HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

HPM 500a or b, Independent Study in Health Policy and Management  Abigail Friedman
Student-initiated directed readings or supervised research under the direction of a Health Policy and Management faculty member. Enrollment requires the development of a term plan approved by a primary faculty mentor and the HPM independent study director. A term plan for directed readings shall include (a) topic and objectives, (b) applicable YSPH or departmental competencies, (c) 13 weeks of readings, (d) a schedule for meetings between the student and supervising faculty mentor, and (e) a description of a culminating written assignment to be completed by the conclusion of the term. A term plan for a research project shall include (a) a project description, (b) weekly benchmarks and activities for 13 weeks, and (c) a description of a final project or other written product to be produced by the conclusion of the term. The student and faculty mentor are expected to meet regularly throughout the term. This course is designed for M.P.H. students but is also open to other students at Yale with approval of a supervising HPM faculty mentor and the HPM independent study director. M.P.H. students may enroll in this course no more than twice for credit; each independent study must meet all requirements described above.

HPM 502a, Foundations of Accounting and Valuation  Stanley Garstka
Distinguishing value creation from redistribution is a key problem faced by any economy. Modern accounting practices are focused on this problem, and knowledge of them is extremely useful. Further, value creation activities in a modern society can become complex and abstract, and accounting practices have developed accordingly. While worthy of a lifetime of study, the purpose of this course is to enable the student to gain a foundation upon which a deep understanding of accounting can be built. One cannot have a sensible discussion of accounting as assessing value without having some idea of what value means and how to think about it. Therefore, this course begins by exploring the basic determinants of value and the techniques used to assess it: discounting cash flow and risk/return analysis. These techniques are based on the timing and statistical properties of cash flow. With this introduction, the course then turns to the more fundamental processes of generating cash flow by creating value through the production and delivery of goods or services and then converting that value into cash flows. The basic financial statements, balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements as well as the accounting mechanics with which they are built are introduced in this context.

HPM 514a, Health Politics, Governance, and Policy  Mark Schlesinger
This course is designed to familiarize students with the various processes by which governmental health policy is made in the United States, and with current policy debates. One focus of the course is to understand the politics underlying the successes and failures of health policy making during the course of the twentieth century. This includes a discussion of the relevant governmental institutions, political actors, the major national programs that have been established, and how political actors use resources and set their strategies.

HPM 536b, Narratives in Health Media on the Social Internet  James Hamblin
This course is a study of methods of communication that will equip students to engage with the public to share findings and insights, influence policy, identify problems, and maximize the effectiveness of their work. While the challenges in health policy demand ever more complex academic study, some 100 million Americans do not know, for example, that the Affordable Care Act is the same thing as Obamacare—much less what the law includes and means. The gap between those driving the conversation and those alienated and excluded from it is growing daily. This severely limits systemic improvements, and even rational discussion of improvement. Traditionally, public health experts have had a limited array of tools at their disposal to engage in public discourse, to reach people outside of their immediate circles of professional contacts, and to inform, hear from, react to, and influence the lives of many. This course is predicated on the idea that science cannot be conceived as a system by which knowledge emanates outward (much less downward) from academia, or it will cease to reach people and affect the world, only exacerbating distrust, division, and claims of elitism. Public health can only exist as an active process of communication between practitioners, researchers, and the public. Trust is built when science happens as a shared endeavor. ½ Course cr

HPM 542b, Health of Women and Children  Mary Alice Lee
The focus of this course is women’s and children’s health and health care in the United States. Emerging health issues and related health policy are presented and discussed in terms of epidemiology, including racial/ethnic disparities and effects of poverty; utilization and financing of children’s health care; and existing programs and public policies that facilitate access to care. Data sources and data needs are identified. Topics may include history of MCH programs and policy, Medicaid and SCHIP, low birth weight and infant mortality, maternal mortality, reproductive health, breast and cervical cancer screening, pediatric oral health, pediatric asthma, childhood obesity, adolescent health care and teen pregnancy, children with special health care needs, childhood injuries and injury prevention. Students are expected to critically evaluate the public health implications of selected conditions and the effect of public policy on availability, accessibility, acceptability of services, and accountability in health care for women and children.

