

Politics and Policies in the U.S. Health Care System

HIS 373W/473 PM 420/PSCI 317W  
Spring 2021

Tuesdays on Zoom 2-3:15  
Thursday Asynchronous  
Office Hours

Instructor: Mical Raz, MD, PhD micalraz@rochester.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 2-3 pm on zoom. Other hours by appointment.

Course Synopsis:

HIS 373W (US Health Policy and Politics): This course examines the formation and evolution of American health policy from a political and historical perspective. Concentrating on devel

to tailor the course to their learning needs.

Covid:

These are unprecedented times. We are all doing our best and facing different challenges. I hope to make our class a respectful place for growth and learning and plan to be considerate of the challenges each and every one of you are facing.

Seminar Participation and Grading:

This is a seminar course in which active, well-prepared student participation is expected. Reading should be done in advance of the seminar, not during, and students should come prepared for an informed discussion. This seminar requires a significant amount of writing, revising, and commenting on peer writing. Given the asynchronous nature of our Thursday class, you are responsible for much of your active learning, I am available to support you in this journey.

**Verbal Participation:** Total 10%

Participation: 5%

Leading an in-class discussion: 5%

**Written Engagement:** Total 15%

Discussion board posts (Choose 4 out of 10 prompts): 10%

Responses to discussion board posts (Respond 4 times at least): 5%

**Op-Ed Assignment:** Total 25%

Share chosen op-ed plus analysis: 2.5%

Commentary on peer Op-Ed: 2.5%

Op-Ed: 20%

**Research Paper:** Total 50%

Detailed topic proposal and annotated bibliography: 5%

Commentary on peer Research Paper: 5%

Final Research Paper: 40%

**Important Due Dates (please put into your calendars!):**

Email with general topic and plan for final research paper: March 4

Published Op-ed identified and commentary uploaded: March 15

Op-ed Drafts Posted on Blackboard: March 20

Commentary on peer Op-Ed Draft: March 22nd

Final Op-ed Due: Thursday April 1

Research topic and annotated bibliography: April 6

Draft paper: April 29th

Peer Review of Research Paper: May 3

Research Paper: Due May 13<sup>th</sup>

If you have difficulties with any of these deadlines, please let me know as soon as you can. There is a global pandemic, and I will try to be accommodating, but it is easier to accommodate when I

am informed in advance.

Academic Honesty: All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will be treated as such. Anyone who engages in such activities will be turned over to the College Board on Academic Honesty for disciplinary action, as outlined at <http://www.rochester.edu/College/honesty/>. For a helpful discussion of plagiarism (including subtle instances), see the American Historical Association's <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/plagiarism-curricular-materials-for-history-instructors/defining-plagiarism.1>

Students with Disabilities: The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of disability, please co

## **Detailed Breakdown of Course Requirements:**

### **Verbal Participation:** Total 10%

1 - Your thoughtful contributions to our online zoom class are an important part of your learning experience. You are expected to come prepared, participate in the discussion, and engage respectfully with your peers. (5)

2- For each module, two students will be responsible for leading the discussion and preparing a few questions to stimulate conversation. (5%)

### **Written Engagement:** Total 15%

Discussion board posts (Choose 4 out of 10 prompts): 10%

You will be asked to respond to 4 out of ten prompts on the reading assignments and to write approximately 500-750 words that incorporate your thoughts on the reading and questions that may arise. Your posts should be carefully written and edited prior to posting.

Responses to discussion board posts (Respond 4 times): 5%

You are expected to read and engage with the discussion board posts and respond briefly to different posts on different topics. The more the better, to create a conversation, but at least 4 times to get credit.

### **Op-Ed Assignment:** Total 25%

1 -Share chosen op-ed plus analysis: 2.5%

You will choose a scholarly op-ed you enjoy (Made by History for Wash Post; The Monkey Cage, JAMA Health Forum), briefly describe its argument and why you found it compelling, and post this on Blackboard and be prepared to discuss it in class.

2 Commentary on peer Op-Ed:2.5%

We will workshop our op-eds and you will provide written feedback (on Blackboard) to one peer, approximately 500-750 words. This peer will be assigned to you.

3- Final Op-Ed: 20%

Based on comments from myself and your peer you will submit a final op-ed, 750-1200 words. My hope is some op-eds will be pitched to newspapers for publication.

### **Research Paper:** Total 50%

1 - Detailed topic proposal and annotated bibliography: 5%

Early in the semester you will identify a topic of interest and find relevant sources for an original research paper. The topic proposal consists of a title for your project, a one-page abstract, and a bibliography of the list of sources (primary and secondary) you will use for your paper. For the abstract, make sure that your argument, key questions, and main sources are clear while limiting yourself to 250 words. For the bibliography, include basic information about at least 10 sources, letting the reader know what they are and why you are including them in the bibliography.

You will upload this to Blackboard.

2- Commentary on peer Research Paper: 5%

You will read the draft research paper of one peer (will be assigned to you) and provide written fde

**Intro to Seminar, Welcome:**







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