



Course Description:

This course introduces the core theories of health policy to understand and assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of national or regional health systems. Students are guided through the policy process and learn about the role of policymakers and stakeholders in influencing policy outcomes. The trade-offs that are made in setting priorities in health policy (equity, efficiency, and other outcomes) are discussed. Using these theoretical considerations, students are led through a survey of health system typologies to understand the way in which political economy has influenced the adoption of health policies in select health systems. Students are given the opportunity to make policy recommendations to address a specific health issue by analyzing the causes and consequences of this issue, making arguments as to why it should be on the policy agenda, evaluating potential strategies to address this issue, developing strategies to overcome resistance from opposing stakeholders, and proposing a framework to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy on health and health equity outcomes. Students are taught strategies to advocate for their policy solution. Finally, students are given the opportunity to conduct research on a key health policy issue and debate whether a given policy should be adopted to address it.

Prerequisite: None.

Tutors/TA: Dr Andrew Park/ Dr Phyu Phyu Thin Zaw/ Ms Baikong Mamid/ Ms Rosetta Lee/ Dr Hansika Hanthanapitiya/

Term 1 (Concentrated)

Contact person: Dr Andrew Park

Date	Time	Lecture & Tutorial Topics	Venue	Additional Venues
29 Sept 2025 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 pm	1. Introduction to course arrangements, introduction to tutorial groups.	TBC	TBC
13 Oct 2025 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 pm	2. What is policy and health policy? What is health system (and types of health systems)? Tutorial: Writing Lab	TBC	TBC
14 Oct 2025 (Tue)	6:30-9:30 pm	3. How is health policy made – theory and reality	TBC	TBC
20 Oct 2025 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 pm	4. Transforming health systems – barriers and enablers for system change (tales of 2 countries – China, Australia)	TBC	TBC
22 Oct 2025 (Wed)	6:30-9:30 pm	5. Political economy – money and politics matter Tutorial: Stakeholder Lab	TBC	TBC
24 Oct 2025 (Fri)	6:30-9:30 pm	6. Analysis of and analysis for policy. Policy evaluation.	TBC	TBC
27 Oct 2025 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 pm	7. Place of evidence and advocacy in policy making Tutorial: Advocacy Lab	TBC	TBC
03 Nov 2025 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 pm	8. Assignment 2 Feedback. Details of Assignment 3 and Group Presentations.	TBC	TBC
14 Nov 2025 (Fri)	6:30-9:30 pm	9. Policy implementation and tools for implementation (planning, legislation, financing) Tutorial: Evaluation Lab	TBC	TBC
19 Nov 2025 (Wed)	6:30-9:30 pm	10. Global frameworks, developments and challenges – from PHC to UHC Comparing health systems	TBC	TBC
21 Nov 2025 (Fri)	6:30-9:30 pm	11. Governance of and for health – participation, interests, ethics Tutorial: Group 1-2 Presentations	TBC	TBC
24 Nov 2025 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 pm	12. Tutorial: Group 3-6 Presentations	TBC	TBC
01 Dec 2025 (Mon)	6:30-9:30 pm	13. Tutorial: Group 7-10 Presentations	TBC	TBC

Course Assessment:

- Assignment 1 - Memo 1: Agenda setting memo (Set: Mon., 13 Oct.; Due: Mon., 20 Oct., 23:59)
- Assignment 2 - Stakeholder analysis (Set: Wed., 22 Oct.; Due: Wed., 29 Oct., 23:59)
- Assignment 3 - Memo 2: Policy recommendation memo (Set: Mon., 3 Nov. ; Due: Mon., 10 Nov.)
- Assignment 4 - Monitoring and Evaluation (Set: Fri., 14 Nov. ; Due: Sun., 23 Nov.)
- Assignment 5 - Elevator Pitch (Set: Fri., 21 Nov. ; Due: Fri., 5 Dec.)
- Group Debates - Ongoing in November.

Contact person: Dr Andrew Park – email: atpark@hku.hk; Tel: 3917 9925.