

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

PH 605: HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Fall 2006

Schedule # 25863

2 Units

Day: Thursday

Time: 1600-1740

Place: Hepner Hall 214

Instructor: Alma Koch, Ph.D.

Office Hours: 14:00-1530 TTh. Also by appointment, weekdays, nights, and weekends.

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TEXTBOOKS

Williams, S.J. and Torrens, P.R. *Introduction to Health Services, 6th Edition*, Delmar Publishers, Albany, NY, 2002.

Check Blackboard weekly for additional materials in Course Documents.

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

This course provides an overview of health services administration (HSA) and delivery in the U.S. Characteristics of utilization of health care, financing and system structure, types of providers, nonfinancial resources, and assessment and regulation will be addressed.

Why study health services administration?

Perhaps never before in the history of the U.S. has the study of health services administration been as important to public health professionals as it is today. As the Bush Administration focuses on war, the Republicans propose changes in major public programs—including rolling out a new Medicare Prescription Drug benefit in January 2006.

The health delivery system is undergoing major structural changes. Work in health services administration, including research, demonstration projects, and "living laboratories" in health insurance and managed care (especially in California), has formed the backbone of this quickly evolving system. Even though it is unlikely that sweeping health reform, such as national health insurance, will be enacted in the near future, big changes are in store for almost everyone. People in public health and preventive medicine have been at the forefront of this movement for more than 80 years and they will continue to take a leadership role as new threats—such as bioterrorism—to the public health and welfare emerge.

Students in the GSPH are the managers of tomorrow. You may be an epidemiologist, a health promotion specialist, a public health nurse, a physician, or a toxicologist, but you are probably headed for the top of your profession. Knowing something about health administration and management will make you more effective and persuasive in your career. Often, this course paves the way for further studies in health services administration or business management for those of you who recognize areas of interest or gaps in your knowledge.

Goals and objectives.

It is the primary goal of this course to help you understand the structure and components of the health delivery system in the U.S. and to describe the transformation of the system that is happening right now. No less important is the secondary goal of helping you define your career goals by increasing your knowledge of health administration, sound financial practices, and effective decision making.

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Describe the U.S. health care system in detail, including its evolution in technology, private insurance, public insurance programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, and other large-scale health services programs.
- Understand the basic concepts and components of managed care and to apply this knowledge in your personal health care decisions and in your career.
- Discuss the issues and facts surrounding the health system reform debate as they relate to hospitals, physicians, long-term care, mental health, and ambulatory care.
- Discuss your role in a public health or health care organization, and how it might be impacted by changes in the health services delivery environment.
- Understand the basics of and financing health services utilized throughout the world.
- Describe the depth and scope of government public health efforts in the provision of health care in the U.S., making a knowledgeable case for your own point of view on the subject.

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

This course is meant to be informative and interesting. The classes will be lectures, but you should feel free to ask questions or interact appropriately in class. The lectures will be spiced with anecdotes about the “real world” of health services administration and policy making. Any questions should be directed to Dr. Koch, who is available to make appointments by telephone or e-mail. Dr. Koch is available for appointments that are convenient for you—during the day, at nights, and on most weekends.

The most important material will be given in class, so if you miss a class, be sure to get a tape recording or good notes. If you experience any difficulties or setbacks during the semester, do not hesitate to contact Dr. Koch.

The readings are required. Both lectures and readings will be covered on the examinations. The exams will be short answer, consisting of multiple choice, true-false, and matching questions

Blackboard

This course uses Blackboard extensively. Announcements for the course, along with Course Documents will be provided. If students want Dr. Koch's input, contact her directly via e-mail or phone. If students request it, the Blackboard Discussion feature will be activated. (Dr. Koch does not monitor inter-student discussions.)

GRADING STANDARDS

The final grade will be based as follows:

Midterm	50%
Final	<u>50%</u>
	100%

Midterm Warnings

It is the policy of the GSPH to issue midterm warnings to those students who are in danger of failing core courses. "Failure" of a core course is defined in the Graduate Bulletin as a grade of less than B-; any grade of C+ and below in a core course is considered to be a failing grade. After the midterm examination, Dr. Koch will authorize written warnings to those students who showed poor performance on that examination. Students receiving such warnings are strongly encouraged to contact Dr. Koch to discuss how he or she might improve the grade. Based on historical evidence, the vast majority of students who contact Dr. Koch do pass the course. Those who do not, run a greater risk of failure.

Please be cautioned that a passing grade on the midterm examination does not guarantee a passing grade in the course. Since each examination accounts for 50% of the grade, even a student with an "A" on the midterm can still conceivably fail the course (i.e., less than a B- in the course). The midterm warnings are issued to forewarn students who are already "in trouble" at the midterm. However, one can always sink into trouble at the final.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC/READING
1	08/31	Introduction to PH 605. Overview of Health Services Administration. Chapter 1
2	09/07	Overview of Health Services Administration, continued. Chapter 2
3	09/14	The Evolution of Public Health. Chapter 8.
4	09/21	Patterns of Illness and Disease and Access to Health Care. Chapter 4.
5	09/28	Patterns of Illness and Disease and Access to Health Care. Chapter 4, continued.
6	10/05	Financing Health Services: System Components. Chapter 5. (pp 92-110).
7	10/13	Financing Health Services: Reimbursement Chapter 5, continued.
8	10/19	MIDTERM EXAM
9	10/26	Managed Care: Restructuring the System. Chapter 6.
10	11/02	Private Health Insurance and Employee Benefits. Chapter 7.
11	11/09	Ambulatory Health Care Services. Chapter 9.
12	11/16	Hospitals and Health Systems. Chapter 10.
13	11/23	Thanksgiving—No Class
14	11/30	Video: “Who Pays for Mom and Dad?” Long-Term Care. Chapter 11.
15	12/07	Mental Health Services Chapter 12
16	12/14	FINAL EXAMINATION 1600-1800 in HH-214.