

**University of Miami
Department of Sociology
College of Arts and Sciences**

SOC 321, Section S – Applied Health Policy

Spring 2017

Professor: Michael T. French, Ph.D.
Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30pm-4:45pm
Classroom: MM 214
Office: Merrick, Room 121F and Jenkins, Room 417K
Office Hours: Wednesdays from 2:00pm-4:00pm or by appointment
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Prerequisites

There are no formal prerequisites for this class. However, training and experience in research methods and statistics/econometrics is highly encouraged. Please check with the professor if you have any questions or concerns.

Course Description

This course examines the role of public and private institutions in health promotion, health care delivery, and health insurance. We will explore the theoretical and practical reasons for intervention in health-related decisions and health care markets, the related empirical evidence, and the effects of these interventions on health outcomes and social welfare. Students will understand how and why government and society in general attempts to influence health-related behaviors and health insurance markets, and the resulting effects on individuals' choices, expenditures, health outcomes, and overall quality of life.

Textbook

There is no required textbook for this course. The required readings are all journal articles, which are available on the journals' websites and are accessible for no charge through the University of Miami library (search for the journal name at <http://library.miami.edu/articles/> and then find the article within the journal database). These articles are also commonly available through an online search engine if accessed through the University of Miami's network. The professor will distribute via Blackboard or email any unpublished working papers and manuscripts.

Some of the topics will be introduced using selected material from: *Health Policy Issues: An Economic Perspective*, by Paul J. Feldstein, Health Administration Press, Sixth Edition, 2015. This text is not required for the course, but copies will be available for your access in the reserve room of Richter Library if you are interested in additional background reading.

Course Outline

Students must complete all required readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss/debate the articles and ask questions about the material. Repeated observations that you have not completed the readings and did not prepare for class properly will result in a lower class participation grade. The syllabus is not a fixed document and is subject to revisions. Health policy is a dynamic and fluid area so I will incorporate new topics and related articles when timely and appropriate.

Guide for the structure of class each week: We will typically cover one topical area per week. On Tuesday, I will briefly introduce and motivate the topic. We will then discuss/debate the first assigned reading. On Thursday, we will discuss/debate the second assigned reading followed by a 15-minute discussion of related current events. To prepare for the discussion of current events, each student will select and post (Discussion Board on Blackboard) one news article related to the topic of the week and 2-4 students will be randomly selected to lead the class discussion emphasizing how their news articles relate to the policy concepts discussed that week. Keep in mind that this is a rough outline for each class and it is subject to change depending on the material and discussion. In the course schedule that follows, the *italicized* articles will be discussed each week and the other articles are included for reference purposes and supplementary readings.

Week 1:	1/17 & 1/19	Course Overview & Summary of Health Care Markets, Health Insurance, and Policy Analysis; Statistical Primer
Week 2:	1/24 & 1/25	Environmental Quality and Health <i>Beatty and Shimshack (2011)</i> <i>Currie, Zivin, et al. (2013)</i> Muller and Mendelsohn (2009) Currie and Schwandt (2015) Currie et al. (2015) Shimshack and Ward (2010) Currie, Neidell, and Schmieder (2009)
Week 3:	1/31 & 2/2	Tobacco Consumption <i>Farrelly, et al. (2013)</i> <i>Carpenter and Cook (2008)</i> Obtain and review UM's smoking policies Odermatt and Stutzer (2015) Adda and Cornaglia (2006) Baum (2009) Markowitz (2008) Sabbane, Lowrey and Chebat (2009)
Week 4:	2/7 & 2/9	Alcohol and Other Drug Use <i>Popovici and French (2013)</i> <i>Pacula, Powell, Heaton, and Sevigny (2015)</i> Carpenter and Dobkin (2009) Cook and Durrance (2013) Lovenheim and Slemrod (2010) Yoruk and Yoruk (2011)

