**Reinhardt University**

**Bachelor of Healthcare Administration (BHA) Program**

**HCA 405: The Impact of Regulatory Policy on Healthcare**

**Instructor:** Edward P. Paluch, Ph.D., M.B.A.

**Instructor Contact Information**

Please contact me through the “Messages” option within the course site or through my Reinhardt e-mail address, epp@reinhardt.edu. I will answer e-mails within 24 hours. My preferred contact method is e-mail.

**Cell: 484-888-3800.** During the workday, I am typically in meetings, so I am not readily available. However, if you leave a message, I will return your call as soon as possible.

**E-mail:** **EPP@reinhardt.edu**

**Course Description:**

Health care providers, both institutional and individual, are required to comply with a vast array of regulations. This course will examine the nature and purpose of those regulations and their impact on the planning, delivering, and organizing health care services.

**Reinhardt University BHA Program Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. Graduates will identify and describe the structure and components of the US healthcare system.
2. Graduates will be able to identify the key economic, regulatory, legal, and ethical issues currently affecting the US healthcare system.
3. Graduates will master key clinical and managerial terminology and demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively about healthcare administrative issues in discussions with healthcare professionals, program faculty, and other students.
4. Graduates will demonstrate their ability to apply management principles to theoretical and real scenarios in healthcare administration.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to recognize and analyze issues and problems associated with changes in the healthcare administration field and to subsequently propose and enact constructive responses.

**Student Learning Outcomes for this course in the Program:**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Recognize and evaluate the concepts involved with the definition of health policy and the policy-making process.

2. Define the role of health policy and law as it relates to the health of individuals and populations.

3. Discuss and evaluate the organization and roles of federal and state governments in the policy-making process.

4. Discuss and assess the roles of key groups that provide and finance health care in the United States and the impact of these groups on health care policy definition and implementation.

5. Describe the concerns regarding health care quality and access in the United States.

6. Describe the organization, goals, and roles of local, state, and federal public health agencies in the United States.

7. Explain the importance of basic economic principles when evolving and defining health policy.

8. Describe the types and limitations of individual legal rights associated with health care.

9. Describe and assess various health policy issues relating to health insurance.

10. Describe the structure, administration, financing, and eligibility rules for Medicaid, the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Medicare.

11. Describe and assess the role and effects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act on Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare.

12. Identify and differentiate the key components of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the challenges associated with national health reform.

13. Describe and explain the role of federal, state, and local policies and laws in the health care sector as well as the infrastructure that they have created that support public health preparedness.

14. Describe the use and application of policy analysis.

**Required Textbook:**

**Teitelbaum, J. E., & Wilensky, S. E. (2017). Essentials of health policy and law (3rd edition.). Burlington, MA: Jones & Bartlett Learning, LLC.**

**ISBN 978-1-2840-8754-3**

**Attendance, Participation, and Conduct Policy:** Your course grade depends on your active and timely participation in on-line exchanges of ideas, personal observations, and questions regarding the course material with your fellow students and the instructor. As seen on the weekly schedule of course events, there are regular activities requiring all students to post to the discussion forum, take quizzes, and complete writing assignments. Please be attentive to these assignments and plan on meeting the following expectations:

1. Online courses run for a period of eight weeks with activities and assignments specified for each week. An online lesson begins at 12:00 AM Monday (EST) and ends on Sunday at 11:59 PM (EST). (Courses during the Summer Term follow a seven-week schedule.)

2. A student is counted as “Present” for a given online lesson only if he or she participates in the course. Participation is defined as posting on the discussion forum **OR** submitting a completed lesson activity/assignment during the online week prior to Sunday at 11:59 PM (EST).

**3. A student who fails to participate during the first 8 calendar days of a course shall be administratively withdrawn from the course.**

4. Students are expected to visit the course site several times (5-7 times) a week to read material found there, participate in the forum, take quizzes or exams, and compose and submit written assignments. Students are responsible for completing all Forum work within the assigned week. There is no make-up work to replace incomplete or missed Forums.

5. Each student must post an **INITIAL** comment to the weekly forum by Tuesday evening at 10:00 PM. This will give everyone time to read and respond to posted comments by the weekly deadline of Sunday night. To effectively participate in the forum discussion, the student must read the on-line lecture and the other reading assignments.

6. Weekly quizzes and other assignments must be submitted by the Sunday midnight deadline of the week they are due. No assignments more than a week late will be accepted. A grading penalty will be applied to late assignments.

**Life happens, however, and I understand that. However, the student must take the responsibility to communicate with me if circumstances related to work, personal health, or family are going to interfere with timely completion of assignments. Given advanced notice, we can work things out in a reasonable and responsible manner.**

7. **Withdrawal Policy:** After the first week, students who do not participate (See above definition of “participation”) in a course during a week are not satisfying ongoing course participation requirements and will be recorded as “absent” for that lesson. Students will be notified by e-mail of such recorded absences. Participation in the course must resume within 3 calendar days following this notification. Students who do not resume participation in the course will be administratively withdrawn from the course and issued a grade of “W” or “F”. A grade of “W” will be issued only if the administrative withdrawal occurs **before** 11:59 PM on Monday of the fifth week of the course. After that, any student withdrawn from the course for non-participation will receive a grade of “F.” Students are responsible for the academic and/or financial consequences of such administrative withdrawals.

