



**MMPH6146 Health policy and politics**  
**Coordinator: Dr. Karen Grépin**

**Course Description:**

This course introduces the core theories of health policy to understand and assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of national or regional health systems. Students are guided through the policy process and learn about the role of policymakers and stakeholders in influencing policy outcomes. The trade-offs that are made in setting priorities in health policy (equity, efficiency, and other outcomes) are discussed. Using these theoretical considerations, students are led through a survey of health system typologies to understand the way in which political economy has influenced the adoption of health policies in select health systems. Students are given the opportunity to make policy recommendations to address a specific health issue by analyzing the causes and consequences of this issue, making arguments as to why it should be on the policy agenda, evaluating potential strategies to address this issue, developing strategies to overcome resistance from opposing stakeholders, and proposing a framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy on health and health equity outcomes. Students are taught strategies to advocate for their policy solution. Finally, students are given the opportunity to conduct research on a key health policy issue and debate whether a given policy should be adopted to address it.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**Term 2 (Friday)**

**Tutors/TA:** Dr Andrew Park/ Dr. Phyu Phyu Thin Zaw/ Dr. Shilpa Purdal/  
Ms. Baikong Mamid/ Ms. Deng Ziru

Date	Time	Lecture & Tutorial Topics	Venues	Additional Venues
12 Jan 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	1. What is health policy? How to write for a policy audience? Course specifics Tutorial: Group assignments and introductions	TBC	TBC
19 Jan 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	2. The policy process Tutorial: Writing lab	TBC	TBC
26 Jan 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	Back-up session	TBC	TBC
02 Feb 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	3. The political economy of health Tutorial: Stakeholder lab	TBC	TBC
23 Feb 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	4. Priority setting Tutorial: Advocacy lab	TBC	TBC
01 Mar 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	5. Policy evaluation and analysis Tutorial: Evaluation lab	TBC	TBC
08 Mar 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	6. Comparative health policy, Health systems, Health reform Tutorial: Group 1 presentations	TBC	TBC
15 Mar 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	7. Publicly funded health systems Tutorial: Group 2 presentations	TBC	TBC
22 Mar 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	8. Social health insurance systems Tutorial: Group 3 presentations	TBC	TBC
12 Apr 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	9. Privately funded health systems Tutorial: Group 4 presentations	TBC	TBC
19 Apr 2024	6:30-9:30 pm	10. Hong Kong and Mainland China, Course summary Tutorial: Group 5 presentations	TBC	TBC

**Course Assessment:**

Health policy exercise

- 2 memos – combined 40% of final grade
- Stakeholder analysis – 15% of final grade
- Evaluation framework – 15% of final grade
- Elevator pitch – 5%

Class attendance and participation – 10% of final grade

Group exercise and debate – 15% of final grade

**Contact person:**

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