Week 5:	2/14 & 2/16	<p>Mental Health <i>Cesur, Sabia, and Tekin (2013)</i> <i>Currie, Stabile, and Jones (2014)</i> Cuellar, McReynolds, and Wasserman (2006)</p>
Week 6:	2/21 & 2/23	<p>Body Weight, Exercise, and Nutrition <i>Fletcher, Frisvold, and Tefft (2010)</i> <i>French, Popovici, and Maclean (2009)</i> Fortin and Yazbeck (2015) Dingman et al. (2015) Bollinger, Leslie, and Sorensen (2011) Cawley, Frisvold, and Meyerhoefer (2013) Gundersen, Kreider, and Pepper (2011) Schanzenbach (2009) Charvel, Cobo, and Hernandez-Avila (2015)</p>
Week 7:	2/28 & 3/2	<p>The Use of Hand-Held Wireless Devices While Driving <i>Abouk and Adams (2013)</i> <i>Cheng (2015)</i> Jacobson, King, Ryan, and Robbins (2012) Goodwin, O'Brien, and Foss (2012) Bhargava and Pathania (2013) Lim and Chi (2013)</p>
Week 8:	3/7 & 3/9	<p>Transportation Risks and Policies (<u>Final Report Topic Due on 3/9</u>) <i>French and Gumus (2015)</i> <i>French, Gumus, and Homer (2009)</i> Carpenter and Stehr (2011) Bae et al. (2014) Doyle and Levitt (2010) Dee (2009) Dills (2010) Sloan, Eldred, and Xu (2014)</p>
Week 9:	3/14 & 3/16	Spring Break
Week 10:	3/21 & 3/23	<p>Alternative Delivery Systems <i>Donobue and Levitt (2001)</i> <i>Caloyeras, Liu, et al. (2014)</i> Zarkin, Cowell, Hicks, et al. (2012) Bilger and Carrieri (2013) Foote and Goetz (2008)</p>

Week 11:	3/28 & 3/30	<p>Medicaid and Medicare (<u>Mid-Term Exam on 3/30</u>)</p> <p><i>Joyce, Zissimopoulos, and Goldman (2013)</i> <i>Bradford and Bradford (2016)</i> Finkelstein and McKnight (2008) Frakt and Carroll (2013) Glazer and McGuire (2013) Grabowski et al. (2013) Shen and Wu (2013) Hahn (2013) Cantor, Thompson, and Farnham (2013)</p>
Week 12:	4/4 & 4/6	<p>Expansions of Public Insurance and the PPACA</p> <p><i>French, Homer, Gumus, and Hickling (2016)</i> <i>Antwi, Moriya, and Simon (2015)</i> Cawley and Downey “Point/Counterpoint” (2014) Anderson et al. (2012) Garthwaite (2012) Kolstad and Kowalski (2012) Graves and Gruber (2012) Buchmueller, DiNardo, and Valleta (2011) Miller (2012) Long et al. (2011) Finkelstein et al. (2012) Weathers and Stegman (2012) Lo Sasso and Buchmueller (2004)</p>
Week 13:	4/11 & 4/13	<p>International Health Care Systems</p> <p><i>Biller-Andorno and Zeltner (2015)/Blumenthal and Hsiao (2015)</i> <i>Schoen et al. (2013)/Ginneken, et al. (2013)</i> Doorslaer et al. (1997) Jones et al. (2013)</p>
Week 14:	4/18 & 4/20	<p>Hospitals and Prescription Drugs</p> <p><i>Bai and Anderson (2015)</i> <i>Bradford and Kleit (2015)</i> Avery, Eisenberg, and Simon (2012) O’Donoghue et al. (2014) Brekke and Kuhn (2006) Conrad and Leiter (2004)</p>
Week 15:	4/25 & 4/27	<p>Emerging Health Policy Topics</p> <p><i>Atkins and Bradford (2015)</i> <i>Walsemann, Gee, and Gentile (2014)</i> Primack, Hopkins, et al. (2012) Goodwin et al. (2014)</p>

