

**Frontier Issues in Law and Medicine**  
**UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW**  
**2026 SPRING SYLLABUS – LAW 6936 – 2CREDITS**

Professor Andy Yuan  
**Office:**318  
**Email:** yuan@law.ufl.edu  
**Office Hours:** 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Thursday

**MEETING TIME:** 10:00 AM-12:00PM, Thursday

**LOCATION:** HH-355A

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

Healthcare spending accounts for more than one-sixth of U.S. GDP (and growing), and an even larger fraction of government spending. Healthcare policy involves many politically divisive issues that involve the interaction among legal policy, our complex, fragmented system of healthcare delivery, our complex, fragmented system for providing health insurance, the economics of healthcare delivery, and the political preferences and power of physicians, hospitals, and pharmaceutical companies.

This seminar aims to enhance students' understanding of the U.S. healthcare system from an empirical perspective. Important questions include: How prevalent are surprising medical bills? Why doesn't the US have a national healthcare system? How important is health insurance in improving people's health? Does health insurance have impacts on peoples' involvement of criminal activities? Does medical malpractice liability change physicians' practice of medicine and patients' health? How can we reduce healthcare fraud through law and policy?

Many of these questions are empirical – theory does not provide a simple answer. We will therefore spend significant time discussing the empirical evidence and research methods used to examine these and other important questions in health law and policy.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- (1) Understand the ongoing healthcare policy discussions in the United States.
- (2) Be able to read and interpret empirical evidence. Ultimately, the goal is to train students to become savvy consumers of empirics.
- (3) understand how empirical evidence can inform critical policy debate and discussions, and the internal and external validity of empirical analysis.

**REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:**

No casebook is required. All the reading will be posted on Canvas.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING EVALUATION:**

Final grades for the course will be determined based on attendance (15%), class participation (15%), and reaction papers/a research paper (70%). The research paper option can satisfy the advanced writing requirement.

***Reaction Paper:*** Each student is required to write 5 reaction papers based on the readings, beginning from week 2. Papers must be submitted before the class for which the reading is assigned. For example, if you choose to write a reaction paper for week 2's reading, it should be submitted before the week 2 class. The

suggested length for the reaction paper is 2 pages, formatted with 1.5 line spacing and a 12-point font. However, papers should not exceed 4 pages in length. Please submit your reaction paper under the "assignment" section on Canvas.

A well-written reaction paper should include the following elements: (1) identify the research question and explain why it is worth studying; (2) identify key hypotheses and explain how researchers tested those hypotheses using data; (3) summarize the key findings; and (4) discuss your thoughts about the study, including policy implications, critiques, suggestions for improvement, and other relevant insights.

**Research Paper:** The research paper needs to be at least 25 pages of double-spaced, 12-point text.

**CLASS ATTENDANCE AND MAKEUP POLICY:**

Attendance in class is required by both the ABA and the Law School. I will take attendance at the beginning of the class on random dates. Students are allowed 3 absences during the course of the semester. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are not recorded as absent if they come in late. A student who fails to meet the attendance requirement will be dropped from the course. The law school's policy on attendance can be found [here](#).

**UF LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW STANDARD SYLLABUS POLICIES:**

Other information about UF Levin College of Law policies can be found at [this link](#).

**UF ACADEMIC POLICIES AND RESOURCES:**

Other information about UF academic policies and resources can be found at [this link](#).

**ABA OUT-OF-CLASS HOURS REQUIREMENTS:** ABA Standard 310 requires that students devote 120 minutes to out-of-class preparation for every "classroom hour" of in-class instruction. [Each weekly class is approximately 2 hours in length, requiring at least **4 hours of preparation** or Each weekly class is approximately 3 hours in length, requiring at least **6 hours of preparation** or Each weekly class is approximately 4 hours in length, requiring at least **8 hours of preparation**] outside of class including [reading the assigned materials, writing critical analyses, and developing your final paper].

**COURSE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

***Schedule:***

Week 1-3: Overview of the US healthcare system, health insurance and health

Week 4-5: Health insurance and crime

Week 6: Surprising medical bills

Week 7: Market competition and healthcare quality

Week 8-9: Medical malpractice

Week 10-11: Healthcare fraud

Week 12-13: Medical bankruptcy

Seminar topics	
<b>Week 1-3: Overview of the US healthcare system, health insurance and health</b>	Keehan et al (2016). National Health Expenditure Projections, 2015–25: economy, prices, and aging expected to shape spending and enrollment. Health Affairs, 35(8), 1522-1531.

	<p>Hartman et al (2022). National Health Care Spending In 2020: Growth Driven By Federal Spending In Response To The COVID-19 Pandemic: National Health Expenditures study examines US health care spending in 2020. Health Affairs, 41(1), 13-25.</p> <p>Alsan &amp; Neberai, Why doesn't the United States have national health insurance? The political role of the American Medical Association, NBER Working Paper 32484 (2024)</p> <p>Card, Dobkin, &amp; Maestas (2009). Does Medicare save lives?. The quarterly journal of economics, 124(2), 597-636.</p>
<b>Week 4-5: Health insurance and crime</b>	<p>Arenberg, Neller, &amp; Stripling (2024). The impact of youth medicaid eligibility on adult incarceration. American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 16(1), 121-156</p> <p>Alsan &amp; Yang, The hidden health care crisis behind the bars: A randomized trial to accredit U.S. jails. NBER Working Paper 33357 (2024)</p>
<b>Week 6: Surprising medical bills</b>	<p>Cooper, Morton &amp; Shekita (2020). Surprise! Out-of-network billing for emergency care in the United States, Journal of Political Economy 128 (9), 3626-3667</p>
<b>Week 7: Market competition and healthcare quality</b>	<p>Eliason, Heebsh, McDevitt, &amp; Roberts (2020). How acquisitions affect firm behavior and performance: Evidence from the dialysis industry. The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 135(1), 221-267.</p>
<b>Week 8-9: Medical Malpractice</b>	<p>Frakes (2015). The impact of medical liability standards on regional variations in physician behavior: Evidence from the adoption of national-standard rule, American Economics Review 103(1), 257-276</p> <p>Frakes &amp; Gruber (2019). Defensive medicine: evidence from military immunity. American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 11(3), 197-231.</p>
<b>Week 10-11: Healthcare Fraud</b>	<p>Eliason, League, Leder-Luis, McDevitt &amp; Roberts (2025). Ambulance taxis: the impact of regulation and litigation on health-care fraud, Journal of Political Economy 133 (5)</p> <p>Gruber, Howard, Leder-Luis &amp; Caputi (2025). Dying or lying? For-profit hospice and end-of-life care, American Economic Review 115 (1), 263-294</p>
<b>Week 12-13: Medical bankruptcy</b>	<p>Dobkin, Finkelstein, Kluender &amp; Notowidigdo (2018). The economic consequences of hospital admissions, American Economic Review 108 (2), 308-352</p> <p>Kluender, Mahoney, Wong &amp; Yin (2025). The effects of medical debt relief: evidence from two randomized experiments, Quarterly Journal of Economics 140 (2), 1187-1241</p>