



*Archer College of Health and Human Services*

## **HSP 4340**

### **Healthcare Policy**

### **Spring 2022**

**Instructor: Dr. Linda Ross**

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**Phone:** 325-486-6020 (HSP Office)

**Office:** Online

**Office Hours:** Online or by phone by appointment

### **Course Information**

#### **Course Description**

This course provides students with an introduction to the US health care system, both the public and private sector. The course will examine the structure of the health system (at the federal, state and local levels), current topics in health care reform, the policy process, and advocacy methods for public health issues.

#### **Course Credits**

Three Semester Credit Hours (3-0-0)

Online Class: Meets completely online using Blackboard for 8 weeks

#### **Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses**

None

## **Prerequisite Skills**

Accessing internet web sites, use of ASU Library resources, and proficiency with Microsoft Word and/or PowerPoint are expectations of the Health Science Professions Program. Computer access requirements are further delineated in the Undergraduate Handbook. Tutorials for ASU Library and for Blackboard are available through RamPort. The ASU Undergraduate/Graduate Student Handbook should be reviewed before taking this course.

## **Program Outcomes**

### **Mission Statement**

The Bachelor of Science in Health Science Professions prepares students to enter health science professions either directly upon graduation or to enter advanced graduate study in healthcare. Students gain knowledge in ethics, policy, epidemiology, organization and leadership, research and evidence-based practice, and communication skills that span multiple health science disciplines.

### **Goals**

The Bachelor of Science in Health Science Professions strives to enhance multidisciplinary healthcare education and evidence-based principles to provide patient-centered care. Students will develop communication, decision-making, social, analytical thinking, and personal development skills necessary for professional practice as a healthcare professional.

## Student Learning Outcomes

By completing all course requirements, students will be able to:	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:
1. Recognize the policymaking process and legal systems relating to healthcare.	Discussion Board Assignments, Quizzes, Exams
2. Explain health care within the context of public health systems.	Discussion Board Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Policy Analysis Project
3. Identify techniques and strategies used by various stakeholders involved in healthcare policy at federal, state and local levels	Discussion Board Assignments, Quizzes, Exams, Policy Analysis Project
4. Recognize tactics (rhetoric and persuasion) used by stakeholders for political debate and advocacy.	Discussion Board Assignments, Quizzes, Exams
5. Evaluate the role of policy as it relates to social determinants of health.	Discussion Board Assignments, Quizzes, Exams
6. Analyze healthcare policy.	Policy Analysis Project

## Course Delivery

This is an online course offering. The course will be delivered via the Blackboard Learning Management System. The course site can be accessed at [ASU's Blackboard Learning Management System](#)

## Required Texts and Materials

- Teitelbaum, J.B. & Wilensky, S.E. (2017) Essentials of Health Policy and Law 4<sup>th</sup> edition. Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett.
- See Supplemental Readings included in Blackboard.

## Technology Requirements

- Computer with MAC or Windows Operating System
- High Speed Internet Access
- Ethernet Cable
- Webcam (**Please note:** a plug-in webcam allows the student to perform thorough environmental scans).

**Technical Assistance:** If you have any technical problems associated with the test (i.e. webcam problems, lock down browser problems) you should contact the IT Department. **The IT Service Department is open M-F from 8-5 and the number is (325) 942-2911.** If you call any time after 5 or on the weekend, most likely you will not be able to get assistance until the following week day, so please plan accordingly.

## Topic Outline

### Part I – Setting the Stage: An Overview of Health Policy and Law

- Understanding the Role of Health Policy
- Policy and Policymaking Processes
- Law and the Legal System
- Overview of the Healthcare System
- Public Health Institutions and Systems

### Part II – Essential Issues in Health Policy and Law

- Individual Rights in Health Care
- Social Determinants of Health and the Role of Law in Optimizing Health
- Understanding Health Insurance
- Health Economics in a Policy Context
- National Health Reform
- Government Health Insurance Programs: Medicaid, CHIP, Medicare
- Healthcare Quality and the Law
- Public Health Preparedness Policy

### Part III – Basic Skills for Policy Analysis

- The Art and Structuring of Writing a Health Policy Analysis

## Communication

Faculty will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages may not be returned until Monday.