Camenga et al. (2014)
Free et al. (2013)
Barnett et al. (2015)
Feng, Coots, Kaganova, and Wiener (2014)
Nicholas, Bynum, Iwashyna, Weir, and Langa (2014)
Anderson, Hansen, and Rees (2013)
Cutler and McClellan (2001)
Chandra and Skinner (2012)
Civan and Koxsal (2010)
Bates and Santerre (2013)

Final Report (Due date: May 2 at 11:00am; any guidance from the professor must be obtained prior to April 25)

Full References for All Articles

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Course Requirements and Grading

Determination of grades:

Final Report	35%
Mid-Term Exam	25%
Class Participation, Article Summaries, and News Articles (Current Events)	40%

Final Report: The final report will be due at 11:00am on May 2nd. Late submissions are strongly discouraged and will be assessed a penalty of 2 points per hour up to a maximum of 10 points per day. This comprehensive report will be an analysis of a health (care) policy of your choice that is related to risky health behaviors, welfare-enhancing health behaviors, health care choices, health insurance, etc. The report should be 10 double-spaced pages, not including title page, references (*Chicago Style* preferred; http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html), tables, or figures. A one-page single-spaced proposal of your report topic will be due no later than the beginning of class on March 9th. Late proposals will decrease your final report grade and will not be accepted after March 23rd. Final reports must be well written, well organized, and free of grammatical mistakes and typos. Students should rely on journal articles, textbooks, newspaper/magazine articles, and other reference materials, but no assistance is permitted from classmates, instructors, friends, etc. In addition, students are encouraged to utilize the Writing Center and submit their draft reports through SafeAssign, which will detect possible plagiarism. Final reports will be submitted to me through Blackboard via SafeAssign to ensure that any previous issues are resolved.

Mid-Term Exam: The mid-term exam will occur on March 30th. It will contain 25 multiple choice and true/false questions, which will be completed in 30 minutes. Every student must take the mid-term exam during the assigned day and time. I do not offer make-up exams nor extra credit assignments at the end of the semester.

Participation in Class Discussions/ Article Summaries/ News Articles (Current Events): Students are expected to attend every class, read the assigned articles prior to class, and come prepared to discuss/debate the readings. The participation grade for students who miss classes, arrive late, and/or come to class unprepared will be marked down accordingly. Class discussion of specific articles will focus on: what is the research question(s); why is the research question(s) important/timely; why is the research question(s) difficult to answer; how do the authors attempt to answer the question(s), including a review of data and methods; what are the results; and what are the implications of the results for health policy.

For the last 15 minutes of class on most Thursdays, students will describe current events related to the topic of the week. These impromptu presentations will begin during the second week of class. The news articles must be related to the topic of the week, and must have been published within the prior three months in a major media outlet (e.g., The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Economist, Business Week, Huffington Post, etc.). No less than two and no more than four

students each week will be randomly selected to briefly summarize their articles and lead a short discussion emphasizing how the article relates to the health policy concepts being discussed that week. To receive credit for the new articles, files must be uploaded to Blackboard (Discussion Board) no later than 3:00pm each Thursday.

The article summaries for each assigned article must be completed and printed prior to the start of class on the day the article is being discussed. Please do not ask a classmate to submit your article summary as this will result in a zero grade for both students. Article summaries should be a minimum of one single-spaced typed page and must be printed prior to the start of class. The article summaries will be collected at the end of each class and then graded on a pass/fail scale. Posted news articles will also be graded on a pass/fail scale.

