

**SYLLABUS
DPOP 256
PHARMACEUTICAL POLICY
FALL 2006
PHARMD 2 CREDITS / PHD 3 CREDITS
UNC-CH SCHOOL OF PHARMACY**

COURSE DIRECTOR Richard A. Hansen, PhD
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**PARTICIPATING
FACULTY**

CLASS MEETING TIMES AND LOCATION

Thursdays 10:00-11:50 a.m. Room 116 Beard Hall

TEXTBOOK / REQUIRED LEARNING RESOURCES

Required:

- Dunn W. Public Policy Analysis: An Introduction, Third Edition, 2004. Prentice Hall; Upper Saddle River, NJ
- A collection of required readings will be posted to blackboard through e-reserves

Optional:

- When appropriate, supplemental readings are suggested. A collection of optional readings is available in room 205G Beard Hall

Course Description

Course examines policies that influence pharmacy. Structured methods of policy analysis are examined and used to assess theoretic and analytic applications for evaluating pharmaceutical policy.

DESIRED COURSE OUTCOMES

Pharmaceutical policy is a major factor in developing and evolving the delivery of health care. This course will develop an understanding of pharmaceutical policy and explore structured methods for forecasting, evaluating, monitoring, and recommending pharmaceutical policy. Upon completion of this course, students should have an understanding of:

- Historical events that shape existing policy
- Models of price and expenditure control
- Systems to ensure quality and access
- Methods for evaluating or initiating change
- Skills and methods of policy analysis

EXPECTATIONS FOR CLASSROOM DECORUM

Attendance, adequate preparation, and participation in class discussions are required if you want to receive a top grade in the course. Some of the material we cover is not in the text or course pack, and some material is sufficiently covered. Therefore, class time will be used to expand and discuss materials in the readings, not simply to restate it. If you are unable to attend a class meeting, please discuss this with the course director and make arrangements to assure adequate coverage of the learning objectives.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY / HONOR CODE

The principles of academic honesty, integrity, and responsible citizenship govern the performance of all academic work and student conduct at the University as they have during the long life of this institution. Your acceptance of enrollment in the University presupposes a commitment to the principles embodied in the Code of Student Conduct and a respect for this most significant Carolina tradition. Your participation in Pharmaceutical Policy comes with the expectation that your work will be completed in full observance of the Honor Code. Although you will be encouraged to discuss and share ideas with other students, project work conducted in this course must be your own. Academic dishonesty in any form is unacceptable. If you have any questions about your responsibility or the responsibility of faculty members under the Honor Code, please consult the Pharmacy Student Attorney General (pharmacyattorneygeneral@unc.edu).

DESCRIPTION OF TEACHING / LEARNING METHODS

Much of the learning in this course will be done independently. Class discussion time should be viewed as an opportunity to explore complicated topics or work through technical aspects of data analysis. For students enrolled in the 1-credit lab component, application of analytic methods will be guided by demonstrations, projects, and papers.

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

You will be required to complete four written assignments; in class presentations will be based on the written assignments.

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1: Pharmaceutical pricing

Date assigned: Week 3

Paper and presentation due: Week 5

Description: Take the side of a health care payer and discuss the implications of prescription drug pricing on equity and efficiency in the US health care system. Defend existing methods of pricing or develop a model to enhance equity and efficiency in the prescription drug market.

Requirements: Papers should be written independently and must be no longer than 10 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font). Papers will be evaluated on content, clarity, and originality. Presentations should be 5-10 minutes in length (powerpoint optional), highlighting the major issues surrounding your arguments.

Assignment 2: Medication therapy management services

Date assigned: Week 6

Paper and presentation due: Week 8

Description: Given the requirement for a medication therapy management component in the Medicare prescription drug benefit, develop a plan for implementing and evaluating this component of the Medicare benefit. Make sure to discuss delivery of services, provider eligibility, documentation, financial incentives, payment structure, resource use, consistency, and evaluation. Will there be disincentives for poor outcomes or delivery?

Requirements: Papers should be written independently and must be no longer than 10 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font). Papers will be evaluated on content, clarity, and originality. Presentations should be 5-10 minutes in length (powerpoint optional), highlighting the major issues surrounding your arguments.

Assignment 3: Policy problems

Date assigned: Week 10

Paper and presentation due: Week 12

Description: Select a relevant policy issue discussed during the first eight weeks of class. Structure the policy problem and discuss alternatives to existing policy. Discuss methods and information sources for evaluating and quantifying outcomes related to this policy. Develop an approach for forecasting policy outcomes and make a recommendation on whether (if at all) and how this policy should be modified.

Requirements: Papers should be written independently and must be no longer than 10 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font). Papers will be evaluated on content, clarity, and originality. Presentations should be 5-10 minutes in length (powerpoint optional), highlighting the major issues surrounding your arguments.

Assignment 4: Final paper (students enrolled for lab credit only)

Date assigned: Week 2

Paper and presentation due: Week 15

Description: Identify a policy problem and develop a plan for evaluating this policy. Use a quasi-experimental design to conduct your analysis. Develop your analysis into a manuscript of publishable quality.

Requirements: Papers should be written independently and must be no longer than 4000 words (double-spaced, 12 point font). Papers will be evaluated on content, clarity, and

originality. The final paper should be suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal and follow a structured format (background, objective, methods, results, discussion, and conclusion). Presentations should be 15 minutes in length (powerpoint required), highlighting the major issues surrounding your arguments.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Grades will be based on student performance on three written assignments/presentations. Attendance and participation in class discussion also will be evaluated. Points will be distributed as follows:

ALL STUDENTS

Exam/Assignment	Points
Attendance & participation	10 Points
Assignment 1	20 Points (Presentation: 5 Points; Write-Up: 5 Points)
Assignment 2	20 Points (Presentation: 5 Points; Write-Up: 15 Points)
Assignment 3	20 Points (Presentation: 5 Points; Write-Up: 15 Points)
Final Exam	30 Points
TOTAL	100 Points

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 1-CREDIT LAB SECTION

Exam/Assignment	Points
Assignment 4	50 Points (Presentation: 10 Points; Write-Up: 40 Points)

Grading policy:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
Fail	<69

At the discretion of the course director, students with final course grades below C will be offered the opportunity to improve their grade. These students will be assigned a temporary grade of INC; grades of INC must be resolved within 8 weeks of completing the course or the student will receive a failing grade. Students who are allowed the opportunity to improve their grade cannot receive a grade above C.