

**Course Syllabus**  
**Law 706 – Health Policy & the Law**  
**Spring 2008**

▪ **Instructor:**

Freeman L. Farrow

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., or by appointment

▪ **Course meeting time and location:**

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m., Lewis 904

▪ **Course goals and objectives:**

This course focuses primarily on the making of health policy through legislative and regulatory mechanisms. Part of the course involves a study of the theory and process of legislative health policy making with assigned readings and discussion of materials in *Health Policymaking in the United States*, by Beaufort B. Longest, Jr. This book, designed for health policy and health management students, presents a detailed model and discussion of processes by which governments, at federal, state, and local levels, formulate, implement, and modify health policies.

There will be additional readings from other sources.

This course is also designed to allow students to actively participate in health policy making. A major component of the class involves researching and developing a legislative or regulatory proposal. Each student in this course has opportunities to study a particular topic and develop knowledge and expertise regarding the topic, and to involve himself or herself in the formation of health policy through legislative and regulatory processes. The course promises to be both interesting and exciting. It will require considerable work by students and instructor.

▪ **Required text and other reading materials:**

*Health Policymaking in the United States*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Beaufort B. Longest, Jr., Health Administration Press publisher (referred to in syllabus as “**Text**”)

BNA Health Care Policy Reporter: You are required to read this weekly reporter, as one way to keep up with developments in the world of health care policy. Access to the most recent issue will be emailed to you each week at the email address listed under your name on the class roster.

Other assigned readings will be photocopied and distributed in class.

I urge you to share with the class articles and other materials regarding health policy developments you read on your own, gathered from other sources. This will help us keep abreast of important developments that may be relevant to our course work.

▪ **Course grading:**

Class preparation, discussion papers, and in class participation: 15%

Policy proposal – preliminary analysis: 15%

Draft of policy proposal: 20%

Final policy proposal: 50%

▪ **Class preparation, attendance, and participation:**

☐ **Class preparation and participation**

I encourage thorough preparation and thoughtful class participation. I will reward those students who consistently prepare for class. Students may sign in prior to the beginning of each class (2 classes per week) indicating that they are prepared to participate in the day's discussion. Students who sign in for 25 of the 28 classes in this course will have their final course grade raised one level, e.g., from C to C+. If, however, a student signs in as prepared and turns out to be unprepared, his or her final grade will be lowered one level. In addition, the student's misrepresentation will be reported as an honor code violation.

☐ **Class attendance**

Class attendance is required (check your Student Handbook). A student's excessive absences will result in lowering of his or her course grade.

☐ **Discussion papers**

For each week for which Text reading is assigned, you must submit a 1-2 page **discussion paper by 8:00 a.m. on Monday** of that week. Discussion papers are to be emailed to me, and may be submitted anytime (including all day and evening Saturday or Sunday) prior to 8:00 a.m. that Monday. Discussion papers are to be typed, double-spaced Word documents, using 12 point Times New Roman font and standard margins.

Each discussion paper should identify 2 issues from the reading that you would like to pursue further in class discussion. The paper should not be a summary of the reading, but should reflect your questions, insights, and critique of the week's reading.

▪ **Text assignments:**

-- **Assignments are weekly assignments.**

-- **Students must complete weekly reading prior to the Monday class for that week.**

-- **Students are cautioned not to read too far ahead.**

-- **Assignments are subject to change.**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
1	Health Policy and its impact	Text, Chapters 1 & 2
2	Process of Health Policymaking	Text, Chapter 3; Illinois Legislative Reference Bureau's <i>Guide To Drafting Legislative Documents</i> ; Ill. Const., art. IV and Preamble; 5 ILCS 70; 5 ILCS 75; 25 ILCS 35
3	Policy Competency	Text, Chapter 4; Illinois Senate Rules; Illinois House Rules
4	Policy Formulation	Text, Chapter 5; Text, Appendix A
5	Preliminary analyses (preliminary analyses must be email to me by <b>3:00 p.m. CT on Sunday, February 10, 2008</b> )	Discuss preliminary analyses. Be prepared to discuss your preliminary analysis, including any problem areas or issues you have identified as well as areas needing further refinement or revision. Be prepared with ideas, insights, and questions about each other's work.
6	Policy Formulation	Text, Chapter 6; Text, Appendix B; Illinois Bill Drafting Manual, Chapters 1, 5, and 10
7	Policy Implementation	Text, Chapter 7; Text, Appendix C; Illinois Bill Drafting Manual, Chapters 15, 20, and 25
8	Policy Implementation	Text, Chapter 8; Illinois Bill Drafting Manual, Chapters 30, 35, and 40, and Section 45-5
9	Policy Modification	Text, Chapter 9; Illinois Bill Drafting Manual, Chapters 50, 90, and 95
10	Draft proposals (draft proposals must be email to me by <b>3:00 p.m. CT on Sunday, March 23, 2008</b> )	Discuss draft proposals. Be prepared to discuss your draft proposal, including any problem areas or issues you have identified as well as areas needing further refinement or revision. Be prepared with ideas, insights, and questions about each other's work.

