This course is about the politics of health care and public health in the European Union (EU). Its sessions will touch upon the funding and organisation of health systems and policies in Member States, and focus on how the European Union intervenes in areas such as health services, public health or pharmaceutical regulation.

By design, this course will ask some of the same questions that are found at the centre of policy studies: Why do national decision-makers adopt different policies, or make different progress towards common goals? How are these policies affected by the European Union, and what are the political forces, institutions and ideas that shape their formulation?

Insights about the history and politics of the EU and European welfare states, as well as ideas and concepts from health economics and epidemiology, will provide helpful background in answering these questions. No previous knowledge in any of these domains is required for taking the course, but curiosity in all of them will prove useful.

Coursework

This course is 50% lecture-based, 50% presentation-based. The 16 presentations listed in the next pages will be assigned to groups of two or three students, with every student having to present at least twice over the entire course.

Each presentation lists two readings, which you should read in detail and present to the class in the form of a 15-minute talk. All other readings listed in this syllabus will be either briefly mentioned or covered in detail during the lectures at the beginning of each class.

Instructions on how to deliver presentations will be provided in Session 1. Unexcused absences on presentations will result in a grade of 0/20, as will failure to register for presentations in the first two course sessions. All other School regulations regarding student ethics also apply.

Presentations are worth 80% of your final grade, the other 20% being attendance and participation from the entire class.
Contents

Part 1  Introduction

1. What is EU Health Policy?
   Lecture · Health, Public Health, and EU Health Policy

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Assignment of presentations

2. Stakeholders
   Lecture · EU Political Institutions

Part 2  Health Systems

3. Health Care States
   Lecture · EU Health Mandate and Instruments

4. Health Performance and Problems
   Lecture · EU Health Actions (1) Direct Action

Part 3  Case Studies

5. Communicable Disease
   Lecture · EU Health Actions (2) Cross-border Action

6. Nutrition
   Lecture · Nutrition in Europe

7. Tobacco
   Lecture · Tobacco Control and Lobbying

Part 4  Market Pressures

8. Markets
   Lecture · EU Health Actions (3) Indirect Regulation

9. Austerity
   Lecture · Health under Permanent, Aggravated Austerity

Part 5  Conclusion

Closing thoughts

Feedback session

Note on Covid-19 — Both presentations on Session 5 (Communicable Disease) of this course will be about the ongoing SARS-CoV-2 / Covid-19 pandemic. You will be collectively invited to reflect on your own experience of the pandemic, and on how personal experience can inform the scientific study of policy-making.
Handbooks

The handbooks for which we provide a link below are freely available online. In particular, the Greer et al. (2022) handbook will serve as the main course handbook.


Websites

You are very much encouraged to start with the following list of websites when looking for additional information to enhance your presentations.

European Commission · Public Health · DG Health and Food Safety

European Health Forum Gastein

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies

European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

OECD · Health Data, Information and Working Papers

WHO · World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe
1. What is EU Health Policy?

A selection of additional readings and academic journals on health politics and policy appears in the Appendix at the end of this syllabus.


Additional documents


European Commission DG Health and Food Safety. n.d. “Key Documents.”

2. Stakeholders


Presentation 1. Health Ministries


Presentation 2. Health Lobbies


Part 2 – Health Systems

3. Health Care States


**Presentation 3. Healthcare Systems**


**Presentation 4. Healthcare Reforms**


**4. Health Performance and Problems**


Part 3 – Case Studies

5. Communicable Disease


**Presentation 7. EU Action against Covid-19**


**Presentation 8. Covid-19 and EU Health Policy**


**6. Nutrition**


Grant, W. 2012. “Agricultural Policy, Food Policy, and Communicable Disease Policy,” *Journal of


Presentation 9. Genetically Modified Organisms


Presentation 10. Food Labels

Hoff, A., Lelieveldt, H. and van der Does, R. 2016. “A Biased Rapporteur or Politics as Usual? Reassessing the Balance of Interests in the EU Food Information Labelling Case,” Journal of European Public Policy 23(2): 296–313 [the article is a reply to Kurzer and Cooper 2013].


7. Tobacco


Additional documents


Presentation 11. International Tobacco Control


Presentation 12. EU Tobacco Advertising


Part 4 - Market Pressures

8. Markets


**Presentation 13. Cross-Border Markets**


**9. Austerity**


**Presentation 15. The Global Austerity Agenda**


Presentation 16. European Fiscal Austerity


Part 5 – Conclusion

This section of the syllabus will not be covered in a separate session, but will instead be delivered as the second half of the last lecture.

Closing thoughts


Appendix

Overviews of health politics


Selected health policy journals

*Eurohealth*
*Health Affairs*
*Health Economics, Policy and Law*
*Health Policy*
*Health Research Policy and Systems*
*Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*
*Journal of Health Services Research & Policy*
*Social Science & Medicine*

Selected European Union journals

*Comparative European Politics*
*European Law Journal*
*European Union Politics*
*Journal of Common Market Studies*
*Journal of European Integration*
*Journal of European Public Policy*
*Living Reviews in European Governance*
*Politique européenne* (in French)