Long Term Care Policy and Financing
HSTD 353 / PPHA 424
Spring Quarter 2006 – Tuesdays 3:00-5:50

Faculty
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Course Website
Chalk.uchicago.edu: HSTD 353.

Overview
This course is a seminar in long-term care policy and the relationships between policy, financing, access to care, and quality of care for individuals with chronic care needs. In addition to nursing homes, alternative institutional and informal settings and delivery systems will be considered, as will emerging grass-roots and state-based models for improving care. Specific topics include Medicaid and Medicare policy; long-term care insurance; new proposals for financing long-term care; workforce issues; dementia and end-of-life care; the culture change movement; and cross-national comparisons of long-term care systems. Students will engage in an ongoing discussion of policy options and learn to evaluate their potential to improve quality and ensure access to long-term care.

Required Texts:
There are no required texts. All reading materials will be posted on the course website.

Course Requirements
All readings must be completed prior to class. Some articles are to be read in depth, while others can be skimmed – this will be specified the week before. The quality of class discussions will largely determine the success of the course; therefore it is essential for students to come to each session well-prepared. Each student is expected to lead the discussion for one or more sessions. Discussion leaders will prepare a list of discussion questions to guide the conversation.

Two short papers are required, and each will be presented to the class. The first paper will be a short policy brief (approximately 5 pages) suggesting an approach to financing long-term care in the US. Economic, political, philosophical, and clinical obstacles and ramifications should be considered. The second paper (approximately 10-15 pages) will be a review of the literature or an empirical investigation on a topic of the student’s choice related to long-term care. It may be part of a larger ongoing research project, but must be an original contribution to that larger project. A one-page proposal for the paper will be due halfway through the course.

Evaluation
Class participation and preparedness 35%
Session leadership 10%
Policy brief 20%
Paper presentations 10%
Final Paper 25%
COURSE OUTLINE

Mar 28  Session I: Introduction
No readings

Session II: Overview of Long-Term Care Policy Issues

April 4  Session I: State-Based Systems / Regulation

Session II: Medicaid, Medicare policy
- Grabowski DC, Feng Z, Intrator O, Mor V. Recent Trends In State Nursing Home Payment Policies. Health Aff (Millwood). 2004 Jun 16;

April 11  Session I: Financing
- Norton EC. Long-Term Care in Handbook of Health Economics.

Session II: Financing
- Mollica RL. Managed care and assisted living: trends and future prospects. J Health

April 18 Session I: International Examples

April 25 Session I: Quality of Care
- Mor, V. Improving the quality of long-term care with better information. Milbank Q. 2005;83(3):333-64.

Session II: Quality of Care

May 2 Session I: Workforce issues
- Yoo BK, Bhattacharya J, McDonald KM, Garber AM. Impacts of Informal

Session II: Gender, Race, Geography

May 9 Session I: Presentation/Discussion of Student Policy Briefs

Session II: LTC and Acute Care

May 16 Session I: End of Life Care
Session II: The Legal Environment


May 23 Sessions I and II: Culture Change

- Fagan RM
- Thomas WH
- Kehoe MA and Van Heesch B
- Barkan B
- Boyd CK
- Rader J and Semradek J
- Reynolds WE

May 30 Session I: Student Paper Presentations

Session II: Student Paper Presentations and Final Thoughts