

EPID 803 - The Canadian Health System

Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Samantha Buttemer
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Time: Thursdays from 1-4 pm
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Course Description and Requirements

"The aim of this introductory course is to describe how health services are organized and delivered in Canada. Students who take the course will: 1) understand the inputs, delivery and outputs of the Canadian health system; 2) recognize and explain the factors that influence change in this system; and 3) consider current health policy issues in Canada." (Queen's PHS website description)

The course will require active learning on the part of the participant, integrating short lectures with interactive group work, pre-readings, and group discussion.

This is a required course for students in the MPH program. There are no prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students who have successfully completed the course will be able to:

- 1) Describe the general structure of health systems, including inputs and outputs
- 2) Understand how the Canadian system is structured, including various models within it
- 3) Relate various health issues present in current Canadian society with the policy framework that contributes to their development and potential resolution

Course Resources and Readings

Select resources include:

World Health Organization. Everybody business : strengthening health systems to improve health outcomes : WHO's framework for action. (2007) Available online at: https://www.who.int/healthsystems/strategy/everybodys_business.pdf?ua=1

Canada Health Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-6. Available at <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-6.pdf>

The People's Health Care Act, 2019, S.O. 2019, c. 5 - Bill 74. Available at <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/statute/s19005>

Wong, SL, Bazemore AW, Miller, BF, and Green LA. How to Write a Health Policy Brief. (2016) Families, Systems & Health 35(1)21-24. Available online at: <https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/features/fsh-fsh0000238.pdf>

Canadian Institute for Health Information. A Performance Measurement Framework for the Canadian Health System. (2013) Available online at https://secure.cihi.ca/free_products/HSP_Framework_Technical_Report_EN.pdf

Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Quality of Health Care in America. Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21st Century - Executive Summary. (2001) Available online at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK222271/>

Berwick, D.M. Escape Fire: Lessons for the Future of Health Care. (2002) The Commonwealth Fund. Available at https://www.commonwealthfund.org/sites/default/files/documents/media_files_publications_other_2002_nov_escape_fire_lessons_for_the_future_of_health_care_berwick_escapefire_563_pdf.pdf

Course Schedule

Exact dates to be determined

Week 1	Course overview; introduction to health systems & policy analysis
Week 2	History of health care and public health services in Canada
Week 3	Inputs: financing
Week 4	Inputs: resources; delivery of care
Week 5	Inputs: policy and introduction to the policy brief assignment
Week 6	Assignment - Due the next day, open session available for group work and Q&A with instructor and TA
Week 7	Outputs: assessing health outcomes
Week 8	Outputs: health care quality
Week 9	General overview of the Canadian "system" and provincial structures
Week 10	Policy brief presentations (1)
Week 11	Policy brief presentations (2)
Week 12	Final examination

Grading Method & Distribution

In-class participation and reflection - 15%

Mini policy analysis - 10%

Midterm assignment - 15%

Policy brief assignment (including peer assessment) - 40%

Final examination - 20%

Learner Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in class through asking questions and contributing to discussion using knowledge gained through pre-readings for each session. Sherri and Sam will track participation. If you did not feel able to participate in a given discussion or did not attend class, a 1 page post-class reflection can be submitted to Sherri for equivalent marks.

Mini Policy Analysis

In groups of three, students will read and analyze one policy paper using specific framework(s), which will be introduced in week 1. Each week starting in week 3, two to three groups will present their mini policy analysis at the end of the class for 5-10 min each. Groups can choose from a selection of policy papers provided by the instructors, which will relate to the topic each week.

Midterm Assignment

There are two parts to the assignment - completed within groups

Part 1 - One page description of the six system building blocks for health systems of a given Canadian province (outside of Ontario)

Part 2 - Describe the issue being addressed in the final brief, using at least 3 sources with an annotated bibliography

Policy Brief Assignment

In groups of three, students will choose a pertinent health issue facing a specific population in Canada and write a policy brief outlining the issue itself, what is contributing to this issue, potential policy levers that can be enacted to deal with the issue, and recommendations for the best option. Format will be a maximum of two 8"x11" pages, and creativity in page layout/format is acceptable. Each group will then have ten minutes to present their topic to the class, as though they are presenting to policymakers. A five minute Q&A will follow.

Marks are divided as follows:

Content

50% - Paper

25% - Presentation and Q&A

Peer Assessment

10% - Completion and submission of a group reflection identifying areas of success and areas for improvement for each group member (one per group)

15% - Group rating of members

Final Exam

The final exam will be an in-class essay based on the major concepts covered in the course. A grading rubric will be provided.

Turnitin statement

This course makes use of Turnitin, a third-party application that helps maintain standards of excellence in academic integrity. Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignments through onQ to Turnitin. In doing so, students' work will be included as source documents in the Turnitin reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

Turnitin is a suite of tools that provide instructors with information about the authenticity of submitted work and facilitates the process of grading. Turnitin

compares submitted files against its extensive database of content, and produces a similarity report and a similarity score for each assignment. A similarity score is the percentage of a document that is similar to content held within the database. Turnitin does not determine if an instance of plagiarism has occurred. Instead, it gives instructors the information they need to determine the authenticity of work as a part of a larger process.

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Communication

The university communicates with students via Queen's email. Please check your email regularly to ensure you do not miss important information related to your course.

Netiquette

In any course you often communicate with your peers and teaching team through electronic communication. You are expected to use the utmost respect in your dealings with your colleagues or when participating in activities, discussions, and online communication.

Here is a list of netiquette guidelines. Please read them carefully and use them to guide your communication in this course and beyond.

1. Make a personal commitment to learn about, understand, and support your peers.
2. Assume the best of others and expect the best of them.

3. Acknowledge the impact of oppression on the lives of other people and make sure your writing is respectful and inclusive.
4. Recognize and value the experiences, abilities, and knowledge each person brings.
5. Pay close attention to what your peers write before you respond. Think through and re-read your writings before you post or send them to others.
6. It's ok to disagree with ideas, but do not make personal attacks.
7. Be open to being challenged or confronted on your ideas and to challenging others with the intent of facilitating growth. Do not demean or embarrass others.
8. Encourage others to develop and share their ideas.

Course Technology

In this course I will be using the following additional technology:

- Zoom