Instructor: Robert G. Frank, Ph.D.
273-6214
rfrank@phhp.ufl.edu

Office: Room 4104, HPNP

Class Meetings: Thursdays, 1:55 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.

Room: Room G-312, HPNP Complex, Ground Floor, West wing

Required Text:
Policy Paradox, The Art of Political Decision Making
by Deborah Stone
Health Politics: Power, Populism and Health
By Mike Magee, MD

MEETINGS:
The class will meet once per week beginning Thursday, January 11, 2007 and finishing April 26, 2007. Spring break is the week of March 12th - March 16th; there will be no class that week. The final exam will be scheduled for May.

OFFICE HOURS:
By appointment, please call 273-6214. Generally, I will be able to see you on the day you request to be seen. I am also willing to see you without an appointment if you drop in, but I cannot guarantee that I will be available.

OBJECTIVES:
This course will review major issues affecting health policy in the United States. We will overview themes that have affected the historic development of health policy and factors that will affect future health policy initiatives. In addition, we will examine how policy affects the development of health care
legislation, and the process of political compromise and real world limitations upon the implementation of legislation. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Provide cogent, in-depth discussions of important health policy issues including access to healthcare, financing of healthcare, health insurance, cost control, rationing, indigent care, Medicare, Medicaid, third-party payment, Title XXI, and the health workforce;
- Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of how these issues are interrelated, and;
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of incremental and systemic reform designed to address these issues;
- Understand the reciprocal relationship between political processes and policy.

**STRUCTURE AND CONTENT:**
This course emphasizes development of a broad foundation of knowledge of health policy. In addition, the course will foster the development of analytic and synthesizing skills with regard to health policy and health legislation. Emphasis will be placed on the ability to understand the reciprocal and interactive nature of the dynamics of the health care system. Emphasis will also be placed upon the ability to draw on a broad spectrum of skills rather than any single area.

**The course topics include:**
1) The workings of the U.S. Congress and Executive Branch
2) Politics and Health; the evolution of policy to legislation including incremental versus comprehensive reform
3.) The Uninsured in America
4.) Access to Care
5.) Financing Health Care
6.) Medicaid
7.) Medicare
8.) Workforce
9.) Mental Health

**REQUIREMENTS:**
Each class meeting will consist of discussion of one or more topics, assigned readings, and student presentations and discussion. Students will be expected to participate in the discussion at each class session. Bonus participation can be earned, up to 10 points. The participation bonus will be based upon a student’s ability to articulately engage in the conversation and marshal information from class discussions, readings, and other sources to support their views. Consistency of views is not essential as values and thoughts may change across the course of the discussion. Readings are assigned for each meeting. You will be expected to read and understand all assigned readings.

Students will be assigned to teams to make presentations on the various topics. In your presentations you will be expected to overview the assigned readings and identify other relevant material pertinent to the assigned topic. Your presentation should present a comprehensive, integrated review of the topic. You are expected to provide a thorough review of the topic that informs your colleagues. You are encouraged to provide handouts that summarize your presentation. Audiovisual aids (overheads, LED projector) will be available for use during your presentation.

In addition to reviewing the extant literature and background on the topic, you will be expected to review current or historic legislation on your topic. Attached you will find a copy of the Thomas home page, sponsored by the Library of Congress which provides a search engine capable of searching by key words, bill numbers, and text for the last 14 sessions of Congress. Your group will need to pick one current, or recent, bill addressing your topic. Your group will present the bill to the class summarizing the proposed intentions of the legislation. You will then critique the bill, summarizing the strengths and weaknesses of the legislation and describing how these changes would improve the legislation. Last, your group should design a piece of legislation for the assigned topic. You should provide a summary of the bill discerning the need,
structure of the bill, and intended consequences. Your presentation will be evaluated in the following manner:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Review of the issue (Overview of the topic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Historic legislation and policy efforts*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Previous legislative efforts on this topic</td>
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<td></td>
<td>*Key issues for Republicans</td>
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<td>*Key issues for Democrats</td>
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<td>*Policy and fiscal implications of various approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Proposed legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>a. Rationale</td>
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<td>b. Target groups</td>
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<td>c. Mechanism</td>
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<td>d. Financing</td>
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<td>e. Outcomes</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Total</td>
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During the course, each student will write two (2) memos to members of Congress. (See schedule below.) Memo 1 will be to Republican member of Congress and Memo 2 will be to a Democrat. Each memo will be written as if you are a staff person in the member’s office. Of course, the memo should be addressed to the member of Congress. In the memo you will provide the background for the legislation. Your memo will also review arguments supporting the legislation and difficulties the legislation could create. End the memo by recommending a course of action for the member of Congress. Memos should not exceed two pages and should be carefully written. Concise writing, combined with a succinct review of the issue, the political ramifications and clear recommendations will be valued. The first quiz will review Congressional terms. There are several Web sites that provide this information. A very good one is: www.thecapitol.net/glossary
The midterm will review material covered in the first half of the class. The final exam will be based upon the material presented in class, readings and discussions. The exams will consist of short answer and/or essay questions.

**Schedule Evaluation for HSA 6152**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Possible Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Quiz 1</td>
<td>Congressional Terms</td>
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<td>2. Memo 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Memo 2</td>
<td>(this is Research Fair day)</td>
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<td>4. Midterm</td>
<td>(Dr. Frank out this day)</td>
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<td>5. Stone presentation</td>
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<td>6. Legislative Presentation</td>
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<td>7. Final Exam</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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Total Possible Points: 400

**Bonus Points**

- Participation in class discussion up to: 10
- Tallahassee Trip: April 11 10

Total bonus pts: 20

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT:**

Your grade should be a reflection of your own individual understanding and mastery of the material covered in this course. Cheating or dishonesty in any manner (including, but not limited to, plagiarism of copyrighted material, lying, and/or presenting work from others as your own) will not be tolerated. Should academic dishonesty be suspected or detected, it will be dealt with according to University of Florida policies. The following statement is from the Honor Code... Preamble: "Students who enroll in the University commit to holding themselves and their peers to the high standard of honor required by the Honor Code. Any individual who becomes aware of a violation of the Honor Code is bound by honor to take corrective action.... The quality of a University of Florida education is dependent upon community acceptance and enforcement of the honor code."
ACCOMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Students who request classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students will provide documentation to the student who can then present it to me when making a request for an accommodation in this course.