Work and employment relations in health care

Professor Rebecca Givan
LSER 38: 578: 610
Mondays, 7:20-10:00pm, Labor Education Center room 130

Preliminary syllabus: further readings, guest speakers and assignments will be added.

From the day we are born, we come into contact with health care work and health care workers; throughout our lives we experience the world of health care as patients, as tax payers, and as health care providers. Health care is the fastest growing sector in the US economy and one in three new jobs are in the health and social care sectors.

This course will provide insight into the real challenges of employment and employment relations in health care. We will examine why and how our health care system works the way it does (or does not); the increasing demands placed on health care professionals, the role of unions in protecting patients and health care providers, and the ever-changing health care landscape, and much more.

Week 1 Monday January 28th
Introductions
Film: The Waiting Room (2012, Director Peter Nicks)

Week 2 Monday February 7th
The health care system- Payers, patients and providers
Readings:
• Toland, B. (2014, April 27). How did America end up with this healthcare system? Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

Recommended:

Week 3 Monday February 18th
The healthcare workforce: An overview

Readings:

Week 4: Monday February 25th
Working in a changing health care system

Readings:

Week 5 Monday March 4th
Physicians

Readings:


Week 6 Monday March 11th
Nurses


Film: The American Nurse http://americannurseproject.com/film-trailer/

Monday March 18th: Spring break, no class

Week 7 Monday March 25th
Human Resource Management in Health Care

Readings:

• HR Case study- Harvard Case Study

Week 8 Monday April 1st
Health care unions and labor relations

Readings:
Week 9 Monday April 8th
Health and safety

Readings:
  Read from the beginning through section V5 (i.e. you do not need to continue reading after “1. QUESTIONS ON THE OVERALL PROGRAM, MANAGEMENT COMMITMENT AND EMPLOYEE PARTICIPATION”).


Additional resources:

Week 10 Monday April 15th
Long term and Home care
Readings:

Week 11 Monday April 22
Socialized health care systems- the Veterans Health Administration and the British National Health Service
Readings
Film: Sick Around the World (2008)
https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/sickaroundtheworld/

**Week 12 Monday April 29th**  
Negotiation case study

**Week 14 Monday May 6**  
Presentations