POPLHLTH 311 Shaping Health Policy

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Course description
The course is primarily based on concepts and ideas drawn from the study of public policy and public administration and management. These areas of study, in turn, are under the broad umbrella of the academic discipline of political studies, but also draw, when necessary, from the fields of sociology, economics and geography. The concepts and insights of policy studies are useful in understanding the policy issues that are of major concern to those interested in public health and health care services. As such, this course also connects public policy concepts and ideas to material drawn from health-specific areas such as epidemiology and health services research.

Key course objectives
At the conclusion of the course the student should have an understanding of:

- The broad factors that shape public policy processes and outcomes relevant to health
- the respective roles of different policy actors (government organisations, interest groups, non-government organisations) in the development and implementation of policy.
- how inter-organisational relationships operate in practice
- key issues relevant to policy implementation and evaluation

The student will also be expected to have acquired skills in:

- Independent research into a policy issue
- Developing structured, coherent arguments supported by research
- Summarising and critiquing academic literature
**Course structure**

The course has two one-hour lectures and one one-hour tutorial each week.

**Lecture schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introducing Policy and Health</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Values and policy</td>
<td>Research and policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The interplay of values and research</td>
<td>Agenda setting: Why do some problems and solutions get attention, and not others?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Part II: Making policy happen through inter-organisational relationships</td>
<td>How does policy get made?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Government organisations</td>
<td>Non-government organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Inter-organisational relationships – the key issues</td>
<td>Accountability relationships - Contracts</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Accountability relationships – Outputs, Outcomes and Processes</td>
<td>Collaborative relationships I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Collaborative relationships II</td>
<td>Guest Lecture inter-organisational relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Part II conclusion</td>
<td>Part III: Policy Learning and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>What is policy success and policy learning?</td>
<td>Performance Management and success</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Policy Implementation</td>
<td>Policy Evaluation</td>
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<td>Policy Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Course Summary and Exam preparation</td>
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Course assessment

- Assignment 1                    25%
- Assignment 2                    30%
- One tutorial test on required readings  5%
- Final examination             40%

Recommended readings/textbooks

There are no prescribed textbooks for this course. A list of required readings is given for each week. These can be accessed through the library course page:  
http://coursepages.library.auckland.ac.nz/poplhlth/311/

Other recommended readings will be advised via Canvas

Reference material

The following books are available on short loan: