

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

HSA 6114 – INTRODUCTION TO THE U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Course Syllabus

INSTRUCTOR: Allyson Hall, PhD
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CLASS MEETINGS: Mondays: Periods 7 & 8
1:55 - 3:50 Room G301
Wednesdays: Period 7
1:55-2:45 G201

OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 12:00-1:00 pm
By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to familiarize students with some of the basic concepts and ideas concerning the distribution of health and illness, the organization of the health care system, and the relationship of one to the other. Definitions of health and illness, as well as the historical context for developments of our health care system are discussed and debated. The course concludes with a discussion on trends that could impact the health care system in the future.

Students should come to class ready to discuss and debate the major themes related to health and distribution of disease, the ability of the US health care system to meet the needs of the population, as well as the policy environment that influences access to health care services.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of the course students are expected to be able to describe:

- The dynamics of the health care system and the interaction of providers (hospitals, physicians, etc), patients, and sources of health care financing (Medicaid, private health insurance etc)
- The historical development of the health care system
- The determinants of health how and these are related to the distribution of disease in populations (demand for health care)
- The major components of the health care system (supply of health care),
- The role of government in the delivery of health care services
- Current health policy and management issues and options related to delivery, financing, quality, and access to health care services

COURSE OUTLINE

The course is organized into EIGHT parts:

1. Introduction (*Class 1*)
2. The Distribution Of Health And Disease And Public Health (*Class 2 – 6*)
3. Health Care Financing And Access To Care (*Class 7 – 14*)
4. Health Care System Infrastructure (*Class 15 – 17*)
5. Health Care Workforce (*Class 18 –20*)
6. The Pharmaceutical Industry (*Class 21*)
7. Quality Of Care In Health Care Delivery (*Class 22 – 25*)
8. The Future (*Class 26 – 27*)

BOOKS AND READINGS

Two textbooks are required. The chapters in the Kovner and Knickman textbook describe the organization of the health care delivery system in the United States. The articles in the book edited by Conrad provide a sociological view and critique of health and health care delivery. Other select readings indicated on the course outline are available for download on the course website or are on reserve at the Health Science Center Library. These readings should provide students with a strong foundation for their future studies and health care careers.

Kovner A and Knickman JR (ed.), *Health Care Delivery in the United States* (8th Edition), Springer Press (2005).

Conrad, Peter (ed.), *Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives* (7th edition) Worth Publishers (2005).

****Lecture presentations will be placed on the course website after the lecture****

I expect you to attend and be prepared to participate in all class sessions. Personal issues with respect to class attendance or fulfillment of course requirements will be handled on an individual basis. Only under the most extenuating circumstances will changes to class requirements be made

Use of cell phones or laptop computers is not permitted in class!

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student. The student should then provide this documentation to me.

STATEMENT OF UNIVERSITY'S HONESTY POLICY (CHEATING AND USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS)

Students are expected to act in accordance with the University of Florida policy on academic integrity (see Graduate Student Handbook for details). Cheating or plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and inexcusable behavior.

**We, the members of the University of Florida community,
pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the
highest standards of honesty and integrity.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS and GRADING SCALE

Exam 1	Designed to test your knowledge of key concepts covered in class. Format will be primarily short essay. Exams will be returned to students no later than October 18.	20 points	October 9
Exam 2	Designed to test your knowledge of key concepts covered in class. Format will be primarily short essay. Exams will be returned to students no later than November 20.	20 points	November 8
Final Project	A synthesis and critical commentary of issues facing the US health care system, as addressed in class. Project assignment and details will be distributed after the second exam.	30 points	Due in my mailbox (Room 4148, HPNP) December 14
Critique of three articles	<p>Select, read, and provide a 1-2 page review of three articles drawn from the peer-review literature or popular press that pertain to the lecture you have signed up for. The review should briefly summarize the article and include your overall reaction to the piece in a well thought out critique. (<i>What interested you? Did anything shock or surprise you? Is there anything you disagree with? Why or why not?</i>)</p> <p>Students will be graded on the relevance of the article they chose to review (<i>does it pertain to that week's lecture?</i>), the content and thoroughness of the write-up, and their ability to draw the article into class discussion. Provide proper citations.</p>	15 points	<p>At the beginning of the semester, students will select three lectures for which they will submit article critiques.</p> <p>Critiques are due at the BEGINNING of the class period and will be incorporated into class discussion.</p>
Case Studies	<p>Throughout the semester, several class meetings will be exclusively devoted to a CASE STUDY. Class discussion will focus on a particular topic, for which case study materials will be distributed ahead of time. Students are expected to have read the material and be prepared to contribute meaningfully to the discussion.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~~~~~</p>	15 points	
Reading, class participation, & attendance	Students are required to read assigned chapters/articles prior to coming to class and participate in class discussion. Attendance is required.		

COURSE OUTLINE

DATE

TOPIC

PART ONE:

INTRODUCTION

Wednesday, August 23

Course overview

- Discussion of course readings and requirements.
- Definitions of health and illness.
- How are health status and health care related?
- The challenge in assuring health to a population

Conrad

- General Introduction 1-4
- “Rationing Medical Care” 456-457
- Relman “The Trouble with Rationing” 462-464

PART TWO:

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HEALTH AND DISEASE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Monday, August 28

Social determinants of health and disease

- How do factors such as age, gender, race, poverty, and occupation relate to morbidity and mortality?

Conrad

- Syme and Berkman. “Social Class, Susceptibility and Sickness,” 24-30
- McCord and Freeman. “Excess Mortality in Harlem,” 30-37.
- Fuchs “A Tale of Two States”, 55-57
- Rodwin and Croce-Galis “Population Health in Utah and Nevada: An Update on Victor Fuchs’ Tale of Two States 57-62

On course website

NOTE: EACH REPORT IS MORE THAN 200 PAGES. YOU MAY WISH TO JUST PRINT THE RELEVANT CHAPTERS

- Heart Disease and Men – Focus on Chapter 1
- Burden of Chronic Disease- Focus on Section II

Wednesday, August 30

Introduction to epidemiological measures and methods

- Measurement in community health
- Concepts in epidemiological research.
- Descriptive vs. analytic methods.

DATE**TOPIC**

- Examples of epidemiology in practice

Kovner and Knickman

- Chiasson and Jonas. “Measuring Health Status” 10-45

Monday, September 4

LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

Wednesday, September 6

Role of public health in improving health

LECTURER: Amal Khoury, PhD

Associate Professor, College of Public Health and Health Professions

- Theoretical underpinnings of public health
- Core public health areas
- Organization of public health in the United States
- Public health achievements

Kovner and Knickman

- Leviton and Rhodes “Public Health: Policy, Practice, and Perceptions” 90-129

Conrad

- Brown. “Popular Epidemiology: Community Response to Toxic Waste-Induced Disease,” 66-73
- McKinlay and McKinlay “Medical Measures and the Decline of Mortality” 7-23

Monday, September 11

Individual Health Behavior

LECTURER: Ellen Lopez, PhD

Assistant Professor, College of Public Health and Health Professions

- Relationship between health behavior/health beliefs on health and health care utilization

Kovner and Knickman

- Orleans and Cassidy “Health-Related Behaviors” 327-373

Conrad

- “Contemporary Critical Debates: The Relevance of Risk” 411-412
- Hahn et al “ The Prevalence of Risk Factors Among Women in the United States” 413-429
- Lupton “Risk as Moral Danger: The Social and Political Functions of Risk Discourse in Public Health” 422-428.

On course website

- Burden of Chronic Disease- Focus on Section III

DATE**TOPIC**

Wednesday, September 13 **Case Study 1**
How to combat the OBESITY epidemic.