[ HPM 545, Health Disparities ]
This seminar explores our nation’s striking inequities in morbidity, mortality, and injury (including by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic and immigration status, gender and gender identity, and geography), placing particular focus on the structural and social determinants of these inequities. Through readings drawn from multiple disciplines, it examines such topics as the impacts on health of poverty and inequality in income, wealth, and education; overt and implicit discrimination; residential segregation and concentrated poverty and their associated differential exposures to environmental hazards and health-promoting resources; differential access to, and quality of, health care; and the role of law as a determinant of, and tool to address, health inequities. A variety of community-based interventions
to address health inequities are reviewed and critiqued, as are some of the ways law and policy are now being used as a tool to promote health justice. 1 Course cr

HPM 550b, Health Policy or Health Care Management Practicum Staff
This course is one of the options available to HPM students to fulfill the M.P.H. applied practice experience requirement. The practicum is a project-based learning experience in which students work 8-10 hours each week in their placement. The Health Care Management Practicum (section 1) allows students to focus on current issues confronting a hospital department while working under the guidance of a departmental administrator. Students are required to attend the first week of class to enroll. The Health Policy Practicum (section 2) allows students to work on current state and/or local health policy issues while placed with state and/or local legislative or executive agency policy makers, or with senior staff at a nonprofit health policy or advocacy group. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor.

HPM 556a, Advanced Health Policy Practicum Shelley Gelfande
This course is designed for students who wish to deepen their practice-based learning and develop additional research, communication, and advocacy skills through continuing work in a particular practicum placement and/or on a particular health policy topic. Students are placed with state and/or local legislative or executive agency policy makers, or with senior staff at nonprofit health policy or advocacy groups. Prerequisites: completion of HPM 555 and permission of the instructor.

HPM 556b, Quality and Safety in Health Care Organizations Vinita Parkash
This course introduces students to the science and implementation of quality improvement, error reduction, and patient safety initiatives in health care organizations. We discuss how medical errors occur and are ascertained, the current tools used to evaluate quality and safety initiatives, ethical and institutional challenges, and strategies to improve quality and safety from multiple perspectives. The course also gives an overview of policy-level quality improvement initiatives and their impact on quality improvement in health care organizations. Case-based studies are included to encourage discussion of complex topics in real-world settings. In particular, students are asked to consider the challenges created by the different perspectives of patients, health care providers, public health professionals, and risk-management and insurance structures on quality and safety in health care organizations. The class is structured as a mix of didactic lectures and seminar discussions.

[ HPM 560, Health Economics and U.S. Health Policy ]
This course introduces students to the organization and operation of the American health care system. The course examines systems of health care delivery and finance and recent trends in their organization, including the growth of managed care. The course seeks to provide students with an understanding of the existing structure of the system and with conceptual frameworks. 1 Course cr

HPM 564b, Vaccination Policy and Politics Jason Schwartz
This course explores critical topics in vaccination policy in the United States and internationally. It does so by examining the interconnected political, regulatory, social, cultural, ethical, economic, legal, and historical issues that contribute to ongoing debates about the design and implementation of vaccination programs and policies. Students acquire an understanding of the scope and design of contemporary vaccination programs and policies in the United States and worldwide; the policy and political landscapes in which vaccination programs are developed, funded, and implemented; the positions, evidence, and arguments of both proponents and critics of contemporary vaccine policy; and the application of principles and concepts from health policy and policy analysis to the study of vaccination policy.

HPM 566b / EMD 566b, Critical Issues in Global Health Kaveh Khoshnood
The course focuses on critical challenges to the health of the poor in low- and middle-income countries and pays particular attention to how these health gaps can be addressed in low-cost and highly effective ways. The course covers the architecture, politics, and governance of global health; key trends in approaches to meeting the health needs of the poor in low- and middle-income countries; and how science and technology can be harnessed for this purpose. It examines the burden of disease and the determinants of this burden; covers the leading causes of illnesses, disability, and preventable death from communicable and noncommunicable diseases, with special attention to women and children; and focuses particular attention on key health systems issues and recent efforts to overcome them, especially in low-income settings.

