

BOSTON UNIVERSITY DUBLIN PROGRAMS

Healthcare Policy and Practice in Ireland SAR HS 425

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Course Overview

This course introduces students to the organisation and delivery of healthcare in Ireland and Europe. It helps students develop a critical appreciation of the dynamics of healthcare policy making and the role of healthcare professionals within the sector. It examines healthcare finance and the role and influence of the insurance and pharmaceutical industries. It also examines the social, environmental, and behavioural factors that affect healthcare across different social cohorts. It concludes by looking at healthcare regulation and reform.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Analyse factors that influence the development of healthcare policy and evaluate different perspectives on the policy-making process;
- Discuss key issues in the delivery of healthcare related to access, cost, and quality;
- Describe the various influences on levels of healthcare expenditure;
- Discuss conditions of the physical environment, social and behavioral factors that influence health;
- Discuss the role of prevention and health promotion in the healthcare system and the key themes associated with recent healthcare strategies;
- Discuss the roles of the major regulatory bodies that govern health care the potential of and limitations on healthcare reform.

Teaching Methodology

Class time will be used for a combination of lectures, discussions, group exercises, and multimedia presentations. Students will be called on to explain readings and concepts, to offer analysis of cases and topics, or to offer opinions. Students are responsible for understanding each reading assignment, even if it is not explicitly discussed in class.

Assignments and Grading

Further details on the assignments will be distributed during lectures and discussed. Opportunities for questions about and clarification of all the assignments will be given during the course. Your grade for the course will be based on your work as follows:

Presentation:	20%
Essay:	40%
Final Examination:	40%

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The case presentation will be given during one of the lectures. Students should pick a topic from the Lecture Outline that interests them. Each student will be assigned a specific day depending on the topic chosen. The presentation should last 10-15 minutes and students should submit a written summary of the presentation which will be graded, along with the presentation itself.

Essay titles are distributed at the end of week three. The essay should be approximately 2,000 words long. Essay requirements will be distributed with the titles.

For the exam you are required to comprehensively answer two questions – excluding the topic on which you did your essay.

Required Texts

- McCluskey, D. (2006) Health Policy and Practice in Ireland. Dublin: UCD Press.
- Wren, M. (2003) Unhealthy State: Anatomy of a Sick Society. Dublin: New Island.

For additional reading see the supplementary reading list.

Plagiarism:

It is every student's responsibility to read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be "...expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the Dean."

Note: Students must retain an electronic copy of all essays submitted for assessment.

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Lecture Schedule:

Healthcare policy in context: comparing healthcare systems

The development of Irish healthcare: the state, interest groups and healthcare policy-making

Global and EU trends in healthcare policy: international influences on Irish healthcare policy

Professions & healthcare policy: influence of representative organisations & lobby groups

Healthcare policy-making: rationality and its limits, disjointed incrementalism

Healthcare finance 1: How healthcare is funded; changing systems of healthcare funding

Healthcare finance 2: Rationing and priority-setting; economic appraisal and evaluation

Health Insurance: Paying for healthcare; Access to healthcare

Pharmaceuticals and healthcare

Equity and exclusion in the healthcare system

Prevention and health promotion: key themes associated with recent healthcare initiatives

Ethical issues in public health & health services

Healthcare legislation & regulation

Conflict & Change; healthcare reform

Final Exam

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Supplementary Texts:

- Barker, C. (1996) *The Health Care Policy Process*. London: Sage.
- Barrington, R. (1987) *Health, Medicine and Politics in Ireland 1900-1970*. Dublin: IPA.
- Buchanan, R.J. (2005) *Effective Practice in Health and Social Care: A Partnership Approach*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
- Coghlan, D. & McAluliffe, E. (2003) *Changing Healthcare Organisations*. Dublin: Blackhall.
- Coulter, A. & Ham, C. (2000) *The Global Challenge of Health Care Rationing*. Buckingham: Open University Press.
- Dowling, B. & Glendinning, C. (2003) *The New Primary Care: Modern, Dependable, Successful*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
- Goozner, M. (2004) *The \$800 Million Dollar Pill: The Truth Behind the Cost of New Drugs*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Government of Ireland (2001) *Quality and Fairness: A Health System for You*. Dublin: Stationery Office.
- Government of Ireland (2001) *Primary Care: A New Direction*. Dublin: Stationery Office.
- Healy, D. (2004) *Let Them Eat Prozac: The Unhealthy Relationship between the Pharmaceutical Industry and Depression*. New York: New York University Press.
- Kilcommins, S. & O'Donnell, I. (2003) *Alcohol, Society and the Law*. Chichester: Barry Rose Law Publishers.
- Minkler, M. & Wallerstein, N. (2003) *Community Based Participatory Research for Health*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Orme, J. et al (2003) *Public Health for the 21st Century: New Perspectives on Policy, Participation and Practice*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.
- Percy-Smith, J. (2000) *Policy Responses to Social Exclusion: Towards inclusion?* Maidenhead: Open University Press.
- Quin, S. & Remond, B. (2003) *Disability and Social Policy in Ireland*. Dublin: UCD Press.
- Tussing, A.D. & Wren, MA. (2006) *How Ireland Cares: The Case for Health Care Reform*. Dublin: New Ireland.
- Weinburg, D.B. (2003) *Code Green: Money-driven Hospitals and the Dismantling of Nursing*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.