

## MODULE SPECIFICATION

### KEY FACTS

Module name	The Health Policy Process, Politics and Power
Module code	HPM001
School	Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Health Services Research and Management Division
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	7

### MODULE SUMMARY

#### Module outline and aims

Advances in health technologies, rising consumer expectations, increasing longevity, prevalence of chronic illness and other pressures present significant and growing challenges for healthcare systems, and have helped push healthcare and health policy to the top of political agendas across the world. It is therefore important that healthcare decision makers at all levels are aware of the local, national and international drivers of contemporary health policy, the ways in which it is developed and implemented, and its impact on health systems and services, and wider society.

#### Content outline

This module aims to provide you with an understanding of the social, political, economic and historical factors influencing health policy in the 21st century, focusing particularly on the policy process and its main actors, and on the central roles of politics and power. It will equip you with the concepts, frameworks and tools you need to make sense of the policy process, to critically analyse health policies and to present your analyses effectively and persuasively.

### WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

**On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:**

#### Knowledge and understanding:

- Demonstrate a critical awareness of the main issues and challenges within contemporary health policy.
- Critically assess the social, political and economic factors influencing health policy formulation and implementation.
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the health policy process, its instruments and the main actors involved.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the main sources of information on health policy-

related issues.

**Skills:**

- Conduct electronic and library searches in order to identify relevant literature and evidence from a range of sources.
- Critically apply appropriate theories, concepts and evidence to the analysis of issues, debates and initiatives within contemporary health policy.
- Apply a systematic and critical understanding of health policy formulation and implementation to explain contemporary policy issues and developments.
- Present the results of your research and analysis clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Develop and enhance transferable skills in policy analysis.
- Engage critically and independently in debates related to the issues covered in the module.
- Work effectively and collaboratively within multi-professional groups.

**Values and attitudes:**

- Show an appreciation of the role of politics and power in shaping health policy and healthcare, and of the ideological and ethical dimension of debates within this area.
- Show respect and tolerance for other participants.
- Correctly reference the work of others and adhere to University regulations regarding plagiarism and academic misconduct.

**HOW WILL I LEARN?**

Teaching and learning will take place via a mix of lectures, group activities and discussions which allow you to examine the issues in more detail, providing both teacher and peer led input, promoting discussion and developing communication and group working skills.

Teaching sessions will take place over four days (typically 10am to 5pm), and are supplemented by self-directed study which allows you both to gain a deeper understanding of the subject generally, and to pursue topics which are of particular interest to you in greater detail.

Teaching and learning are facilitated by Moodle, the University's online Virtual Learning Environment.

*Teaching pattern:*

<b>Teaching component</b>	<b>Teaching type</b>	<b>Contact hours (scheduled)</b>	<b>Self-directed study hours (independent)</b>	<b>Placement hours</b>	<b>Total student learning hours</b>
Lectures, group	Lecture	18	114	0	132

work, class exercises and discussions					
Group presentation	Seminar	6	12	0	18
<b>Totals:</b>		24	126	0	150

## WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

### Assessments

You will produce a policy briefing paper of between 3,000 and 4,000 words (80%). Briefing papers are documents that quickly and effectively inform decision-makers about an issue, distilling often complex information into a brief, clear, well-structured document, including conclusions and recommendations.

There will also be an assessed group presentation (20%).

### *Assessment pattern:*

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Group presentation	Presentation	20%	50%	No
Essay	Written assignment	80%	50%	No

### Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

### Feedback on assessment

Lecturers and/or the module leader will be available to provide formative feedback and advice on the written assignment prior to submission. Following each assessment marks and feedback will be provided in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy, normally within 4 weeks of the submission deadline. Markers will be available to answer queries about the marks and feedback if these are not clear. A selection of all assessments will be internally moderated and sent to the external examiner. All initial marks will be therefore provisional, pending external examiner approval and ratification by the Assessment Board.

### Assessment Regulations

In order to pass the module and acquire the associated credit, you must complete or be exempted from the assessment components and achieve an aggregate Module Mark of 50%. The Module Mark shall be calculated from the Group presentation weighted at 20% with a minimum mark of 50%, and Written assignment (briefing paper) weighted at 80% with a minimum mark of 50%. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module, but in the first instance you should contact the module leader.

## INDICATIVE READING LIST

Baggott R (2007) *Understanding Health Policy*. Policy Press.

Buse, K., Mays, N. & Walt, G. (2012). *Making Health Policy*. Second Edition. Open University Press.

Carrin, G. et al. (eds.) (2009). *Health Systems Policy, Finance, and Organization*. Oxford: Academic Press.

Collins, T. (2005). 'Health policy analysis: a simple tool for policy makers'. *Public Health* 119: 192-6.

Crinson, I. (2009). *Health Policy: A Critical Perspective*. London: Sage.

Heywood, A. (2007). *Politics*. 3rd edition. Palgrave Macmillan.

Hill, M. (2009). *The Public Policy Process*. 5th Edition. Longman.

Hogwood, B. & Gunn, L. (1984). *Policy Analysis for the Real World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hunter, D.J. (2008). *The Health Debate*, Bristol: Policy Press.

Le Grand, J. (2003). *Motivation, Agency, and Public Policy: Of Knights and Knaves, Pawns and Queens*. Oxford University Press.

Lukes, S. (2004). *Power: A Radical View*. 2nd Edition. Palgrave Macmillan.

Mahon, A., Walshe, K. & Chambers, N. (2009). *A Reader in Health Policy and Management*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

Pierson, C. (2011). *The Modern State*. 3rd Edition. Routledge.

Sabatier, P. A. (ed.) (2007). *Theories of the Policy Process*. 2nd Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Varvasovszky, Z. & Brugha, R. (2000). 'How to do (or not to do)... A stakeholder analysis'. *Health Policy and Planning* 15(3): 338-45.

Version: 4.0

Version date: September 2017

For use from: 2017-18

**Appendix:**

<b>CODES</b>		
<b>HESA Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Price Group</b>
B	Subjects allied to medicine	
<b>JACS Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
L431	Health policy	50
L310	Applied sociology	50