HPM 570a, Cost-Effectiveness Analysis and Decision-Making A. Paltiel
This course introduces students to the methods of decision analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis in health-related technology assessment, resource allocation, and clinical decision-making. The course aims to develop technical competence in the methods used; practical skills in applying these tools to case-based studies of medical decisions and public health choices; and an appreciation of the uses and limitations of these methods at the levels of national policy, health care organizations, and individual patient care.

HPM 573b, Advanced Topics in Modeling Health Care Decisions Reza Yassoubi
This course develops students' technical competencies in computer simulation modeling and medical decision-making using Python. The course aims to enhance skills in developing and analyzing decision models to guide health care resource allocation, technology assessment, and clinical decision-making. Particular emphasis is placed on using object-oriented programming features of Python to develop efficient, scalable, and transparent simulation models. Students also acquire skills in conducting, presenting, and critically evaluating modeling studies. The course consists of lectures, in-class labs, practical exercises, and a final project through which students gain experience in developing health care decision models. No previous programming experience is required.
HPM 576b, Comparative Health Care Systems  Chima Ndumele
This course examines the basic structure of health care systems across countries, with a focus on how system design can impact the provision of care. Health care systems evolve within distinct cultures; consequently, these systems vary substantially in the ways they finance, organize, and deliver care. In spite of these differences, the aims of health care systems worldwide are often quite similar: chiefly, to facilitate access to high-quality care that improves health at a reasonable cost. Over the course of the term we identify themes in how countries organize their health care systems, examine the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to the payment and delivery of health care, and explore specific examples of ongoing efforts to reform health systems. Recurring concepts include the role of public and private systems in financing and delivering health care, the impact of the local environment on the structure of health care systems, and the effect of health system design on patient and provider behavior.

HPM 580a / EMD 580a, Reforming Health Systems: Using Data to Improve Health in Low- and Middle-Income Countries  Robert Hecht
Health systems in low- and middle-income countries are in constant flux in the face of myriad pressures and demands. Under such conditions, how can senior country officials and their donor partners make the best decisions to reform health systems to achieve universal health coverage and improve the allocation of resources to maximize health gains, including on scale-up of programs to fight infectious diseases and maternal and child health problems? The course rounds out and reinforces the Yale M.P.H. experience in the Global Health Concentration by providing students with a thorough understanding of health systems and health reforms—their components, dynamics, performance, and impacts—and by imparting the key tools and data sources needed to conceptualize and assess options related to health system reform and resource allocation, and to make coherent and effective policy and financing recommendations. Using these analytical frameworks and techniques, students analyze 6–8 case examples of major country reforms and of the scaling up of national disease control programs and prepare two short policy papers applying what they have learned to real-world health systems challenges.

HPM 583b, Methods in Health Services Research  Jacob Wallace
This course introduces students to both quantitative and qualitative methods for research in health services. Topics include research objectives and hypotheses formulation, study design, sampling techniques, measurement, data analysis, results presentation, and discussion. Students synthesize these skills in the final paper. Prerequisite: EPH 505.

HPM 586a, Microeconomics for Health Policy and Health Management  Abigail Friedman
This course introduces students to microeconomics, with an emphasis on topics of particular relevance to the health care sector. Attention is paid to issues of equity and distribution, uncertainty and attitudes toward risk, and alternatives to price competition. This course is designed for students with minimal previous exposure to economics.

HPM 587a, Advanced Health Economics  Susan Busch
This course applies the principles learned in HPM 586 to the health of individuals, to health care institutions and markets, as well as to health care policy. The economic aspects of health behaviors, hospital markets, cost-benefit analysis, regulation, and the market for physician services are covered. Prerequisite: microeconomics or permission of the instructor.