PART THREE: HEALTH CARE FINANCING AND ACCESS TO CARE

Monday, September 18 **US Healthcare system: An Overview**

- History, trends, and characteristics - What are the social, medical, and technological factors that have led to the health care system, as we know it today?
- The growth in health care spending

Kovner and Knickman

- Kovner and Knickman “Overview: The State of Health Care Delivery in the United States 2-9
- Hunt and Knickman “Financing for Health Care” 47-top of page 55

Conrad

- Fry et al “The US Health Care System” 234-243
- Relman. “The Health Care Industry: Where Is It Taking Us?” 268-274

Wednesday, September 20 **Role of government in health care delivery and the policy process**
LECTURER: Lisa Chacko, MPH

- Government as a provider, purchaser and payer
- Regulatory activities
- The public policy process

Kovner and Knickman

- Michael Sparer, “The Government’s Role in Health Care,” 130-161

Monday, September 25 **Health Care Financing (Part I)**

- History and trends in health insurance
- Medicare, Medicaid, employer-sponsored insurance, private-individually purchased insurance

Kovner and Knickman

- Hunt and Knickman “Financing for Health Care” 55-89

Conrad

- Rothman. “A Century of Failure: Health Care Reform in America,” 292-300
- Bodenheimer and Grumbach. “Paying for Health Care,” 301-309

DATE	TOPIC
Wednesday, September 27	<p>Health Care Financing (Part II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Escalating cost and health insurance ▪ The uninsured. ▪ Strategies for reform <p><i>On course website</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation <i>The Uninsured: A Primer. Key Facts About Americans Without Health Insurance</i>, November 2004. ▪ Strumpf E <i>Issues Relater to State and Employer Innovations in Insurance Coverage</i>, The Commonwealth Fund July 2005
Monday, October 2	<p>Managed Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ History of managed care ▪ Organizational structures in managed care ▪ Reimbursement mechanisms under managed care <p><i>Conrad</i> Stone “Doctoring as a Business: Money, Markets, and Managed Care” 309-316</p> <p><i>On reserve at the Health Science Center Library</i> Williams and Torrens <i>Introduction to Health Services, 6th Edition</i> Chapter 6: Managed Care Restructuring the System, 124</p>
Wednesday, October 4	<p>Case Study 2 Covering the uninsured: What would you do?</p>
Monday, October 9	<p>EXAM 1</p>
Wednesday, October 11	<p>Comparative International Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Models of health insurance and health care delivery in other developed nations ▪ Pros and cons of other approaches to health care delivery <p><i>Kovner and Knickman</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rodwin. “Comparative Analysis of Health Systems Among Wealthy Nations” 162-209 <p><i>Conrad</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Comparative Health Care Policies” 496-499 ▪ Deber “Health Care Reform: Lessons from Canada” 515-522 ▪ Gabe “The British National Health Service: Continuity and Change” 522-536

DATE	TOPIC
Monday, October 16	<p>Access to care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Economic and non-economic barriers to care ▪ How barriers can impede access to and utilization of health care ▪ Role of the health care safety-net <p><i>Kovner and Knickman</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Billings and Cantor “Access to Care”
PART 4:	HEALTH CARE SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE
Wednesday, October 18	<p>Hospitals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ History of hospital care in the United States ▪ Types of hospitals ▪ How has the role of the hospital changed over time? ▪ How are hospitals organized and governed? <p><i>Kovner and Knickman</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gourevitch, Caronna and Kalkut “Acute Care” <u>begin at page 224-238</u> ▪ Kovner “Governance, Management, and Accountability” 511-537
Monday, October 23	<p>Ambulatory and Primary Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Comparisons between solo practice, group practice ▪ Ambulatory care safety net and community health centers ▪ Definition of primary care ▪ Differences between primary and specialty care ▪ Managing chronic care <p><i>Kovner and Knickman</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gourevitch, Caronna and Kalkut “Acute Care” 214-223 ▪ Anderson and Knickman “Chronic Care” 250-273
Wednesday, October 25	<p>Long-term and Mental Health Care Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changing health care needs and their impact on the health care system ▪ Discussion of the growing need for long-term care and its alternative modes of delivery. ▪ Trends in mental health care <p><i>Kovner and Knickman</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feldman et al. “Long-Term Care” 274-321 <p><i>On reserve at the Health Science Center Library</i> Williams and Torrens <i>Introduction to Health Services, 6th Edition</i> Chapter 12: Mental Health Care Services, 280</p>

