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

- First in-class test (course material): 30 % October 21
- Second in-class test (course material): 30 % December 2
- Policy briefing paper: 30 % November 6
- Discussion groups/participation: 10 % (ongoing)

Please be reminded that McGill University values academic integrity. It is your responsibility as a McGill student to understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (www.mcgill.ca/integrity).

Ce cours est donné en anglais, mais vous êtes permis de remettre vos travaux en français.
This class attempts to be "paperless": the additional readings can be accessed through MyCourses, via the web or through the McGill University Library on-line resources. You should familiarize yourself with these web-based and library resources and be able to navigate them.

Books:


Policy Briefing Paper (choose one):


Additional Reference Resources:

- Data and analysis, Canada: Canadian Institute for Health Information: www.cihi.ca

WEEKLY COURSE OUTLINE

As of mid-September, lectures will be held twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. A discussion group (choice of day/time) will take the place of the Friday time slot.
Friday, September 4

Why study health care? Introduction, course syllabus, requirements

- Maioni, 2014: Introduction: Why Health Care is so Important to Canadians

Wednesday, September 9th

Development of health care in Canada

- Marchildon, ch. 1: Introduction
- Maioni, ch 1: The History of Health Care in Canada

September 14 & 16

Health care, federalism, and the Provinces

- Maioni, “Health Care in Quebec” in Rudy et al., eds, Quebec Questions: Quebec Studies for the Twenty-First Century (Oxford University Press, 2010) (MyCourses)
- Maioni, ch 6: Provincial Snapshots
- Fierlbeck, ch. 2: Intergovernmental relations

Discussion groups: Who’s in charge of health care anyway?

September 21 & 23

The governance of health care: financing

- Fierlbeck, ch. 1: Funding
- Marchildon, ch. 3: Financing
- Maioni, ch 3: The Facts about Health Care Spending
- AFMC Primer, ch 12: Organization of Health Services in Canada, pp. 61-65

Discussion groups: What’s really eating health care budgets?

September 28 & 30

The governance of health care: organization

- Fierlbeck, ch. 3: Health care administration and governance
- Marchildon, ch. 2: Organization and Governance
- Maioni, ch 2: A Portrait of Health Care in Canada
- AFMC Primer, ch 12: Organization of Health Services in Canada, pp. 57-60

Discussion groups: Is health care actually a system?

October 5 & 7

Challenges in 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

**Discussion groups: Too many, too few, or just enough?**

**October 14**

**The Politics of Pharmaceutical Policy**
- Fierlbeck, ch. 7 “Drugs and Drug Policies”

**Discussion groups: Why no pharmacare in Canada?**

**October 19**

**Monday, October 19: Election Day (Study Day)**

**Wednesday, October 21: First In-class test**

**October 26 & 28**

**Comparative Health Care: European challenges**
- Fierlbeck, ch. 9: Beveridge systems
- Fierlbeck, ch. 10: Bismarck systems
- Maioni ch 5. Comparing Canada and Europe

**Discussion groups: Where in the world is Canada?**

**November 2 & 4**

**Monday:** Screening of PBS Frontline: Sick Around the World

**Wednesday:** Screening of PBS Frontline: Sick Around America

**Discussion groups: De-brief on documentaries**

**Policy paper due November 6**

**November 9 & 11**

**Comparative Health Care: Why the US matters**
- Maioni, ch 4: Why No National Insurance in the United States?
- Fierlbeck, ch. 11: Mandated Private Insurance
- Oberlander, “Long Time Coming: Why Health Reform Finally Passed” *Health Affairs*, June 2010 vol. 29 no. 6: http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/29/6/1112.full

**Discussion groups: Is the grass greener on the other side of the border?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November 16 &amp; 18</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Constitutional &amp; Legal Issues in Health Reform</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Fierlbeck, ch. 4 “Health care and the courts”</td>
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**Discussion groups: Should courts rule on health care?**

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<th>November 23 &amp; 25</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public Opinion and Health Care:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Soroka, “Public Perceptions and Media Coverage of the Canadian Health Care System” (Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement, October 2011): <a href="http://www.cfhi-fcass.ca/Libraries/Commissioned_Research_Reports/Soroka1-EN.sflb.ashx">http://www.cfhi-fcass.ca/Libraries/Commissioned_Research_Reports/Soroka1-EN.sflb.ashx</a></td>
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**Discussion Groups: Does public opinion affect policy?**

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<th>November 30 &amp; December 2</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Where from here?</strong></td>
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<td>- Marchildon, ch. 6: Principal health reforms</td>
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**Wednesday, December 2: Second in-class test**