



*Political Science POLI 417  
HEALTH CARE IN CANADA  
WINTER 2020*

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Office hours: Mondays, 1pm-2pm, Dawson 207

*Calendar Description*

How has health care developed and changed over time in Canada? This course will analyze the theory and politics of health policy and institutions, comparing provincial models and contextualizing Canadian systems with international perspectives from the U.S. and Europe. Current health reform debates, particularly those involving federal-provincial relations, sustainable financing and the role of the state, will be explored.

*Course Objectives and Requirements*

This course is designed as an interdisciplinary exploration into the politics of health care in Canada. Students are expected to be familiar with basic issues in Canadian politics but need not have extensive health policy backgrounds. By the end of the semester, you should be familiar with the health care system and health reform issues in Canada and in comparative perspectives. Four main themes will be addressed in this course: political actors and environments influencing health care in Canada; delivery and financing of health care; comparative perspectives on health care; and issues in health care reform.

*Course evaluation*

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|---|------|
| ▪ First take-home test (course material):   | 30 % |
| ▪ Second take-home test (course material):  | 30 % |
| ▪ Provincial or international policy brief: | 30 % |
| ▪ Participation:                            | 10 % |

*Ce cours est donné en anglais, mais vous êtes permis de remettre vos travaux en français.*

*Books & E-books*

- Katherine Fierlbeck, *Health Care in Canada: A Citizen's Guide to Policy and Politics* (University of Toronto Press, 2011). (McGill University Bookstore)

- Antonia Maioni, *Health Care in Canada* (Oxford University Press, 2015). (McGill University Bookstore)
- Greg Marchildon, *Health Systems in Transition: Canada* (World Health Organization, 2013) (MyCourses) and [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/181955/e96759.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/181955/e96759.pdf)
- Greg Marchildon and Livio Di Matteo (eds), *Bending the cost curve in health care : Canada's provinces in international perspective* (University of Toronto Press 2015) <https://books.scholarsportal.info/en/read?id=/ebooks/ebooks3/utpress/2015-12-22/1/9781442609778#page=464>

## WEEKLY COURSE OUTLINE

### January 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Why study health care? Introduction, course syllabus, requirements

- Maioni, 2015: Introduction: "Why Health Care is so Important to Canadians"
- Amélie Quesnel-Vallée, Rachel McKay and Antonia Maioni, "Federal Interventionism in Health Policy: Back to the Future?" in Lisa Birch and François Petry, eds, *Assessing Justin Trudeau's Liberal Government: 353 Promises and a Mandate for Change* (Presses de l'Université Laval/UBC Press, 2019). (MyCourses)

### January 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Development of health care in Canada

- Maioni, ch. 1: "The History of Health Care in Canada"
- Valerie D. Thompson: "The History of Health Care in Canada" in *Health and Health Care Delivery in Canada* (Elsevier, 2016): [https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=8GKGBwAAQBAJ&hl=en\\_CA&pg=GBS.PA1](https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=8GKGBwAAQBAJ&hl=en_CA&pg=GBS.PA1)

### January 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Health care, federalism, and the provinces

- Marchildon & Di Matteo, ch. 8: Pierre-Gerlier Forest, "The Federal Role in Health Care."
- Fierlbeck, ch. 2: "Intergovernmental relations"
- Maioni, ch. 6: "Provincial Snapshots"
- Maioni, "Health Care in Quebec" in Rudy et al., eds, *Quebec Questions: Quebec Studies for the Twenty-First Century* (Oxford University Press, 2010) (MyCourses)

### January 27<sup>th</sup>

#### The governance of health care: organization

- Maioni, ch 2: "A Portrait of Health Care in Canada."
- Fierlbeck, ch. 3: "Health care administration and governance"

- Marchildon, ch. 2: "Organization and Governance"
- Mossialos & Djordjevic, *International Profiles of Health Care Systems*, pp. 21-31 ("The Canadian Health Care System") (MyCourses)

### February 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### **The governance of health care: financing**

- Maioni, ch 3: The Facts about Health Care Spending
- Fierlbeck, ch. 1: Funding
- Marchildon, ch. 3: Financing
- Marchildon & Di Matteo, ch. 4: Livio Di Matteo and Herb Emery, "Common Provincial Determinants and Cost Drivers."

