

Online POP Course Syllabus

PHA6269: Pharmaceutical Products and Public Policy 3 credit hours

Note: The final syllabus posted in the Course Canvas site is the most current and supersedes this syllabus.

Class Meeting Times

Sundays, 7:00-9:00 pm Eastern

The class meeting on Sunday, April 17 will instead be held on Monday, April 18 due to Easter.

Class Meeting Location

Class meetings are held in Zoom, which can be accessed via the course Canvas site. If you are having trouble accessing the course Canvas site, please contact Distance Education Support Services at DESS@ahc.ufl.edu.

Instructor

Melissa Andel, MPP

Adjunct Assistant Instructional Professor, UF College of Pharmacy

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Office Hours: By appointment

Office Location: Virtual/Zoom

Course Description

This course challenges students to think about the development of public policy positions and the articulation of organizational policy positions. Students will have the opportunity to develop and debate public policy positions related to the supplying of pharmaceutical products and services and to decide whether specific policies stimulate or stifle the process. Channels of distribution for pharmaceutical products are examined, contrasting the flow of goods and the flow of payments. Product pricing is deliberated along with levers that the government has to address pricing issues.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the fundamentals of the prescription drug supply chain and prescription drug pricing in the United States, as well as the structure of different types of pharmacy benefits;

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2. Articulate and defend a proposed solution to a public policy issue, including the tradeoffs of policy solutions;
3. Develop an advocacy document supporting a position on a public policy issue and submit it to a policymaker;
4. Discuss current public policy issues related to prescription drug products and their use, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Explore recent government actions at the federal and state level to address prescription drug pricing;
 - b. Identify and discuss the history of and policy consequences associated with the 340B prescription drug discount program and the federal government's response to the prescription opioid crisis;
 - c. Discuss efforts by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Congress to address the safety of the pharmaceutical supply chain and the review and approval of biosimilar biologic medicines;
 - d. Describe the differences between fraud, waste, and abuse in the Medicare program, and steps that the government has taken to address each issue; and
 - e. Examine factors that impact the development and use of antibiotic treatments in human and animal populations, including approaches to managing antibiotic resistance.

Relationship to Program Outcomes

This course pertains to the following program outcomes:

1. Identify, interpret, and utilize core knowledge across the spectrum of Pharmaceutical Sciences.
2. Analyze and apply material from foundation courses in the curriculum, interpret data, and synthesize a response to a complex problem or case.
3. Deliver a presentation of a discipline-specific topic related to Pharmaceutical Sciences for internal academic review. These presentations will be clear in providing information at an appropriate level to the audience, complete in providing the necessary and relevant background from the literature and will utilize appropriate audiovisual aids that are clearly constructed.

Required Textbooks and/or Software

There is no required textbook or software for this course.

Students are expected to stay informed on health policy generally throughout the semester, and many news organizations cover health policy issues. The University of Florida provides a complimentary subscription to STAT News, one of my favorite health policy news sites. Students are expected to take advantage of this access throughout the course. To subscribe, go to www.statnews.com/subscribe (Links to an external site.). Use code ACADEMIC75 to receive a 75% student discount on the yearly subscription rate at the payment page.

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Recommended Materials

The following sites are provided as examples and suggestions (several also offer regular newsletters). If sites have a paywall, I have made a note for convenience; subscriptions are not required for this course. I have also not listed well-known national news sources such as the New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, National Public Radio, Vox, etc., all of which also cover health policy issues:

- Health Affairs Blog: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/blog>
- Kaiser Health News: <https://khn.org/>
- Politico PULSE Newsletter (publishes M-F at 10:00 am ET): <https://www.politico.com/politicopulse/>

Other health policy resources include:

- Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) Payment Basics: <http://medpac.gov/-documents-/payment-basics>. MedPAC, a non-partisan Congressional advisory commission, maintains brief, accessible overviews of all the different payment systems used by Medicare. If you are interested in how Medicare pays for any service (from ambulance services to skilled nursing facilities), this is a great place to start.
- Medicaid Payment Advisory Commission (MACPAC) Medicaid 101: <https://www.macpac.gov/medicaid-101/>. MedPAC's companion, MACPAC, does not maintain a payment basics series, but if you have questions about Medicaid, they are an excellent resource.
- ACASignups.net: <http://acasignups.net/>. Charles fastidiously tracks and analyzes data on ACA trends and enrollment. While he is a supporter of the ACA, his analysis is fair and balanced.
- Healthcare Triage video series: <https://www.youtube.com/user/thehealthcatriage>. Dr. Aaron Carroll is a health services researcher at Indiana University and also contributes to the New York Times (<https://www.nytimes.com/by/aaron-e-carroll>). These videos cover explanations of various topics in health care and health care policy.