Please note that the grading for class participation, article summaries, and news articles (current events) are all lumped into one category, which is worth 40% of your final grade. Performance in all three areas matters and poor performance in even a single area can significantly drop your overall grade. Please come to class prepared, professionally engage your classmates, demonstrate your understanding of the topics through the article summaries and current events, and provide interesting insight with your contributions.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to arrive in the classroom at least 5 minutes before the start of each class and to attend all sessions. Unexcused late arrivals or absences will result in a lower final grade. Unavoidable absences (medical emergencies, family emergencies, athletic events, etc.) should be confirmed with the professor no later than one day prior to the class time. All cell phones, computers, and other electronic devices must be TURNED OFF during class time unless prior approval is obtained from the instructor. Emailing, texting, Facebooking, Skyping, tweeting, electronic surfing, and other forms of non-classroom communication are strictly forbidden. Each student is entitled to one warning and thereafter will receive no credit for participation on that day. It will be very difficult to obtain a passing grade if you are not able to attend at least 80 percent of the contact time.

Honor Code

I expect you to abide by the University of Miami Undergraduate Honor Code. You can find it on the web (https://umshare.miami.edu/web/wda/deanstudents/pdf/undergrad_honorcode.pdf).

Testing Accommodations

Anyone using the testing services of the Office of Disability Services (http://www.miami.edu/index.php/academic_resource_center/disability_services/) must schedule appointments at least 1 week prior to the mid-term exam, and preferably earlier. The spaces fill up quickly.

Professor Bio

Dr. French (www.mtfrench.com) is a health economist and Professor (joint tenure) in the Department of Sociology (www.as.miami.edu/sociology/people/faculty/michael-t-french) and

Department of Health Sector Management and Policy at the University of Miami, with secondary appointments in the Department of Economics and Department of Public Health Sciences. He is also Director of the Health Economics Research Group (www.miami.edu/herg) in the College of Arts and Sciences, Research Director of the Health Sector Management and Policy Program in the School of Business Administration (<http://www.bus.miami.edu/undergraduate-programs/curriculum/majors/health-sector/index.html>), and a Senior Fellow of the Center for Health Sector Management and Policy (<http://www.bus.miami.edu/explore-the-school/health-programs/health-center/>). His research interests and experience includes health economics, health policy, program evaluation, substance abuse research, alternative health care delivery systems, pharmaco-economics, human resource economics, and the economics of crime. He has been principal investigator or project leader on numerous research grants with the National Institutes of Health, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and several state agencies. He is currently editor of the *Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics*; on the editorial boards for *Health Services Research, Evaluation and Program Planning*, and *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*; and serves on several research advisory boards for universities, national and international companies, government agencies, and health care organizations. Dr. French has published over 180 peer-reviewed scholarly articles in a variety of multidisciplinary professional journals including *Addiction, Addictive Behaviors, Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research, American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, American Journal of Health Promotion, American Journal of Public Health, Annals of Emergency Medicine, Applied Economics, Benefits Quarterly, BMC Psychiatry, Cancer Practice, Contemporary Economic Policy, Criminology, Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Eastern Economic Journal, Economic Inquiry, Economics of Education Review, Economics and Human Biology, Employee Assistance Quarterly, Evaluation and the Health Professions, Evaluation and Program Planning, Evaluation Review, Health Economics, Health Services Research, Implementation Science, Industrial Marketing Management, Industrial Relations, Journal of Addictive Diseases, Journal of Adolescent Health, Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine, Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research, Journal of Employee Assistance Research, Journal of Experimental Criminology, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Healthcare Finance, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Journal of Health and Social Policy, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Internal Medicine, Journal of Maintenance in the Addictions, Journal of Mental Health Policy and Economics, Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, Journal of Occupational Medicine, Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, Journal of Public Health Policy, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Journal of Research on Adolescence, Journal of Risk and Uncertainty, Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, Labour Economics, Justice Quarterly, LABOUR: Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations, Law and Policy, Medical Care, Medical Care Research and Review, Monthly Labor Review, Population Health Management, Public Health Reports, Risk Analysis, Social Science and Medicine, Social Science Quarterly, Social Science Research, Sociological Inquiry, Substance Abuse, Substance Use and Misuse, Southern Economic Journal, Telemedicine and e-Health, The Gerontologist, and The Prison Journal.*