### February 10<sup>th</sup>

#### **Challenges in Canadian health care provision**

- Fierlbeck, ch. 6: Health Human Resources
- Fierlbeck, ch. 5, Public health and population health
- Marchildon, ch. 4: Physical and Human Resources
- Marchildon, ch. 3: Provision of services

Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>: First take-home exam due

### February 17<sup>th</sup>

#### **Comparative Health Care: European challenges**

- Fierlbeck, ch. 9: Beveridge systems
- Fierlbeck, ch. 10: Bismarck systems
- Maioni ch 5. Comparing Canada and Europe
- Marchildon & Di Matteo, ch. 15: Alan Maynard, "England."
- Mossialos & Djordjevic, *International Profiles of Health Care Systems*, pp. 69-77 ("The German Health Care System") (MyCourses)

Screening of *PBS Frontline: Sick Around the World*

### February 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **Comparative Health Care: Why the US matters**

- Theodore R. Marmor and Antonia Maioni, 2019, "Healthcare in Canada and the United States," in Paul Quirk, ed., *The United States and Canada: How Two Democracies Differ and Why it Matters* (New York: Oxford University Press). (MyCourses)
- Maioni, ch 4: "Why No National Insurance in the United States?"
- Fierlbeck, ch. 11: "Mandated Private Insurance"
- Marchildon & Di Matteo, ch. 15: Gerard Anderson, "The United States."
- Mossialos & Djordjevic, *International Profiles of Health Care Systems*, pp. 173-181 ("The U.S. Health Care System") (MyCourses)

Screening of *PBS Frontline: Sick Around America*

## March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Study Break

## March 9<sup>th</sup>

### Constitutional & Legal Issues in Health Reform

- Maioni and Manfredi, 2017 : “Pushing the Boundaries of Tobacco Control Policy: The Canadian Experience,” in Catherine Régis, Lara Khoury and Robert Kouri, *Health Law at the Frontier: Les rencontres en droit de la santé*, Éditions Yvon Blais. (MyCourses)
- Maioni and Manfredi, 2016: “Courts and conflicts in health policy” in Lara Khoury & Catherine Régis, Eds, *Les Grands conflits en droit de la santé*, Presses de l’Université de Montréal. (MyCourses)
- Fierlbeck, ch.4 “Health care and the courts”

## March 16<sup>th</sup>

### The Politics of Pharmaceutical Policy

- Fierlbeck, ch. 7: “Drugs and Drug Policy”
- Steven Morgan and Katherine Boothe, “Universal prescription drug coverage in Canada: Long-promised yet undelivered.” *Healthcare management forum* vol. 29,6 (2016): 247-254. doi:10.1177/0840470416658907 (MyCourses)
- Hoskins et al., June 2019, chs 1-4: *A Prescription for Canada: Achieving Pharmacare for All: Final Report of the Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare* (MyCourses)

## March 23<sup>rd</sup>

### Indigenous health issues in Canada

- Chantelle Richmond and Catherine Cook, “Creating conditions for Canadian aboriginal health equity: the promise of health public policy,” *Public Health Reviews* (2016) 37:2 (MyCourses)
- Josée Lavoie, Laverne Gervais, Jessica Toner, Odile Bergeron and Ginette Thomas, *Looking for Aboriginal Health in Legislation and Policies, 1970–2008: The Policy Synthesis Project Report* (NCCAH, 2011). <https://www.ccnsa-nccah.ca/docs/context/RPT-LookingHealthLegislationPolicies-EN.pdf>

Friday, March 27th: Second take-home exam due

## March 30<sup>th</sup>

### Provincial presentations (in-class)

## April 6<sup>th</sup>

### International Presentations (in-class)

Friday, April 8th: Policy Briefs due

## HEALTH POLICY BRIEF ASSIGNMENT

### **Provincial or international policy brief:**

**Due: Friday, April 8th**

Length: 3000 words (approx. 10 double-spaced pages)

The purpose of this assignment is to identify and analyze a health policy issue that can be compared across two different countries or Canadian provinces. You can either a) identify a problem for which one of the comparative cases has implemented a solution, and evaluate that as a potential solution for the other case, *or* b) you can compare two different solutions across the two cases, and evaluate them against one another. You are asked to present the paper in the form a policy brief, using the sections below as a guideline:

#### Part I: Introduction and Definition of Problem

Why is the issue you have chosen a problem? How did it emerge on the political agenda in the two cases?

#### Part II: Policy Alternatives

What policy alternatives are/were available to address this problem? How have the comparative cases you have chosen done so? Who supports them or opposes them?

#### Part III: Policy Analysis

Compare and analyze the policy proposals. How would each of these alternatives constitute a viable solution for the problem? What are the goals and how would the goals be achieved? What would be the potential impact on the health care system?

#### Part IV: Analysis

From the above discussion, draw a conclusion as to (depending on your choice above) a) whether the comparative case offers a potential solution, or not; or b) which comparative case has been more successful in addressing the problem. You should offer a defense of your position as well. You may also suggest other avenues in the quest for policy alternatives.