Course Pre-Requisites

None

Course Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
3/13	Drug Pricing 101 at Home and Abroad
3/20	Policy Proposals and Tradeoffs: Rebate Pass-Through & Government Price Controls

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<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
3/27	Unintended Policy Consequences: 340B and Public Policy Failures with the Opioid Crisis
4/3	U.S. Food and Drug Administration: Supply Chain Safety and Drug Shortages
4/10	Fraud, Waste, and Abuse in Federal Health Care Programs
4/18 (Monday)	Antibiotics
4/24	Advocacy Presentations

Evaluation Methods

Student evaluation is by grades received on weekly quizzes, discussion board posts and class participation, as well as grades on the advocacy communication project and advocacy presentation project. Grading rubrics are available on the course Canvas page.

ASSIGNMENT	WEIGHT
WEEKLY QUIZ	15%
WEEKLY DISCUSSION BOARD POSTS	15%
WEEKLY CLASS PARTICIPATION	10%
ADVOCACY PRESENTATION PROJECT	35%
ADVOCACY COMMUNICATION	25%
TOTAL	100%

Discussion Board Posts: Each week, students are expected to participate on the class discussion board on Canvas. I will post a weekly discussion prompt each week by Monday morning, but students are free to further the discussion by responding to other students' comments, or by posting an alternative insight (i.e. do not feel limited by the prompt provided). The purpose of this assignment is to provide a way for you to demonstrate to me that you have read and understood the reading assignments for the week.

Discussion board prompts will be posted by the Monday morning after class. Discussion board posts are due by 12:00 pm the Saturday before class (including Week 4, which will be held on a Monday due to the Easter holiday).

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Weekly Quizzes: Students are also expected to take a short (10 question) quiz most weeks, based on the week's reading and the previous week's lecture. There will be a total of five quizzes during the course (no quiz Week 1 or Week 7). Questions will primarily be multiple choice or true/false format, though some questions may require a brief written response (e.g., a statement or phrase). The purpose of this assignment is to assess your comprehension of the reading, as well as your focus during class. Students will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz once started and may only attempt each quiz once.

Quizzes will be available on Canvas by 8:00 am ET the Monday following a class (Tuesday for Week 4) and must be completed by 12:00 pm ET the Saturday before class (including Week 4). Canvas will automatically close the quiz at this time; students will be unable to complete the quiz after the deadline.

Class Participation: Students are expected to attend the full class period each week. Students are also expected to contribute to class discussions. Students who do not attend class and who do not participate will receive zero points for that week's class participation grade. Each week's slide deck and a recording of each lecture will be posted to Canvas after class.

If you will be late, or will miss class for any reason, please reach out to me before class begins.

Advocacy Communication Project: Students will identify a public policy issue of interest and draft a communication to a policymaker (Congress/state legislature or federal/state agency/Board of Pharmacy) explaining their opinion. The issue selected does not have to be an issue discussed in class. Students will be evaluated based on the appropriateness of the issue, the effectiveness of the communication, and demonstrated understanding of the topic; a grading rubric is available on the class website. Students must submit, via Canvas, a copy of the communication, plus confirmation of submission. This project may be completed at any point during the course but must be turned in no later than 11:59 pm April 24.

Advocacy Presentation: Each student will prepare an advocacy presentation promoting a solution to one of the topics that we discuss in class, to be delivered during class time on April 25 (Week 7). Students will identify a potential solution to a policy problem, or to argue that a program or issue does not need to be changed or solved, and back-up their support for the issue. Advocacy presentations will be approximately 10 minutes and will include a discussion opportunity with classmates.

