating on an examination, regardless of whether it is a take-home or in-class examination. The punishment for such offenses can involve expulsion from the program. There are many other ways in which a violation can occur. 

**Academic Dishonesty:** Students are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards inside and outside the classroom. Cheating on exams and term papers (i.e. plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration) is obviously discouraged and will be treated appropriately. The usual penalty for violations is a failing grade for the particular assignment in question; however, in some instances, such actions may result in a failing grade for the course. |
| Course Policies & Expectations | Each student is expected to attend each class. Role will be taken at 6:00 p.m. A lack of attendance or tardiness of any kind may result in a lowered Professionalism grade. 

- Potentially controversial topics will be discussed in class. Each student is expected to be respectful of other’s perspectives. Any disrespectful behavior of any kind may result in a lowered Professionalism grade.
- Food and beverages are permitted in class.
- The students will decide during the first class whether the use of laptops is permitted.
- There will be no use of cell phones during class. Any use of cell phones may result in a lowered Professionalism grade.
- The best way to reach me is through my email. I will also be happy to arrange telephone or in-person conferences with you at a mutually convenient time. |
| **Group Paper and Presentation Guidelines** | The class will be divided into teams of four. In each group, two individuals will be assigned to represent the Republican viewpoint, and two will be assigned to take the Democrat position. The team will collectively select a current health policy or a public health policy issue to debate and, hopefully, reach consensus. Among other sources, ideas for topics can be found in the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll or Kaiser Morning Brief (http://khn.org/morning-briefing/). Selections must be sent to Professor Van Nostrand and Ishaan Chopra as set forth above. Approximately 5 pages of the Health Policy White Paper will be devoted to each of the two sides. The remainder of the paper will be policy recommendations collaboratively agreed to by both the Republicans and Democrats. Be sure to include the following in your paper:

- Identification of the stakeholders and their expected viewpoint on the selected issue
- Analysis of the states/regions of the country that are most likely to agree with your position, and which ones would not and why
- Explanation of how you were able to reach consensus on certain aspects of your topic and which issues remain divided |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Guidelines</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Group Paper and Presentation Guidelines** | The class will be divided into teams of four. In each group, two individuals will be assigned to represent the Republican viewpoint, and two will be assigned to take the Democrat position. The team will collectively select a current health policy or a public health policy issue to debate and, hopefully, reach consensus. Among other sources, ideas for topics can be found in the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll or Kaiser Morning Brief (http://khn.org/morning-briefing/). Selections must be sent to Professor Van Nostrand and Ishaan Chopra as set forth above. Approximately 5 pages of the Health Policy White Paper will be devoted to each of the two sides. The remainder of the paper will be policy recommendations collaboratively agreed to by both the Republicans and Democrats. Be sure to include the following in your paper:

- Identification of the stakeholders and their expected viewpoint on the selected issue
- Analysis of the states/regions of the country that are most likely to agree with your position, and which ones would not and why
- Explanation of how you were able to reach consensus on certain aspects of your topic and which issues remain divided |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Guidelines</strong></th>
<th><strong>Description</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Group Paper and Presentation Guidelines** | The class will be divided into teams of four. In each group, two individuals will be assigned to represent the Republican viewpoint, and two will be assigned to take the Democrat position. The team will collectively select a current health policy or a public health policy issue to debate and, hopefully, reach consensus. Among other sources, ideas for topics can be found in the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll or Kaiser Morning Brief (http://khn.org/morning-briefing/). Selections must be sent to Professor Van Nostrand and Ishaan Chopra as set forth above. Approximately 5 pages of the Health Policy White Paper will be devoted to each of the two sides. The remainder of the paper will be policy recommendations collaboratively agreed to by both the Republicans and Democrats. Be sure to include the following in your paper:

- Identification of the stakeholders and their expected viewpoint on the selected issue
- Analysis of the states/regions of the country that are most likely to agree with your position, and which ones would not and why
- Explanation of how you were able to reach consensus on certain aspects of your topic and which issues remain divided |