*Written communication via Blackboard:* It is an expectation of this class that you use formal writing skills giving appropriate credit to the source for your ideas. Follow APA (2010) 6<sup>th</sup> edition (2<sup>nd</sup> Printing or higher only) guidelines for referencing.

- ASU Writing Center:  
[https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing\\_center/grammar\\_proofreading.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/grammar_proofreading.php)
- The Basics of APA style: <https://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial>
- Purdue Online Writing Lab:  
[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html)

*Written communication via email:* All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes.

*Virtual communication:* Office hours and/or advising may be done with the assistance of the telephone, Skype, Join.me, Google Hangouts, etc.

## Use Good "Netiquette":

- Check the discussion frequently and respond appropriately and on subject.
- Focus on one subject per message and use pertinent subject titles.
- Capitalize words only to highlight a point or for titles. Otherwise, capitalizing is generally viewed as SHOUTING!
- Be professional and careful with your online interaction. Proper address for faculty is by formal title such as Dr. or Ms./Mr. Jones unless invited by faculty to use a less formal approach.
- Cite all quotes, references, and sources.
- When posting a long message, it is generally considered courteous to warn readers at the beginning of the message that it is a lengthy post.
- It is extremely rude to forward someone else's messages without their permission.
- It is fine to use humor, but use it carefully. The absence of face-to-face cues can cause humor to be misinterpreted as criticism or flaming (angry, antagonistic criticism). Feel free to use emoticons such as J or :) to let others know you are being humorous.

(The "netiquette" guidelines were adapted from Arlene H. Rinald's article, The Net User Guidelines and Netiquette, Florida Atlantic University, 1994, available from Netcom.)

## Grading

### Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Discussion Board Assignments	20%
Weekly Quizzes	20%
Midterm Exam	10%
Final Exam	20%
Policy Analysis Assignment #1	10%
Policy Analysis Assignment #2	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 90-100%

B = 80.00-89.99%

C = 70.00-79.99%

D = 65.00-69.99%

F = 0-64.99% (grades are not rounded up)

## Teaching Strategies

Students are expected to be “active learners.” It is a basic assumption of the instructor that students will be involved (**beyond the materials and lectures presented in the course**) discovering, processing, and applying the course information using peer-review journal articles, researching additional information and examples on the Internet, and discussing course material and clinical experiences with their peers.

This course will be taught online through the Internet with Blackboard™ as the learning platform. It will employ a variety of teaching-learning methods including lecture presentation/notes, asynchronous online workgroups, discussions forums, quizzes, self-directed activities, and weekly quizzes. Web-based technology is also used to provide additional sources of information, prepare and submit student assignments, provide ongoing student- faculty and student-student interaction and dialogue, and facilitate peer support. Synchronous group consultation and interaction offered by appointment via Bb Collaborate.

## Assignment and Activity Descriptions

**\*Please note: Rubrics for all assignments and activities are located at the end of this syllabus.**

**Discussion Board Activities:** (20%) There will be *four* discussion board assignments, one for weeks 2, 3, 4 & 6. Discussion boards provide an avenue for synthesis of material/information. A Discussion Board is provided in this course as a way to help students’ process course materials, express thoughts, and engage others’ opinions and ideas in a healthy and productive learning environment. Students are expected to respond to all discussion board assessments using the “**Online Discussion Rubric**” to support individual answers to the assigned questions throughout this course.

**Weekly Quizzes:** (20%) Students will have *eight* quizzes to assess course knowledge. Quizzes are timed (2-3 minutes per question) and will consist of 10 to 30 multiple choice questions, True/False or Fill in the Blank Questions. Access to quizzes will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser [See Other Required Materials for a list of needed equipment]. Students may use written materials as well as their textbook; however, use of another electronic device is prohibited (except text).

