

## Course Description

Fall 2016

<b>TITLE:</b>	Policy Development: Gender, Health, and Society PA 383C (60585); Soc 395J (45625); and LBJ School dual-degree programs WGS 393 (47120); SW 395K (61575)
<b>FACULTY</b>	Jacqueline L. Angel, Ph.D.
<b>MEETING TIME AND PLACE</b>	Wednesday, 9-12, SRH 3.355
<b>OFFICE HOURS</b>	Wednesday, 2-3 pm, SRH 3.239 and by appointment You may also drop by to see if I'm in or contact me in advance to meet with me.
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the gender dimensions of health, illness, and the medical care industry in the United States and other developed nations. It is motivated by the fact that health, disease, and medical care have important gender-specific dimensions that are affected by economics, politics, and culture. In the past the medical care system often ignored gender, as well as race-based differences in health care needs. These gaps in knowledge concerning risks and appropriate treatments have very specific consequences that we will investigate. The collection of readings will allow us to examine the social institutions that shape men's and women's health and health care. Specific topics will include reproductive health, single motherhood and the stress of raising children alone, welfare and health care, divorce and changes in health, certain illnesses that women experience including breast and ovarian cancer, drug and alcohol abuse, and the forces that influence research into women's health problems. In addition, we examine the role of women as major actors in changing the health care system, reducing health risks for themselves and their families, and their roles as health care providers, public administrators, and leaders in the health care establishment. We will also touch upon the role of local, state and federal agencies in health policy formulation and implementation, the politics of the medicalization of women's issues including childbirth, refugee and immigrant women's health, and more. The course will also examine the role of different levels and branches of government, including the presidency, Congress, the courts, and the bureaucracy, in the formation of public policy. Alternative political ideologies regarding state and private responsibility for women's health will be compared and contrasted. Similarly we will assess the relative power of key non-governmental actors, such as interest groups, health care NPOs, researchers, and the media in the definition and framing of our health agenda. The course deals with rapidly evolving issues and readings will be assigned as current events warrant.

### EVALUATION

Assignments include a policy issue brief (50%), point-counterpoint exchange (20%), and mid-term assessment (10%). Attendance and participation are integral parts of the course and will count towards the final grade (20%).

### REQUIRED TEXT AND SELECTED READINGS TO BE ASSIGNED

Bird, C.E. and P.P. Rieker. 2008. *Gender and Health: The Effects of Constrained Choices and Social Policies*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Stone, D. 2001. *Policy Paradox: The Art of Political Decision Making*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.