HPM 588a, Public Health Law  Shelley Geballe
This course focuses on the law as it impacts the health of populations, focusing on the legal powers and duties of federal, state, and local governments to equitably promote and protect the health of their communities, as well as the constitutional constraints on those powers to protect individual rights. It is a course designed specifically for students with no legal training, introducing students to the multiple ways the law acts as a structural and social determinant of health and health inequities as well as how the law can be used as a tool to promote health in individuals and health justice among populations. Tools examined include the use of direct and indirect regulation to alter the information and built environments, control communicable disease, and reduce chronic disease and injury; governments’ “power of the purse”—to tax and spend—to fund public health programs and services, and influence individual and corporate behavior; and the role of the courts in interpreting law and resolving disputes among branches and levels of government as well as among individuals, businesses, and government. Students gain some basic proficiency in finding and interpreting primary legal sources, applying the law to public health problems, and identifying ways to most effectively influence the legislative, administrative, and judicial lawmaking processes. Prerequisite: HPM 514 or permission of the instructor.

[ HPM 590, Economics, Addiction, and Policy ]
This course aims to enable students to understand and then develop solutions to the public health problems of addictions in the United States and globally. The two problems addressed this year are (1) the opioid crisis; and (2) harmful health behaviors and habits, e.g., use of tobacco, overeating, and alcohol abuse. The first part of the course builds the knowledge base about these problems. In the second part, students actively participate in debates, panels, etc., and in developing and scaling (in theory) solutions. The course focuses on establishing the causes of and then solutions to these behaviors and problems. It covers facts and findings from the literature; analytic methods used in the literature to establish causality and evidence on effectiveness of alternative solutions; rational and behavioral economic models of behaviors; methods to evaluate social impact; and how to scale through government policies, social entrepreneurship, start-ups, and collaborations with foundations or businesses. Solutions are based on analyses of the problems, evidence on the effectiveness of related or parallel solutions, and efforts to innovate and perhaps even “disrupt.” Students must analyze the problem and propose solutions, which could be—but do not have to be—pursued; that is, the proposals can be on paper only, but nonetheless there must be a plan for scaling the project or policy to have important social impacts, at least in theory. Weekly assignments and a final project are required.  1 Course cr
HPM 595a, Food and Drug Administration Law  Aaron Kesselheim
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is the premier consumer protection agency in the United States, with control over the availability and public discourse about potentially lifesaving therapeutics, foods, supplements, and related consumer products. Its authority has been built in response to public health crises and is constantly under scrutiny from all sides of the political spectrum. The course reviews the history of the FDA’s regulation over the health care products market, the noteworthy legislation that has shaped its oversight in this area, Supreme Court and other cases that have impacted its authority, and an introduction to key current controversies related to the FDA that affect health care delivery. (This course does not cover food law.) The enduring theme is how the FDA balances its vital public safety role against countervailing forces of personal autonomy and the rights or interests of consumers, patients, physicians, and corporations. Each class is organized around interactive discussion introducing students to the material, including hypothetical cases that require students to apply the day’s lessons and themes in determining legal and policy solutions. Students with high-quality papers will be given specific guidance in submitting them for publication in the peer-reviewed medical/public health/policy literature. A paper of 2,500–4,000 words is required. Enrollment limited to twenty.

HPM 597b, Capstone Course in Health Policy
This course is designed as the capstone educational experience for students concentrating in health policy. It integrates previous course work in health policy and public health and facilitates students’ transition from the academic setting into the world of professional policy analysis. Students practice different approaches to policy formulation, policy analysis, and policy implementation. As part of their course assignments, students use various strategies to frame policy debates to promote desired outcomes. There is extensive work on improving oral and written presentation skills pertinent to current, applied policy dilemmas. Prerequisite: EPH 510 or equivalent.

HPM 600a or b, Independent Study or Directed Readings  Staff
Independent study or directed readings on a specific research topic agreed upon by faculty and student. By arrangement with faculty. For PhD Students only.

[ HPM 601, The Science of Science Communication ]
The simple dissemination of valid scientific knowledge does not guarantee it will be recognized by non-experts to whom it is of consequence. The science of science communication is an emerging, multidisciplinary field that investigates the processes that enable ordinary citizens to form beliefs consistent with the best available scientific evidence, the conditions that impede the formation of such beliefs, and the strategies that can be employed to avoid or ameliorate such conditions. This course surveys, and makes a modest attempt to systematize, the growing body of work in this area. Special attention is paid to identifying the distinctive communication dynamics of the diverse contexts in which non-experts engage scientific information, including electoral politics, governmental policy making, and personal health decision-making. 1 Course cr

HPM 610b, Applied Area Readings  Staff
Required of HPM Ph.D. students, in preparation for qualifying exams. Readings arranged with specific faculty in related research area. By arrangement with faculty.

