

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY
Graduate School of Public Health
College of Health and Human Services

PH 305: MEDICAL CARE ORGANIZATION AND DELIVERY

Spring 2007

Day: Tuesday & Thursday Instructor: Maria Lourdes F. Reyes, MD, MPH
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Organizational, economic, financial, political and cultural factors affecting finance and delivery of health and medical services in the U.S.

Introduction

PH 305 presents an introduction to the health services system in the United States. In sweeping general terms, the course is designed to:

- (1) provide an overview and analysis of the nation's health services system, assuming no previous coursework in health services on the part of the student;
- (2) present the organization of the system and its constituent parts in some detail;
- (3) present a population-based approach rather than focusing on individuals per se; and,
- (4) raise questions about the role of services and what we get for our expenditures.

Health services has ideological, philosophical, and political contents which are of extreme importance. Throughout the course, keep the following in mind:

- (1) Your own biases and beliefs: What are your values and how do they affect how you view health services? For example, do you believe that health care is a public service that everyone should have access to?
- (2) Politics affects everything. During the course consider that politics behind public policies in health. Why do things happen? Who influences Congress? And so forth. Also, pay attention to current events, especially such debates as the current one over regulation and apply your knowledge of health services and insights into political motivations to further analyzing what is happening in the "real" world.
- (3) Keep in mind that everyone has ideological beliefs and value orientations. How do these affect the behavior of individuals in the health care system?

In addition to examining the current system, or non-system, the course also asks questions about possible future changes. Throughout the course, keep in mind how you would like to see the health care system changed, if at all, and the strategies you would suggest for implementing change. Consider the various interests involved including providers and consumers, and the political, scientific, and philosophical factors that influence change.

Course Goals

- (1) To provide an introduction to the social and economic forces in the environment which affect people's health and the provision of health services. This is broadly defined and is addressed especially in the initial sections of the course. However, these forces should be recognized through the course.
- (2) To describe the components of the health services system. These components include the facilities and structures used for health care and, more important, the manner in which the resources (capital, labor, and technology) are organized.
- (3) To begin to discuss the components of the health services system from an analytic viewpoint. This means developing an understanding of the interrelationships between the components of the system. For example, how does the method of reimbursement affect the manner in which services are provided? How do different organizational structures affect the provision of services?
- (4) To examine the resources required for producing health services. These include personnel (labor), capital, financing and operating funds, and technological capabilities. The current use of resources in the United States is a primary focus of the course.
- (5) To begin to think in terms of social/public policies which can change the health services system. Public policy should result from a detailed and analytical understanding of the relationships within the health services system; proposed changes in law and public policy should be evaluated in terms of their potential effect on the system and on consumers and providers.
- (6) To think in terms of individual and societal values. Many judgments are needed in assessing the health care system. For example, are all segments of the population adequately able to obtain health services? The answer to this question, and to the broader issue of whether access to services is a priority in public policy, depends on their own and society's values. We need to think about what values are appropriate and how they affect the provision of services.
- (7) To expose students to health services terminology and to some health services research. Familiarity with the terminology is essential in any field; in health services and medical care the terminology is relatively straightforward but requires familiarity with the meaning of some words. There will also be some, although very limited, exposure to the health services research literature so that you can begin to understand the types of questions that are addressed and some of the methods used in analysis.

There are, in addition, some educational process objectives. These include:

- (1) Learning to think analytically and critically about issues and problems in health services. Superficial solutions are frequently incorrect in health services. It is important to think about the ramifications of any solution. For example, the introduction of a new high-cost technology on the surface may appear to improve health; a more detailed analysis may reveal that the new technology would drain more essential resources, would require skilled manpower that does not exist, or may be difficult to provide to large segments of the population. Beyond the health services issues, one should keep in mind the considerable uncertainties of medicine and how they relate to the difficulties of providing health services. The current controversies over such medical techniques as coronary bypass surgery, routine mammography in younger women, and radical surgery for breast cancer are only three examples of high cost, rapidly changing approaches to problems in medicine.
- (2) The course will begin to expose students to the literature of health services and to the contributions of the many disciplines involved in health services, including economics, sociology, epidemiology, and medicine.