8. How much time you spend on this course depends largely on your reading and writing skills. Since this course is the equivalent of a traditional class that would actually meet five hours each week for half a semester, you should anticipate spending eight to twelve hours each week engaging with the on-line course materials, reading assignments, completing learning exercises, writing papers, and studying for tests.

**The Need for Academic Honesty:** Education thrives in an atmosphere of honesty and trust. Students who do not do their own work degrade education, demonstrate a lack of respect for themselves and the university, and rob themselves of the opportunity to improve their own thinking and writing. In this course, all work must be your own. Cheating will not be tolerated. Plagiarism, the use of someone else’s ideas or words without acknowledging them as such, is a serious academic offense. Any suspected cases of academic misconduct will be dealt with strictly, normally resulting in a failing grade in the course. The Academic Catalog of Reinhardt University details what constitutes academic dishonesty, as well as the alternative consequences for such behavior. If you are ever uncertain about whether or not your actions are academically honest, please consult your instructor, who will be glad to advise you.

**Disability Statement:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Prof. Tunji Adesesan, Director of the Academic Support Office (ASO) at Reinhardt University, by e-mail at AAA@reinhardt.edu or by phone at 770-720-5567. The ASO staff will work with the on-line program faculty to arrange testing and other accommodations that are found to be appropriate.

**Non-discrimination Statement:** Reinhardt University does not discriminate in any of its policies, programs, or activities on the basis of race, color, age, culture, national origin, socioeconomic status, gender, religious belief, sexual orientation, physical (dis)ability or genetic information.

**Protection of Student Identity, Confidentiality and Privacy:** In keeping withReinhardt University’s commitment to the protection of students’ on-line identity, confidentiality, and privacy, students are required to never reveal their course site log-in names and passwords to anyone.  In all University–related business and class interactions conducted via e-mail, students and instructors are required to use their Reinhardt University e-mail accounts.

**Discussions:** Discussions are the on-line equivalent to traditional classroom exchanges between students and the instructor. They are set up to allow the exchange of observations, questions, and ideas whenever a student can log on to participate. Students must observe the due date and time set by the instructor for the initial post to the weekly discussion.

Your instructor will be monitoring your discussions and will be noting the number of responses and the quality of the responses to each discussion. All discussion postings are formal academic writing and should follow the rules of good grammar and spelling. Whenever students use information from published sources, they must cite those sources appropriately, using APA standards.

As a class, we agree to the following guidelines for our discussions:

1. That all postings should be formal short essays (i.e. in paragraph form, as short as a single paragraph of several sentences) reflecting well articulated critical thinking;
2. To proof-read and spell check our contributions before posting;
3. To stay on track with the topic as presented by the course instructor;
4. To politely challenge the ideas of others without becoming personal, since it is only by engaging differences of opinions that we develop our ideas;
5. To respect one another’s ideas;
6. To avoid slang and non-academic styles of expression;
7. To build on our interpretation of evidence, meaning that we must be knowledgeable of that evidence and be able to support our opinions with facts.
8. To remember that all comments posted by your instructor are designed to encourage postings that earn the best possible grade.

**Evaluation of Learning Outcomes and Grade Computation:**

Course work will have the following values in determining the student’s course grade:

A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=0-59

**Grades and Instructor Evaluation and Feedback to Students:**

Assignments will be graded and returned in a timely manner. You should read instructor feedback carefully and incorporate suggestions into future assignments. If you do not understand the instructor's comments or the grade for an assignment, please ask for clarification.

## TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Lesson One: Overview of Health Policy and Law

1. Academic requirements
2. Course site navigation
3. Writing and style guidelines
4. Advising and semester schedules
5. Chapter 1: Understanding the Role of and Conceptualizing Health Policy and Law
6. Chapter 3: Law and the Legal System
7. On-line Lecture and Supplementary Materials

*Lesson Two:* Health Policy, the Policy-Making Process, and the U.S. Health Care

System

1. Chapter 2: Policy and the Policymaking Process
2. Chapter 4: Overview of the United States Healthcare System
3. On-line Lecture and Supplementary Material

Lesson Three: Individual Rights in Health Care and Public Health

1. Chapter 5: Public Health Institutions and Systems
2. Chapter 6: Individual Rights in Health Care and Public Health
3. On-line Lecture and Supplementary Materials

Lesson Four: Health Insurance, Overview and Consideration of Health Policy Issues, Social Determinants of Health and the Role of Law in Optimizing Health

1. Chapter 7: Social Determinants of Health and the Role of Law in Optimizing Health
2. Chapter 8: Understanding Health Insurance
3. On-line Lecture and Supplementary Material

Lesson Five: Health Care Economics in a Health Policy Context

1. Chapter 9: Health Economics in a Health Policy Context
2. On-line Lecture and Supplementary Materials

Lesson Six: Government Health Insurance Programs

1. Chapter 11: Government Health Insurance Programs: Medicaid, CHIP, and Medicare
2. On-Line Lecture and Supplemental Materials

Lesson Seven: Health Reform and Health Care Quality, Policy, and Law in the United States

1. Chapter 10: Health Reform in the United States
2. Chapter 12: Healthcare Quality Policy and Law
3. On-line Lecture and Supplemental Materials

Lesson Eight**:** Public Health Preparedness Policy

1. Chapter 13: Public Health Preparedness Policy
2. Chapter 14: The Art of Structuring and Writing a Health Policy Analysis
3. On-line Lecture and Supplemental Materials