Syllabus
Benefits and Social Insurance

Graduate: 38:578:520:01
Undergraduate: 37:575:375:01

Spring 2018
Professor William Dwyer
wmd3@smlr.rutgers.edu

Wednesday 3:55 pm – 6:55 pm
Labor Education Center, room133 Cook-Douglass campus

Textbooks:

1. *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*


3. *Retirement Plans: 401(k)s, IRAs, and Other Deferred Compensation Approaches*

Grades: All reading assignments should be completed prior to the date noted on the syllabus. There will be several assignments, a mid-term exam and a final exam. Due dates and deadlines are firm. Assignments are not accepted beyond the due date and time. Assignments are posted on Sakai under the “assignments” tab. Students are responsible for monitoring all assignment instructions and due dates. The results for all graded assignments will be posted on a timely basis on Sakai under the “grades” tab. Students are advised to monitor their performance throughout the entire semester so that any performance deficiencies and/or concerns can be addressed at the appropriate time.

Grading weights are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assignments, attendance, and class participation</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>1/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>1/3</td>
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1 The syllabus is tentative and subject to change
Class 1 (Jan. 17) Introduction to Benefits and Social Insurance in the United States
- Ground rules, introductions, expectations and syllabus review
- Should access to health care be a right for all Americans?
- The social safety net and the AIDS crisis
  - Video: “Aids: We Were Here”

Class 2 (Jan. 24) The Social Safety Net and Retirement Plan Basics
- Chapters 1 through 3  *Retirement Plans: 401(k)s, IRAs, and Other Deferred Compensation Approaches*, Everett Allen Jr., Joseph Melone, Jerry Rosenbloom, Dennis Mahoney
  - Video: PBS Frontline: “The Retirement Gamble”

Class 3 (Jan. 31) The Social Safety Net and Retirement Plan Basics
- Chapters 4 through 6  *Retirement Plans: 401(k)s, IRAs, and Other Deferred Compensation Approaches* Everett Allen Jr., Joseph Melone, Jerry Rosenbloom, Dennis Mahoney
  - Video: Independent Lens, “No Mas Bebes”

Class 4 (Feb. 7) The Social Safety Net and Retirement Plan Basics
- Chapters 7, 8 and 11  *Retirement Plans: 401(k)s, IRAs, and Other Deferred Compensation Approaches* Everett Allen Jr., Joseph Melone, Jerry Rosenbloom, Dennis Mahoney

Class 5 (Feb. 14) The Social Safety Net and Retirement Plan Basics
- Chapters 17, 18 and 21  *Retirement Plans: 401(k)s, IRAs, and Other Deferred Compensation Approaches* Everett Allen Jr., Joseph Melone, Jerry Rosenbloom, Dennis Mahoney

Class 6 (Feb. 21) Pension Financing
- Chapters 25, 26 and 28  *Retirement Plans: 401(k)s, IRAs, and Other Deferred Compensation Approaches* Everett Allen Jr., Joseph Melone, Jerry Rosenbloom, Dennis Mahoney
- Review for mid-term exam

Class 7 (Feb. 28)
- Mid-term Exam

Class 8 (Mar. 7) Workers’ Compensation
- Scott D. Szymendera “Workers’ Compensation: Overview and Issues” (Sakai)
- The social safety net, workers’ compensation, the Affordable Care Act and the
health care crisis
  o Videos: “Workers’ Compensation”, “Obama’s Deal”, “On the Road with the Health Wagon”

Class 9 (Mar. 21) Health Care Reform or Deadlock?
  • *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know* Lawrence R. Jacobs and Theda Skocpol Revised and Updated Edition 2012. Chapters 1 and 2
  • Kaiser Family Foundation Health Care Assessment
  • The social safety net and the Ebola crisis
    o Video: “The Ebola Outbreak”

Class 10 (Mar. 28) Health Care Deadlock
  • *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know* Lawrence R. Jacobs and Theda Skocpol Revised and Updated Edition 2012. Chapters 3 and 4
  • The social safety net, the health care crisis in urban America, social security and social insurance
    o Videos: Affordable Care Act (animated), “Doctor Hotspot” emergency room care and social security and social insurance

Class 11 (Apr. 4) Health Care Reform
  • Discussion on Employer provided healthcare
  • The social safety net and the opioid epidemic
    o Video: “Chasing Heroin: Investigating an American Crisis”

Class 12 (Apr. 11) The Health Care System, Medicare, and Medicaid
  • The social safety net and government regulation
    o Video: Frontline, “Supplements and Safety”

Class 13 (Apr. 18) Health Care Delivery
  • The social safety net and obesity in America
    o Video: “The Real Skinny on Obesity”

Class 14 (Apr. 25) The Future of Health Insurance and Health Care and course wrap-up
  • Review for final exam
Syllabus Benefits and Social Insurance

- The social safety net and health care in America
  - Video: Michael Moore’s “Sicko”

Class 15 (May 2)
- Final Exam

Revised 12/29/17