### Exams:

There will be a midterm (10%) and final for (20%) of the total course grade. The exams are designed to test understanding of textbook material and the application of the material covered in both the textbook and lectures.

Access to exams will be through Respondus™ Lockdown Browser [See Other Required Materials for a list of needed equipment]. Respondus™ Monitor will also be required. Use of any written material, another electronic device or person is prohibited. A practice quiz is available to students to assure accessibility.

Evidence of cheating on an exam will result in failure of the course. You must show ID and complete a thorough environmental scan (i.e. show walls, floor, desk). If instructions are not followed points will be deducted from your exam accordingly. If you need technical assistance due to test malfunction, please contact IT.

**Policy Analysis Assignments #1 & #2:** (10% and 20%) The Policy Analysis Project is an opportunity for students to apply principles and concepts learned in the didactic portion of the class to “real world” health policy issues, in the form of a formal policy review and analysis. Each student will be required to select a health policy problem or issue (subsequent to instructor approval) and conduct an extensive review of the policy literature for purposes of summarizing the public policy history relating to the problem or issue as well as utilizing various tools/techniques of policy analysis to make recommendations regarding current/future policy alternatives.

### Assignment Submission

In this class, all assignments need to be submitted through the Assignments link in the Blackboard course site. This is for grading purposes. Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at [linda.ross@angelo.edu](mailto:linda.ross@angelo.edu) and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. This lets your faculty know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.

All assignments must be written in APA Style format 6<sup>th</sup> edition or higher.

### Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy

The course is set up on modules. The week begins on Monday and ends on Sunday. Assignment due dates are shown on the calendar/schedule or posted within Blackboard. **Late assignments are not accepted without prior approval of faculty.** Faculty reserve the right to deduct points for late assignments that are accepted past the original due date.

### General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook<sup>i</sup>](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog<sup>ii</sup>](#)

### Student Responsibility and Attendance

**Online:** This class is asynchronous, meaning you do not have to be on-line at a certain time. There are readings which you will have to complete to be able to adequately participate in individual and group assignments. In order to complete this course successfully, you do have to participate in all course activities i.e. discussion boards, course projects, reflective logs, etc. Students are expected to engage in course activities and submit work by due dates and times. The hope is that students will make substantive contributions which reflect integration of assigned materials as well as any outside readings as appropriate. Scholarly contribution is an expectation. For planning purposes, this class will probably require a minimum of 6-9 study hours per week on average.

## Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Health and Human Services adheres to the university's [Statement of Academic Integrity](#).<sup>iii</sup> virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, we strongly recommend that students in this class wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members will also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at [ADA@angelo.edu](mailto:ADA@angelo.edu). For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the [Student Disability Services website](#).<sup>iv</sup> The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dallas Swafford  
Director of Student Disability  
Services Office of Student Affairs  
325-942-2047  
[dallas.swafford@angelo.edu](mailto:dallas.swafford@angelo.edu)  
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112

## Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)<sup>v</sup> for more information.

## Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's Academic Integrity policy<sup>vi</sup> in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft and will likely result in an "F" in the course.



In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. All assignments should be written in *APA style 6<sup>th</sup> edition* or higher (formatting and citations).

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).<sup>vii</sup>

## **Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)<sup>viii</sup> for more information.

## **Copyright Policy**

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

## **Syllabus Changes**

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of such changes by email, course announcements and/or via a discussion board announcement. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

## **Title IX at Angelo State University**

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form)

Face to face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: [michelle.boone@angelo.edu](mailto:michelle.boone@angelo.edu)

*Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour CrisisHelpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).*

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).

## Grading Rubrics

Grading rubrics and all grading criteria/expectations are listed in the Blackboard course. To View grading rubrics, select My Grades in the course, select View Rubric.

## Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course. Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications incourses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administeredthrough Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends). **Important**
2. Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories. **Important**
3. Learning to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions). **Essential**
4. Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course. **Important**
5. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/>

<sup>v</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

<sup>vi</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/community-policies/academic-integrity.php>

<sup>vii</sup> [https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing\\_center/academic\\_honesty.php](https://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php)

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>