# HSVC 213: Health and Human Services Policy

# Fall 1 2019

# Professor Spector

Community Board/Public Hearing Assignment

In order to understand the “real world” value, implementation, and complexity of health and human services policy it is important to experience policy in vivo, or live, as it happens. To that end, I am asking each of you to attend a Community Board meeting or public hearing in any part of New York City and to complete a brief written reflection assignment. You may attend a meeting in your community, the community where your field placement is located, or some-place else. The choice is yours. You will inform me at the beginning of Class # 3 which meeting you will attend, the date, and the location of the meeting. Please keep in mind that the last day I will accept your reflection assignment will be on Class # 12 so give yourself plenty of time.

You may find a community board meeting here: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/cau/community-boards/community-boards.page> Or you can find a public hearing here: <https://a856-cityrecord.nyc.gov/Section>

In your reflection paper (5 pages) please answer the following questions:

1. Describe the meeting you attended (date, time, location, setting). Be specific.
2. How did you find the environment? (for example: formal, informal, crowded, comfortable, welcoming, cold, etc.) Specify using estimates and give examples.
3. What was the agenda? Who was responsible for setting the agenda?
4. What policies were being discussed? How were they related to health and human services?
5. How was the meeting facilitated? Was this done effectively? Please explain.
6. What were the dynamics in the meeting? Were some speakers more dominant? Did everyone speak? Who spoke and when? What was their tone?
7. Did you speak? Why or why not?
8. What barriers might an ordinary resident or your client, experience in attending a meeting like this one (consider: location, time of meeting, transportation) and in contributing to the meeting (speaking publicly)?
9. What were your impressions of the meeting overall? (What would you keep and what would you change about the meeting?)
10. Would you attend this meeting again? How come?