



McGill University
Political Science POLI 417
HEALTH CARE IN CANADA
FALL 2015

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Office Hours: Mondays, 10 am to 12 pm, or by appointment

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 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.

Required Readings

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:

Katherine Fierlbeck, *Health Care in Canada: A Citizen's Guide to Policy and Politics* (University of Toronto Press, 2011) available at Paragraphe Books.

Antonia Maioni, *Health Care in Canada* (Oxford University Press, 2014) available at Paragraphe Books.

Greg Marchildon *Health Systems in Transition: Canada, 2013* (MyCourses) and http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/181955/e96759.pdf

Policy Briefing Paper (choose one):

David Naylor et al., *Unleashing Innovation: Excellent Health Care for Canada* (Final Report of the Advisory panel on Healthcare Innovation), Health Canada, June 2015: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/innovation/index-eng.php>

André Picard, *The Path to Health Care Reform: Policy and Politics* (CIBC Scholar in Residence Lecture) Conference Board of Canada, October, 2013: <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=5863>

Additional Reference Resources:

- Provincial governments' websites; e.g. <http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/en/index.php>; <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/>
- Federal government website: Health Canada On-Line www.hc-sc.gc.ca.
- Data and analysis, Canada: Canadian Institute for Health Information: www.cihi.ca
- Data and analysis, comparative: Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development www.oecd.org ; Commonwealth Fund <http://www.commonwealthfund.org>.
- Journal websites e.g.: Canadian Medical Association Journal (www.cma.ca/cmaj); Healthcare Quarterly (<http://www.longwoods.com/publications/healthcare-quarterly>); Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law (www.jhppl.org).
- McGill Library databases <http://www.mcgill.ca/library/library-findinfo/subjects/health/healthserv/>

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”
- Morgan, Steve and Daw, Jamie and Law, Michael R., Rethinking Pharmacare in Canada (June 13, 2013). C.D. Howe Institute Commentary 384: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2303892> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2303892>

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
- Commonwealth Fund, International Profiles Of Health Care Systems, 2014: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/fund-reports/2015/jan/international-profiles-2014>

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

- Marmor and Maioni, “Health Policy Reform in North America” in Kulmann et al., eds, The Palgrave International Handbook of Healthcare Policy and Governance (Palgrave 2015) (MyCourses)
- 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?

November 16 & 18

Constitutional & Legal Issues in Health Reform

- Manfredi and Maioni, “Tobacco Control in Canada” in Bayer and Feldman, eds., *Unfiltered: Conflicts over Tobacco Control and Public Health* (Harvard University Press, 2004), pp. 68-88. (MyCourses)
- Maioni and Manfredi, “The Role of the Courts in the Governance of Health Care: Lessons from the Canadian Experience” International Conference on Public Policy, July 2015 (MyCourses)
- Fierlbeck, ch.4 “Health care and the courts”

Discussion groups: Should courts rule on health care?

November 23 & 25

Public Opinion and Health Care:

- Soroka, “Public Perceptions and Media Coverage of the Canadian Health Care System” (Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement, October 2011): http://www.cfhi-fcass.ca/Libraries/Commissioned_Research_Reports/Soroka1-EN.sflb.ashx
- Soroka, Maioni, Martin, “What Moves Public Opinion on Health Care? Individual Experiences, System Performance and Media Framing” *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, Vol. 38, No. 5 (March 2013). (MyCourses)

Discussion Groups: Does public opinion affect policy?

November 30 & December 2

Where from here?

- Marchildon, ch. 6: Principal health reforms

Wednesday, December 2: Second in-class test