HPM 611b, Policy Modeling  Edward Kaplan
How can one evaluate the effectiveness of HIV prevention programs? How many drug treatment slots are required to provide treatment on demand? Does capital punishment deter homicide? And what do the above questions have in common? The answer to the last query is simple: these problems and more are considered in Policy Modeling. Building on earlier course work in quantitative analysis and statistics, the course provides an operational framework for exploring the costs and benefits of public policy decisions. The techniques employed include “back of the envelope” probabilistic models, Markov processes, queuing theory, and linear/integer programming. With an eye toward making better decisions, these techniques are applied to a number of important policy problems. In addition to lectures, assigned articles and texts, and short problem sets, students are responsible for completing a take-home midterm exam and a number of cases. In some instances, it will be possible to take a real problem from formulation to solution, and compare your own analysis to what actually happened. Prerequisite: a demonstrated proficiency in quantitative methods.

HPM 617a and HPM 618b, Colloquium in Health Services Research
This seminar focuses on the analysis of current issues in health policy and on state-of-the-art methodological issues in health services research. The format includes guest speakers and presentations of ongoing research projects by YSPH and other faculty and graduate students. Students participate in critical discussions of the issues that arise in both types of sessions. Prerequisite: doctoral status or permission of the instructor. 0 Course cr per term

HPM 620b, Readings in Health Services Research  Staff
In-depth readings, discussion, and analysis of topics specific to health policy research. Optional for Ph.D. students choosing this area of depth. By arrangement with faculty.

HPM 621b, Managing Social Enterprise Organizations  Kathryn Cooney
This course provides the opportunity to examine, through a set of case studies, key issues related to managing social enterprise organizations. Following initial content reviewing perspectives on the trend of social enterprise, topics covered include industry analysis for organizations with a double or triple bottom line, stakeholder analysis, organizational design (choosing the right organizational legal form), the challenge of integrating interdisciplinary human resources, using metrics for performance management, calculating an SROI (social return on investment), raising capital at different stages of the organizational life cycle, scaling a social innovation/product, and protecting social mission during exits.
HPM 630b, Advanced Readings in Health Services Research  Staff
In-depth readings, discussion, and analysis of topics specific to health services research. Optional for Ph.D. students choosing this area of depth. By arrangement with faculty.

HPM 631a, Public Health Entrepreneurship and Intrapreneurship  Teresa Chahine
This course aims to familiarize students with the principles and practice of innovation and entrepreneurship in the context of public health, as defined by the well-being of society, focusing on social and environmental determinants of health. We examine a set of public health challenges within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), using a hybrid method combining case studies and assignments. Case studies provide an opportunity to analyze cross-cutting challenges faced by innovators and entrepreneurs in the field of public health. Assignments allow students to dig deeper into specific topic areas within public health innovation and entrepreneurship. The target audience for this course includes graduate and undergraduate students in the M.B.A., M.A.M., M.P.H., and other programs at Yale SOM, the School of Public Health, and across campus. The course is a precursor, but not a prerequisite, for ENV 632/MGT 612, where students design ventures tackling social challenges through new or existing organizations. ½ Course cr

[ HPM 644, Applied Quasi-Experimental Analysis for Health Policy ]
This course builds on HPM 514 and HPM 583 to develop students' proficiency leveraging quasi-experimental research designs to answer empirical health policy questions. We focus on two quasi-experimental research designs: Difference-in-Differences and Instrumental Variables. Lectures and lab sessions address the practicalities and nuances of implementing these approaches to estimate the causal effects of health policies. Students discuss published work that uses these approaches as a class and with guest researchers, in order to better understand the key strengths and limitations of each approach in context. Each student develops an original paper using one of the covered research designs to consider a concrete health policy question, and presents their work at the end of the term. As the fundamental purpose of health policy research is to inform policy decisions, multiple lectures are devoted to research dissemination, with a particular focus on (1) translating quasi-experimental research results for lay audiences and the media, and (2) identifying and connecting with key stakeholders. Prerequisites: HPM 514 and either HPM 583 or, with permission of the instructor, a similar quantitative course. 1 Course cr