DATE

TOPIC

PART FIVE:

HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE

Monday, October 30

Physicians and Dentists

- History of medicine as a profession
- Demographic and geographic trends in the physician and dental workforce
- Challenges facing the professions

Kovner and Knickman

- Brewer “The Health Care Workforce” 420-463

Conrad

- “The Rise and Fall of the Dominance of Medicine” 167-169
- Conrad and Schneider “Professionalization, Monopoly, And the Structure of Medical Practice” 170-176

Recommended:

- McKinlay and Marceau “The End of the Golden Age of Doctoring” 189-215
- Light “Countervailing Power: The Changing Character of the Medical Profession in the United States” 215-224

Wednesday, November 1

Case Study 3

Coordinating health care: Whose job is it anyways?

Monday, November 6

Nurses and allied professionals

- Historical and emerging roles for nurses and allied professionals
- Demographic and geographic trends in the nursing and allied workforce
- Challenges facing the nursing profession

Kovner and Knickman

- Brewer “The Health Care Workforce” 420-463

Conrad

- Reverby “A Caring Dilemma: Womenhood and Nursing in Historical Perspective” 243-251

Wednesday, November 8

EXAM 2

PART SIX:

THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Monday, November 13

The Pharmaceutical Industry

*LECTURER: Earlene Lipowski, PhD,
Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy*

DATE**TOPIC**

- Growth of the pharmaceutical industry
- Industry regulation
- Key challenges and solutions

Kovner and Knickman

- Strongin and Geigle “Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices”

Conrad

- Cohen et al “Medications and the Pharmaceutical Industry” 275-288

On course website

- Lipowski and McKercher, Structural dynamics of the pharmaceutical industry

PART SEVEN:**QUALITY OF CARE IN HEALTH CARE DELIVERY**

Wednesday, November 15

Quality of Care

- How do we measure and monitor the quality of health care services?
- How do we assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of care?
- How do we improve quality of care?
- Patient safety issues

Kovner and Knickman

- Wakefield and Wakefield: The Complexity of Health Care Quality 539-585

Monday, November 20

Quality of Care and Cultural Competency

- Definition of cultural competency
- Need for culturally competent care
- Examples of best practices and programs in the public and private sectors

On course website

- Betancourt, Green, Carrillo, Park, “Cultural Competence and Health Care Disparities: Key Perspectives and Trends” *Health Affairs* March/April 2005

If you are really interested in these issues a great book to read over Christmas break is: *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down. A Hmong Child, Her American Doctors, and The Collision of Two Cultures* by Anne Fadiman.

DATE	TOPIC
Wednesday, November 22	NO CLASS – Happy Thanksgiving
Monday, November 27	Case Study 4 Worlds-Apart: Thinking about Cross-Cultural Health Care
Wednesday, November 29	Case Study 5 Patient Rights and Ethical Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ethical theories ▪ Patient rights – including the right to privacy ▪ HIPPA <p>Williams and Torrents <i>Introduction to Health Services, 6th Edition</i> Chapter 17: Ethical Issues in Public Health and Health Services</p>
PART EIGHT:	THE FUTURE
Monday, December 4	Future Health Care Leaders: Your Challenges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rationing revisited ▪ Cost containment ▪ Increasing role of medical technology ▪ Discussion on final paper <p><i>Kovner and Knickman</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finkler “Cost Containment” 630-657 ▪ Lumpkin “Futures in Health Care” 663-687 <p><i>Conrad</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Callahan “Rationing Medical Progress: The Way to Affordable Health Care” ▪ Kutner “Issues in the Application of High Cost Medical Technology: The Case of Organ Transplantation” 387-401
Wednesday, December 6	Class Discussion on the Future of Health Care <p><i>On course website</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Berwick D <i>Escape Fire: Lessons for the Future of Health Care</i>