Students will be evaluated based on their demonstrated grasp of the topic, the quality of their defense, the management of discussion, and their contribution to other student discussions. A grading rubric is posted on the class Canvas website.

Attendance Policy for this Course

Classes are taught and deadlines are based on Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Students residing in other time zones are expected to participate in class and turn in their work based on EDT, not their "home" time zone. I expect every student to work independently to access and maintain pace with the lectures, readings, discussions, and complete the weekly quiz. If an issue arises, please contact me as quickly as possible

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concerning your situation.

Attendance Policy for UF Graduate Students

Students may not attend classes unless they are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. After the end of drop/add, the Office of the University Registrar provides official class rolls/addenda to instructors. Students who do not attend at least one of the first 2 class meetings of a course or laboratory in which they are registered and who have not contacted the academic unit to indicate their intent may be dropped from the course. Students must not assume that they will automatically be dropped if they fail to attend the first few days of class. The academic unit will notify students dropped from courses or laboratories by posting a notice in the academic unit office. Students may request reinstatement on a space-available basis if documented evidence is presented. The University recognizes the right of the individual professor to make attendance mandatory. After due warning, professors may prohibit further attendance and then assign a failing grade for excessive absences. Students who have registration changes, at any time during the semester, should verify their registrations before the last day of class of the term. Retroactive drop/add or other registration changes will not be permitted. See the [UF graduate academic regulations](#) for more information.

Make-up Policy and Deadlines

Quizzes open at 8:00 am ET on Monday mornings and close at 12:00 pm ET on Saturday afternoon. Because students have ample time to complete the quizzes, make-up quizzes will only be allowed under extenuating circumstances.

A deduction of two points occurs for late projects and quizzes.

While I understand that our students have other work and personal commitments, I expect every effort to meet these deadlines. If for some reason, because of circumstances beyond your control, you are unable to meet an assignment deadline, students should e-mail me and explain the situation in advance. A consistent lateness in submitting assignments disrupts the discussion of topics on the bulletin board and results in zero points for that portion of the final grade.

If you email me, I will work with you around the deadline. If you have outstanding assignments at the end of the semester, I will send you a follow-up email as a reminder and as a means to determine your plans for completion. If you do not respond to us before the final day of class, you will be assigned a grade based on the completed assignments.

Grading Policy

The only passing grades for graduate students are A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, and S. Grades of B-, C+ or C count toward a graduate degree if an equal number of credits in courses numbered 5000 or higher have been

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earned with grades of B+, A- and A, respectively. Grade points are not given for S and U grades; S and U grades are not used to calculate grade point averages. All letter-graded courses eligible to count toward the graduate degree, except 1000- and 2000-level courses, are used to calculate the cumulative grade-point average. Letter grades of C-, D+, D, D- or E are not considered passing at the graduate level, although the grade points associated with these letter grades are included in grade point average calculations. See the [UF graduate academic regulations](#) for more information.

A	>92.500%
A-	89.500–92.499%
B+	86.500–89.499%
B	82.500–86.499%
B-	79.500–82.499%
C+	76.500–79.499%
C	72.500–76.499%
C-	69.500–72.499%
D+	66.500–69.499%
D	62.500–66.499%
D-	59.500–62.499%
E	<59.499%

Course Technology Support

Your instructor is not able to handle technological issues or answer questions related to computer issues.

- **Assistance accessing course Canvas page:** Contact Distance Education Support Services at DESS@ahc.ufl.edu
- **IT Support:** Contact UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-HELP (4357) or helpdesk@ufl.edu or submit an [online request form](#). If a technical problem causes you to miss an assignment, you must report the problem to the Help Desk and then email your instructor your Help Desk ticket number to the instructor in order to receive an extension.

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Students Requiring Academic Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course technologies meet online learning accessibility standards for sight and hearing-impaired learners. Likewise, course materials are developed in accordance with accessibility standards. Course documents and webpages are formatted for screen-reader accessibility with the use of headings, styles, or alternative text tagging for images. Accessibility design tools in Microsoft Office products and in Canvas are used to evaluate and update accessibility issues detected in the instructional materials. Synchronous class sessions in Zoom are recorded. These recordings are posted to the course site to accommodate students unable to attend.

- [Canvas Accessibility](#)
- [Zoom Accessibility](#)

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/.

