

Registered students please go here for the most recent syllabus, readings and assignments:

<https://hserv.washington.edu/courses/course/view.php?id=281>

The assignments and readings are from a previous Quarter listed. They are subject to change – use as an example ONLY.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

**HSERV 555
Public Health Policy Workshop
Spring 2009**

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Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class is intended as an application of the fall quarter course, HSERV 590T. In 590T, students explored a set of policy tools and ideas, and a policy framework designed to work problems through to possible solutions. In this quarter, students will apply that framework to policy problems from their work settings (or elsewhere) that they wish to address. In on-line interactions with the instructor and each other, students will write a policy white paper that includes the elements of the policy framework:

- What is the problem, for whom, and with what consequences?
- What is the context/background of the problem?
- Who are the stakeholders and what are their interests?
- What are the options for addressing the problem?
- What are the characteristics/consequences of each option?
- What course of action is recommended and why?

This course is conducted completely online. Students will submit components of the white paper to the instructor electronically according to the schedule outlined below. Follow up feedback will also be electronic.

PREREQUISITE: HSERV 590T, HSERV 552, or permission of instructor.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Write a clear policy problem statement;
2. Outline the context and background of the statement, including the economic markets that are affected;
3. Identify the stakeholder groups that are interested in the problem and the nature of their interest;
4. Present no fewer than three options for public action to address the problem;
5. Analyze and describe the characteristics and likely consequences of each option; and
6. Describe a recommended public policy action(s), and write a cogent defense of this recommendation.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND GRADING

Paper Expectations:

- * Correct spelling and grammar are expected – GRADES WILL BE AFFECTED BY POOR WRITING
- * Assignments are due by date specified unless other arrangements are made; late papers will receive lower grades as noted below

ASSIGNMENTS

The final product of the course is a policy white paper concerning the policy problem the student brings to the course.

RESOURCES

Text: Larry Gerston. 2004. *Public Policy Making Process and Principles*, 2nd edition. New York: ME Sharpe.

J. Musso, R. Biller, and R. Myrtle. 2000. "Tradecraft: Professional Writing as Problem Solving." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. 19(4):635-646.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/issuetoc?ID=73502761>)

Introduction to Legal Research and Government Policy Resources:

<http://lib.law.washington.edu/ref/healthpolicy.html> or from

<http://lib.law.washington.edu/>, choose the Legal Research Guides link under the Research heading. In the table of contents on the Legal Research Guides page is a

link to Guides Prepared for UW Classes Outside of the Law School, see link to HSERV 552.

The Federal legislative process:

- Congress.org: <http://www.congress.org/congressorg/issues/basics/?style=legis>
- U.S. House of Representatives: http://www.house.gov/house/tying_it_all.shtml

Information on the Federal government and Congress:

- League of Women Voters of California: <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/edfund/govtinfo/federal.html>
- THOMAS, the Library of Congress: www.Thomas.loc.gov/
- OMB Watch: <http://www.ombwatch.org/>

Information on how a bill becomes a law:

- Families USA's "How a Bill Becomes a Law": <http://www.familiesusa.org/resources/tools-for-advocates/tips/how-a-bill.html>

The Grey Literature Report (<http://www.nyam.org/library/greylit/glr4n3.shtml>) is a good source of health economics and health policy information. Grey sources can be searched by author, title, subject, or keyword by searching the NYWM Online Catalog, which often can link to a full text report online (<http://innopac.nyam.org/search>).

The Center for Studying Health System Change (<http://www.hschange.com/>) tracks changes in health systems at the community level, including intensive site visits to 12 communities every two years (Seattle is one) and household and physician surveys.

The State Forums Partnership, funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, has a searchable archive of issue briefs on various health economics and health policy topics (<http://www.forumsinstitute.org/publs/index.html>)