Syllabus
Benefits and Social Insurance

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

Spring 2019
Professor William Dwyer
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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:

Assignments, attendance, and class participation 1/3
Mid-term exam 1/3
Final exam 1/3

Class 1 Introduction to Benefits and Social Insurance in the United States
- Ground rules, introductions, expectations and syllabus review

1 The syllabus is tentative and subject to change
• Should access to health care be a right for all Americans?
• The social safety net and the AIDS crisis
  o Video: “Aids: We Were Here”

Class 2 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
  o Video: PBS Frontline: “The Retirement Gamble”

Class 3 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
  o Videos: Pension Evolution, Senator Bernie Sanders on pension reform and President George W. Bush on pension law reform.

Class 4 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
  o Video: Passive Investing

Class 5 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
  o Video: Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOPs)

Class 6 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
• Overview of Workers’ Compensation
• Mid-term Exam

Class 8
• Assignment to read before next class:
Class 9 Assignment to read before next class:
  - *Health Care Reform and American Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know* Lawrence R. Jacobs and Theda Skocpol Revised and Updated Edition 2012. Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4
  - Videos: “Sicko”
  - Assignment to read before next class:

Class 10 Health Care Deadlock
  - Videos: “Obama’s Deal,” Jimmy Kimmel interviews
  - Assignment to re-read before next class:
    - Scott D. Szymbendera “Workers’ Compensation: Overview and Issues” (Sakai)

Class 11 Workers’ Compensation
  - Guest speaker: John F. Burton Jr. will discuss Workers’ Compensation and topics covered in the following articles:
    - Scott D. Szymbendera “Workers’ Compensation: Overview and Issues” (Sakai)
  - Discussion on the rise and fall of employer provided healthcare
  - The social safety net and the opioid epidemic (part 1)
    - Video: The Wire creator David Simon on the war on drugs

Class 12 The Health Care System, Medicare, and Medicaid
  - Financial planning guest speaker Anthony J. Truino
  - Review assignment questions and answers for “Understanding Health Policy” chapters 5-10
  - Preventable causes of death
  - Future directions for the ACA and Medicaid
  - Discuss the final exam
  - The social safety net and the opioid epidemic

Class 13 Health Care Delivery
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- The social safety net and obesity in America
  - Video: “Chasing Heroin: Investigating an American Crisis”

Class 14 The Future of Health Insurance and Health Care and course wrap-up

- Grad student team project presentations
- Review for final exam
- The social safety net and health care in America
  - Video: “The Real Skinny on Obesity”

Class 15

- Final Exam

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

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