University Honesty Policy and Academic Integrity

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” [The Honor Code](#) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Regarding academic integrity, students in the program are strongly encouraged to be mindful of what constitutes plagiarism. Written assignments that contain the research or other original published work of someone else must be properly quoted, cited, paraphrased, or referenced appropriately. A software (TurnItIn) that is integrated with Canvas Assignments may be utilized to help students determine if a written submission meets the criteria for a properly referenced research paper. Please ask for help, utilize resource materials and

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take advantage of opportunities like creating a draft of your paper to test, ensuring you have addressed any errors prior to the final submission.

Please watch these short videos about this topic:

- [Understanding and Avoiding Plagiarism: Types of Plagiarism](#)
- [Avoiding Plagiarism](#)

Software Use and Course Technology

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Educational technology in the program is primarily the Canvas Learning Management System (LMS) and Zoom web conferencing software. These tools firmly support learning objectives and course goals. Writing with communication tools, reading articles from digital collections, and viewing video presentations in high-quality, accessible formats are essential to facilitate meaningful learning experiences. These experiences expand knowledge and influence professional work habits and skills such as information-gathering techniques and evidence-based practice. Synchronous class sessions in Zoom provide learners with opportunities to gain confidence and practice how they interact and collaborate in online meetings.

- [Canvas Student Guide](#)
- [Zoom Resources](#)

A minimum number of other technical skills are required for success in the online courses. These include accessing course webpages to read text and listen to recorded videos, using word processing tools (MS Word, PowerPoint), downloading/uploading content, submitting online assignments and using a variety of communication tools (Canvas Inbox, Discussions, Zoom Conferences).

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Course Communication

Canvas (Inbox tool) will be used as the primary communication tool between the instructor and students. Check daily for new announcements or notifications about course updates. UF email will also be used occasionally for mass communication to the class, so please check your email at least once a day as well. All emails sent out to the entire class will also be posted as an Announcement on Canvas.

General questions about course content (e.g., assignments or lectures) or policies should be posted to the course discussion board. We expect students to help each other track down answers as best as possible. Read through all the other posts in the discussion board first before posting to make sure your question has not been addressed/answered already. Please include a clear subject title for your topics to make it clear what your post pertains to.

Emotions can easily be misinterpreted on a discussion board/emails, so make sure your message is clear before sending it since there are no physical gestures or voice inflections that accompany posts/emails. Any posts/emails deemed inappropriate by the faculty will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis with either the faculty directly or they will be sent on to the Associate Dean for Professional Affairs.

For personal issues/questions, please email your instructor). Be sure to include in your subject line the course listing and then a quick subject (e.g., PHAXXXX – Your Name –). This will allow instructors to quickly identify emails related to the course amongst the many emails that are received each day. Emails not correctly addressed may get lost in the shuffle and unintentionally deleted or ignored so be sure to follow the guidelines exactly.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy in terms of grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see the [Notification to Students of FERPA Rights](#).

Recordings of weekly class sessions in Zoom are created for the purpose of course teaching and learning, as well as for use as a resource for students who miss a class session.

The use of video (or web camera) feature in Zoom is not a requirement, but rather is voluntary for meeting participants. For both the audio and video features in Zoom, you will have the option to Start or Stop these functions.

Students who participate with their camera engaged or who utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively

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using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

- [Zoom Software Privacy Statement](#)
- [Canvas \(by Instructure\) Privacy Policies](#)

Security

Online activity in Canvas requires an active UF GatorLink account to log in, as well as enrollment in courses. The Zoom Conference meetings for weekly classes are accessed within Canvas. These meetings have a pass code applied as an additional security setting. Students in the class do not need to enter the passcode, however anyone not enrolled in the course cannot join the meeting without it.

Library Resources

For remote access to UF library resources such as e-journals or other digital collections, use the [UF VPN or proxy server to connect](#).

Additional University Resources

- **U Matter, We Care:** If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.
- [Counseling and Wellness Center](#)
- **Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS):** Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.
- **University Police Department** at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu
- [E-learning technical support](#): 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
- [Teaching Center](#): Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- [Writing Studio](#): 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- [On-Line Students Complaints](#)