

1. Readings:

Required:

A. Karger, Howard & Stoesz, David. 2004. "The American Health Care System." *American Social Welfare Policy: A Plural Approach*. New York: Longman Publishing Group. 5th Edition. Available <http://www.fcs.utah.edu/~fan/fcs5400-6400/studentpresentation/A.Karger.pdf>

B. The Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit. September 2005. <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/7044-02.pdf>

C. Walid F. Gellad, Haiden A. Huskamp, Kathryn A. Phillips, and Jennifer S. Haas. How the New Medicare Drug Benefit Could Affect Vulnerable Populations. Jan/Feb. 2006. Available <http://www.fcs.utah.edu/~fan/fcs5400-6400/studentpresentation/C.%20Gellad.pdf>

Optional:

D. Theodore R. Marmor. How Not to Think about Medicare Reform. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, Vol. 26, No. 1, February 2001. Available at <http://www.fcs.utah.edu/~fan/fcs5400-6400/studentpresentation/D.marmor.pdf>

E. Consumer Project on Technology and The price Americans are paying for Drugs. Available at <http://www.fcs.utah.edu/~fan/fcs5400-6400/studentpresentation/E.Consumer%20Project%20on%20Technology.pdf>

2. The history of the policy and a description of the policy and/ or any alternative proposals

<http://www.fcs.utah.edu/~fan/fcs5400-6400/studentpresentation/Medicare.pdf>

3. the intended purpose of the policy

President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 30, 1965, to sign the Medicare to provide health and economic security to senior's .Expanded in 1972 to cover younger beneficiaries with permanent disabilities. The aim of MMA is to extend coverage for prescription drugs to the Medicare population and to ease the financial burden of prescription drug spending for beneficiaries, esp. those with low incomes or extraordinarily high out-of-pocket drug expenses.

4. identification of economic concepts related to this policy

Adverse Selection, Moral hazard, equality and efficiency.

5. reasons (including theoretical reasoning if applicable) as to why this policy would achieve its purpose

Theoretically the policy would help and benefits the low income people who need affordable medication (part d).

6. possible side effects of the policy and interest-group conflicts

- A. Doughnut Hole / Closed Market Prices /Health Savings Accounts
- B. Think about the change of budget on Medicare might influence the money spent on other areas, such as education.

7. possible ways to evaluate the policy

- A. Should there be reform on Medicare? Should there be a universal Health Care System in the US?
- B. How would MMA influence vulnerable people?
- C. Try to think about generational equity issue-Should we spend so much on the elderly? Or think about investing on children.

8. a summary assessment as to whether the policy serves its purpose

The best possible way to serve the country would be a universal health system which would serve everybody equally, although very controversial in US every other major industrialized country have it and it is not impossible. The new amendments to the Health Care System have also their own problems and failures.