Specific Issues to be Addressed During the Course

- (1) Access and Availability of Health Services: The extent to which people can obtain health care and receive services that are appropriate for their needs (especially the most appropriate types of services from the most appropriate sources) is a critical issue in health care. Individual and personal values are also critical factors in this area although the course is based on the assumption that all individuals in the population should have access to needed health services. How much they need, where they should obtain services, who should pay for services, and whether health services improves health and well-being are all highly complex issues that the course will begin to address.
- (2) Costs and Financing of Services: How much does it cost to provide health services? How are they paid for? Can costs be contained? Can effectiveness and efficiency be promoted?
- (3) Outcomes of the Provision of Services: What happens when people obtain services? Does health care improve health? How do you measure outcomes and evaluate the performance of the health services system? Can you assure quality?
- (4) Structure of the System: How should the system be structured? What incentives should there be for consumers and providers? What changes are desirable? Can the system be rationalized?
- (5) Decision Making and Planning: What do we know about health and about the health care system? How can rational decisions be made? Is planning possible? Whose interests are served in the health care system?

Each of these major themes or topic areas is not independent, however. All relate to each other and to each of the issues and topics discussed in each lecture. They will be important issues underlying the lecture and you should keep them in mind throughout the course.

Learning objectives

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

- (1) Describe the different aspects of Medical Care Organization and Delivery.
- (2) Describe the major public health issues, access to care, financing health care, and quality of care.
- (3) Assist in the coordination of public health programs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Overview of the Requirements

Successful completion of the course includes the following requirements:

1. All lectures. **CLASS ATTENDENCE IS REQUIRED.**
2. Required course readings; these readings are intended to **complement and supplement**, not duplicate, the lectures.
3. Midterm Examination.
4. Final Examination.
5. Paper submission and presentation.
6. Assignment/s submission.

Grading

The grade for the course will be determined as follows: To be discussed

<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Extra credit:</u>
Midterm Exam 35%	Attendance (3 points total for 3 random roll calls) (3/3=3 points; 2/3= 2 points; 1/3=1 point)
Final Exam 40%	
Paper on Health Facility 20%	
Assignment (1) 5%	

Final Grades as a percent of total points:

A 94-100%	C+ 77-79	D- 60-63
A- 90-93	C 74-76	F <60
B+ 87-89	C- 70-73	
B 84-86	D+ 67-69	
B- 80-83	D 64-66	

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS AND CLASS SCHEDULE

Introduction

This section lists the required readings for the course. The readings are intended to supplement the lectures and should be read carefully and completely. If you wish to read more about a particular topic, the books and journals in the library and information on the Internet contain considerable material on each of these topics. Required readings *must* be read.

Text

Stephen J. Williams: *Essentials of Health Services*, Third Edition, Delmar Publishers.

Internet reference:

Health United States, 2004 www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm

CLASS SESSIONS

<u>Session</u>	<u>Readings</u>
MODULE I:	OVERVIEW AND USE
Session Jan. 19	Critical Thinking Skills
Sessions Jan. 23 & 25	Introduction to Health Services and to the Course Chapter 1
Sessions Jan 30 & Feb. 1	USE OF SERVICES: Basis to Health Services Utilization Chapter 2
Sessions Feb. 6 & 8	Access to Health Services Chapter 3
MODULE II:	PROVIDERS OF CARE
Sessions Feb. 13 & 15	Ambulatory Care Chapter 4
Sessions Feb. 20 & 22	Public Health Services Chapter 5
Sessions Feb. 27 & March 1	Hospital & Health Systems Chapter 6

Sessions March 6 & 8	Mental & Behavioral Health Services Chapter 7
Sessions March 13 & 15	Long Term Care Chapter 8
Sessions March 20	Health Care Personnel Chapters 9
March 22	MIDTERM EXAM
March 26-31	SPRING RECESS
Sessions April 3 & 5	Pharmaceutical Industry Chapter 10
MODULE III:	MANAGING THE RESOURCES OF THE SYSTEM REGULATION, POLICY AND POLITICS
Sessions April 10 & 12	Paying for Health Care Chapters 11
Sessions April 17 & 19	Managed Care Chapter 12
Session April 24	Movie- Damaged Care
Sessions April 26	Regulating and System Planning Chapter 13
Sessions May 1 & 3	Quality of Care and Policy Chapter 14 & 15
May 8 & 10	Paper presentations
May 15	FINAL EXAM
May 17	Student Consultations/Review of final exams (HT 109)