HPM 645b, The Chinese and U.S. Health Systems in Comparative Perspective  Xi Chen
This course aims for an in-depth understanding of the Chinese and American health systems, the two largest health systems in the world. While the two countries are in very different stages of development, their health systems have much in common, and the recent reform of Chinese health systems has largely followed the United States. This course summarizes principles regarding health systems and reform that may apply to both countries and explains why they are different in other main aspects. The course discusses well-crafted research that adopts appropriate research designs and techniques to evaluate health policies and reform in both countries through lectures, writing referee reports, and designing individual research projects. The course highlights the importance of causal inference in evaluating and guiding health policies and reform. Students also learn skills in transforming research findings to policy and propose viable solutions to address key health challenges in China, the United States, and globally when applicable. Prerequisite: familiarity with basic statistics/econometrics. The formal requirement is one term of statistics/econometrics (EPH 505, HPM 583, or a similar course) or permission of the instructor. First-year M.P.H. students are permitted to take this course and HPM 583 (or another methods course) concurrently, providing them opportunities to work with health care data companies in funded summer internships.

HPM 688b, Managing Health Care in Complex Systems  Leslie Curry
This course serves as a capstone for students in the Health Care Management Program and is intended to prepare students for leadership roles in diverse health care organizations domestically and internationally. Drawing on theories, concepts, and tools from prior course work, students address complex challenges in health care leadership and management to improve functioning of teams, organizations, and agencies in health systems. Students apply principles and practices of grand strategy (e.g., a comprehensive approach to achieving large ends with limited means) to address a consequential problem in health. An interdisciplinary lens is essential. Disciplinary foci include: leadership/management; organizational behavior; finance/accounting/economics; policy and regulations; operations; marketing; negotiations; epidemiology; and research methods including literature reviews. Students engage with the content through in-class exercises, facilitated discussions, readings, cases (from U.S. domestic and international settings), guest experts, working in a team, and written and oral presentations.

HPM 697a, Health Policy Leadership Seminar  Shelley Geballe
This seminar introduces students to innovative health policy leaders working in federal, state, and local government, nonprofit policy/advocacy organizations, business, and/or health policy-oriented foundations. The speakers present on a variety of current health policy issues and also reflect on their own career paths. The seminar, required of Health Policy students, meets biweekly at the end of the day with a light dinner served. Although no credit or grade is awarded, satisfactory performance will be noted on the student's transcript. ½ Course cr

HPM 698b, Health Care Policy, Finance, and Economics  Howard Forman
This course teaches students the critical skills for analyzing and working within the health care industry. The first part of the course focuses on the economic and financial drivers of the domestic health care system, including private and public financing and delivery models. In the latter part of the course, students learn about current issues of importance to this $3 trillion industry. The course is part didactic/part seminar in style, with team projects and presentations as a major component of the grade. Open to M.P.H. students in Health Care Management, SOM students, and others with permission of the instructor.
HPM 699a and HPM 700b, Colloquium in Health Care Leadership  Howard Forman
This seminar series, meeting on the medical school campus, introduces students to leading figures in health care: public sector, private sector, and third sector executives and leaders discuss their career paths and current insights into the evolution and revolution in health care delivery and services. The course provides 0 credit in the fall term and 0.5 credit in the spring term for a full year of attendance. Only students who have been attending fall sessions can enroll in the spring.  0 Course cr per term

HPM 995b, Sustainable Innovations in Health Care  Gregory Licholai
This course explores the practical issues of managing ongoing innovation in the health care industry through the lens of analyzing how executives meet the need for continuous advancements in quality, technology, and efficiency in the development, marketing, and sales of pharmaceutical products, health technology, and patient service delivery. The course combines case discussion, lectures, seminar-style interactions, and guest executive speakers. Students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions and prepare for each class by completing assigned readings and discussion questions. One group assignment requires students to work in small teams and prepare a short presentation analyzing innovation at a public company or other health care organization.  ½ Course cr