

GT 3811 MM2, Special Topics, 1 credit hour

Long Title: Overview of Healthcare Regulation Issues Fall 2019

Mini 2 – September 23- October 25

Meeting Schedule: T Th 1:30-2:45

Instructor: Dr. Richard Barke, School of Public Policy

Course Purpose

This course is part of a pilot course offering by the Institute in accord with recommendations from the Center for the Next in Education and the Student Government Association. It is an effort to broaden the curriculum to offer 1-hour credit courses linked thematically with other courses to give students an overview of specialized issues. Students may elect to take one, two, or all three courses in this bundle to learn more about career and learning opportunities in healthcare.

As 18 percent of the American economy, health care touches an enormous range of government activities, affecting nearly every public institution at the local, state, national levels and in the courts, legislatures, and executive branches. At the same time, nearly every aspect of the health care private sector is affected by government policies. Citizens, policy makers, researchers, industry leaders, and health care professionals need to understand the role of government in shaping how health care innovations are regulated, shaped, and allocated to promote the goals of wellness, safety, and equity. This course will survey many of these issues by examining healthcare policies from the perspective of the regulation of medical devices and other emerging health technologies.

Course Topics

By exploring the purpose and context of federal regulatory policy using several relevant cases, students will obtain a broad overview of healthcare policy issues, including:

- Which areas of health are “public” and how do we define the problems that involve the public sector (e.g., distribution, privacy rights, industry concentration, promotion of innovation)?
- What can the public sector accomplish, and using what tools (e.g., laws, regulations, subsidies, education, taxes, technical standards, trade)?
- How do government institutions (agencies, research institutes, legislatures, courts) affect the health sector?

- What are the procedures by which health-related policies are made (e.g., legislative, regulatory, legal)?
- Who are the active and latent stakeholders whose interests should be taken into account (patients, parents, medical professionals, government agencies, health care corporations, the insurance sector, etc.)?
- And how do these considerations combine into a well-informed perspective on “what should be done?”