

INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES TO POLICY AND ADVOCACY

This course introduces students to the judicious use of studies done in various disciplines for policymaking and advocacy. Through the concept of “paradigm” students learn to identify the conceptual structure and methodologies underlying different disciplines and to understand the uses to which work within each paradigm can properly be put. The course examines the differences between science, law, policymaking, and advocacy, including the role of normative judgments in each. The justification of normative judgments, including concepts of social justice, will be considered. The use of studies from different disciplines for policymaking and advocacy with respect to tobacco control and obesity prevention will provide illustrative examples.

SYLLABUS (TENTATIVE) and MATERIALS (TENTATIVE)

I. Purpose of the course, concept of “paradigm”; introductions

1. *Definition of Paradigm (Wikipedia)*

II. Epidemiology of lung cancer (smoking and SHS studies)

1. *1989 Surgeon General Report – Chapter 2, pages 37-54*
2. *Assieh A. Melekian and Deitrich Hoffmann, “Smokeless tobacco: a gateway to smoking or a way away from smoking”*

III. Epidemiology of obesity (epidemic, diabetes implications, SSB consumption)

1. *CDC – October 22, 2010 Press Release*
2. *Kate S. Collison, et al. “Sugar-sweetened carbonated beverage consumption correlates with BMI, waist circumference, and poor dietary choices in school children”*
3. *Steven Gortmaker, et al. “The Negative Impact of Sugar-Sweetened Beverages on Children’s Health*

IV. Epidemiology paradigm; nature of science

1. *Definition of Epidemiology (Wikipedia)*

V. Impact of price increases on consumption (cigarettes, junk foods)

1. *Anne Marie Thow, et al. “The effect of fiscal policy on diet, obesity and chronic disease: a systematic review”*
2. *Study – Price increase & cigarettes - TBD*

VI. Impact of smoking bans

1. *Melanie S. Dove, et al. “The Impact of Massachusetts’ Smoke-Free Workplace Laws on Acute Myocardial Infarction Deaths”*
2. *Melanie A. Wakefield, et al. “Impact of Tobacco Control Policies and Mass Media Campaigns on Monthly Adult Smoking Prevalence” – (maybe?)*
3. *Matthew C. Farrelly, et al. “The Impact of Tobacco Control Programs on Adult Smoking”*

4. *Article on smoking bans and restaurant sales/bar prices - TBD*

VII. Paradigms underlying (V) and (VI): is this still science?

No Assigned Readings

VIII. Impact of social and political conditions on tobacco control and obesity prevention policies (qualitative)

1. *Paul Cairney, "The Role of Ideas in Policy Transfer"*
2. *Michael Givel and Stanton Glantz, "Tobacco lobby political influence on US State Legislatures in the 1990s" [Tobacco Control Magazine, June 2001, Volume 10, No. 2, p. 124-32]*

IX. Impact of argument framing on tobacco and obesity control policies (qualitative; mixed)

1. *Elena O. Lingas, "Obesity Crisis or Soda Scapegoat? The Debate Over Selling Soda in Schools"*
2. *Lars Thorup Larsen, "Framing knowledge and innocent victims. Europe bans smoking in public places"*
3. *Donley T. Studler, "U.S. Tobacco Control: Public Health, Political Economy or Morality Policy?"*

X. Paradigms underlying (VIII) and (IX): is this still science?

1. *Lars Thorup Larsen, "The political impact of science: is tobacco control science- or policy-driven?"*

XI. Policy analyses for tobacco control and obesity prevention: how should they be evaluated?

1. *The Public Health Advocacy Institute, "A Time for Action: Policy Recommendations from PHAI's Fifth Conference on Public Health, Law and Obesity"*
2. *Jamie F. Chriqui, et al. "What Gets Measured, Gets Changed : Evaluating Law and Policy for Maximum Impact"*
3. *Gareth Rouch, et al. "Public, private and personal: Qualitative research on policymakers' opinions on smokefree interventions to protect children in 'private' spaces"*

XII. Ethical analysis of tobacco control and obesity prevention policies: the dimensions

1. *Taiwo A. Oriola, "Ethical and Legal Analyses of Policy Prohibiting Tobacco Smoking in Enclosed Public Spaces"*
2. *David Resnik, "Trans Fat Bans and Human Freedom"*
3. *Pebbles Fagan, et al. "Identifying health disparities across the tobacco continuum" (excerpt only – p. 5-6, 19-23)*

XIII. Ethical analyses: the criteria

1. *Deontological Ethics – Definition and History*

2. *Consequentialism – Definition and History*

XIV. Legal analyses of tobacco control and obesity prevention policies: state power

1. *Jacobson v. Massachusetts* [in *Public Health Law & Ethics*, p. 203-217]
2. William Novak, "Governance, Police & American Liberal Mythology" [in *Public Health Law & Ethics*, p. 185-192]
3. *Bennington v. Vermont* [in *Public Health Law & Ethics*, p. 137-9]

XV. Legal analyses: First Amendment issues

1. *Lorillard v. Reilly* (excerpt only)
2. Lawrence Gostin, "Corporate Speech and the Constitution: The Deregulation of Advertising"
3. Jennifer Pomeranz, "Television Food Marketing to Children Revisited"

XVI. Ethical analysis, legal analysis, science: (un)relationships?

XVII. Advocacy efforts pro and con: identifying and controlling the abuse of science

1. M. Assunta, "Care and Feeding': the Asian environmental tobacco smoke consultants programme" [Tobacco Control Magazine, p. ii4, Dec. 2004, Vol. 13, Supp. II]
2. Lissy Friedman, et al. "How Tobacco-Friendly Science Escapes Scrutiny in the Courtroom"

XVIII. Advocacy efforts in tobacco control and obesity prevention: putting science – and policy, and ethical and legal analyses – to work

1. Richard A. Daynard, "Tobacco Liability Litigation as a Cancer Control Strategy"
2. Richard A. Daynard, "Legal Approaches to the obesity epidemic"
3. Lynn Mather, "Theorizing about Trial Courts: Lawyers, Policymaking and Tobacco Litigation"

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Active class participation
2. Pick a public health or other social issue (besides tobacco or obesity). Write a paper not exceeding 20 double-spaced pages analyzing how you would determine the appropriate policies to pursue and the appropriate advocacy strategies to use. In the course of this paper discuss three articles or book chapters, from different paradigms, that have assisted you in this analysis; with respect to each of these three sources, discuss its underlying paradigm and how that limits and/or strengthens its contribution to your overall analysis. Attach copies of these sources to your paper.