

HHS 6958 - Health Services Issues

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 42759,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Nicolette Powe

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Nicolette Powe

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Instructor Office Location: Cushwa Hall 1106

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Course Description

6958. Health Services Issues. An examination of current philosophical, legal, and ethical issues in healthcare with the inclusion of the role of health professionals in national health policy, and healthcare reform. Prereq.: HHS 6949 or permission of instructor. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Optional	No required book	N/A	N/A

None - All course content is provided in Blackboard.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24		Self-Intro & course review 1	8/30/26
8/31	Module 1 - Foundations of Health Service Issues, Ethics, and Governance	• Health services in 2026; system fragmentation and reform • Philosophical and ethical foundations • Health law, governance, and professional accountability	9/20/26
9/21	Module 2 - Health Reform, Financing, Insurance, and Pharmaceutical Policy	• ACA legacy, Medicaid reform, and coverage volatility • Financing, insurance, and cost containment • Drug pricing, PBMs, and high-cost therapies	10/4/26
10/5	Module 3 - Managed Care, AI, Prior Authorization, Data Privacy, and Cybersecurity	• Managed care, prior authorization, and administrative burden • AI ethics, algorithmic fairness, and digital health • HIPAA, cybersecurity, privacy, and trust	10/26/26
10/26	Module 4 - Telehealth, State-Level Legal Variation, Reproductive Care, Gender-Affirming Care, and Health Equity	• Telehealth, licensure, and access • Reproductive care and gender-affirming care law • Health equity and structural determinants	11/15/26
11/16	Module 5 - Rural Health, Workforce Well-Being, Prevention, Public Health, and Personal Responsibility	• Rural health, consolidation, and workforce • MAHA, prevention, public health, and liberty	11/29/26

11/30	Module 6 - Policy Lab, Evidence-Based Recommendations, and Professional Communication	• Comprehensive policy lab and presentations • Final paper requirements	12/6/26
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The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.