11	Continue discussion regarding draft proposals	Continue discussion regarding draft proposals.
12	To be announced (“TBA”)	TBA
13	TBA	TBA
14	Final proposals due/ Identifying sponsors (final proposals must be email to me by <b>3:00 p.m. CT on Sunday, April 20, 2008</b> )	Discuss strategies to identify sponsors and interest group contacts with respect to proposals. Come to class with ideas for initial action steps for each proposal (i.e., preliminary contacts with legislators or interest groups).

▪ **Policy proposal research and drafting assignment:**

Each student will develop a legislative or regulatory proposal. This might involve drafting legislation for introduction at the state or federal level. It might involve developing a regulatory proposal for presentation to a health-related state or federal agency.

The first step in this process is to identify a specific topic for your proposal. You will need to define the nature of the health policy problem, research and evaluate relevant alternative solutions, and draft your proposed solution (your policy proposal).

You have all taken one or more health law related courses. Some of you may also have some background, life experiences, or interests that relate to specific health law issues. Begin your thinking about a possible proposal in these areas.

Be ambitious, but realistic. It is overambitious to try to draft a National Health Care Plan proposal in one semester. As an example – you may want to draft one piece of a state level private insurance reform.

You may want to talk with other DePaul University College of Law faculty members who have health law experience, regarding ideas or issues you might focus on. You may also want to look at recent health-related legislation and regulations in other states, as well as legislative and regulatory proposals in Illinois. The BNA Health Care Policy Reporter (discussed above) is a great resource.

Although more than one of you may work on related proposals, you must each develop your own, unique policy proposal. To that end, it is better that you work on your own (i.e., without collaboration from classmates) at the beginning of the semester.

▪ **Schedule for policy proposal submissions:**

All assigned submissions must be typed, double-spaced Word documents, using 12 point Times New Roman font and standard margins. Check and proofread your work product thoroughly before submitting it to me.

**Assigned submissions are due by 3:00 p.m. on the Sunday immediately preceding the next Monday class**, as detailed in the assignment table, above. Generally, all submissions will be distributed to the entire class for review and constructive critique. To this end, students are required to review distributed submissions prior to the next Monday class, and to be prepared to provide constructive critique and discussion of classmates' submissions. During our first class session we will decide whether we need some distribution method other than email.

**Due dates are absolute. Late work will be penalized.** As in the real world, however, extensions are possible for good cause demonstrated, as long as you discuss the desired extension with me in advance.

▫ **Week 5, Preliminary analysis (Due Sunday, February 10, 2008)**

During the first 3 weeks of the semester, pick a topic area that interests you. Talk with me frequently during this time. Once I have approved your general topic, you will develop a basis statement for your proposal. Specifically, you will prepare and submit a 5-6 page preliminary analysis that includes the following:

- (1) a statement and explanation of the problem or issue to be addressed by your proposal;
- (2) a summary of the current law regarding the problem or issue;
- (3) an evaluation of possible solutions;
- (4) a summary of your legislative or regulatory proposal (this should not be a draft of the proposal, but rather a summary of the basic aspects of your proposal, what it would do, and how it would do it); and
- (5) an appendix (an annotated bibliography of legal and health policy research literature you reviewed, related to your problem and proposal).

☐ **Week 10, Draft Policy Proposal (Due Sunday, March 23, 2008)**

The next assignment submission is an initial draft of your legislative or regulatory proposal. The submission should include:

- (1) a one page fact statement that explains the problem and the solution you propose. The fact statement should be written so that legislators, interest groups, and the lay public can grasp the issue and how your legislative or regulatory proposal addresses it. Use plain English. In general, the more convoluted the language in your proposal, the less likely your success in getting it adopted as a statute or regulation.
- (2) a draft of your proposed bill or regulation. Bills should be in the format laid out in Illinois Legislative Reference Bureau's *Guide To Drafting Legislative Documents*, and the Illinois Bill Drafting Manual.
- (3) copies of any and all state laws, regulations, and agency policy that relate to the issue you are addressing. These are included to provide your classmates and me the context in which to evaluate and constructively critique your drafting effort.
- (4) an outline of any issues or problems you identify while drafting the proposal.

☐ **Week 14, Final Policy Proposal (Due Sunday, April 20, 2008)**

The final assignment submission is your proposed bill or regulation. Your final proposal should reflect refinement of your draft proposal based on additional research, analysis, and class discussion.

Along with the final proposal you must submit (a) a memorandum explaining the proposal, and (b) a one page fact sheet (as described above, but refined). The memorandum should:

- (1) identify the problem or issue addressed by your proposal,
- (2) explain, with appropriate authority, current law on the problem or issue;
- (3) explain how the proposal will change current law and why this is necessary and desirable; and
- (4) identify the interest groups, agencies, and elected officials you have contacted about the proposal and whether each supports or opposes the proposal, and why. This section should identify any other groups or individuals you think should be contacted prior to introducing the proposal.