HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE FOR NURSE LEADERS. FALL 09

Prof. Victor G. Rodwin  
victor.rodwin@nyu.edu
Payson House, Rm. 25, 435 E. 70th St.
Puck Bld. 2nd Fl
Wagner/NYU, 295 Lafayette St.
212-998-7459

COURSE SYLLABUS

This introductory course is designed to familiarize nursing leaders with the broader context of the health care system within which they work. It emphasizes basic concepts and ideas concerning the distribution of health and illness in society, the organization of the health care system, and the relationship of one to the other. We shall discuss and debate definitions of health and illness, tools for their assessment, and the evolution of public health, medicine and health policy since World War II. We shall also examine the characteristics of the health care system at the local, state and federal levels in the United States, as well as in other wealthy nations with systems of universal coverage. Students should come to class prepared to discuss major themes related to urban health and society, the social geography and distribution of disease, as well as the policy environment that influences access to public health and health care services.

BOOKS AND READINGS

Two textbooks are required from which specified chapters are assigned each week. The chapters in the book edited by Kovner focus on the organization of the health care delivery system in the United States. The chapters in the book edited by Harrington and Estes place greater emphasis on policy issues in the U.S. and abroad. In addition, we begin with a book by Dr. Jerome Groopman and there are required readings posted on blackboard. Together, these books and other readings will provide students with a strong foundation for their future studies and health care careers:


COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no examinations in this course. In addition to attending and participating in classes, students must submit one individual paper and one team report, which I will evaluate based on the extent to which they reflect an understanding of the key issues
discussed in the required readings.

**Individual Paper** – Please look over the web site of the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Read the Department’s policy paper: *Take Care New York* and subsequent updates and progress reports and write a cogent essay (3-4 pages, double-spaced, not including references, tables, appendices) about how a NYC-based hospital could assist in implementing it. You paper will be evaluated based on how well you assimilate the concepts raised in the class readings covered over the first six sessions. *Due date: October 19th.*

**Team Report** - This project will require a thoughtful and well-organized discussion of the concepts and themes covered in this course, and how they can be applied to a pressing health care policy issue of your choice. Each team (from 4-5 students) must produce a final written report (15 pages double-spaced, not including references, tables, appendices). These reports will be scheduled for presentation over the final four sessions of the class (Nov. 17-Dec. 8). You should begin forming teams from the start of the class. I will provide opportunities for mini-team debates to accompany class lectures and discussion so that you can begin thinking about what team you would like to join. I will post more details about this assignment on Blackboard under the section titled “Assignments.”

**CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS**

**A. PERSPECTIVES ON MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE**

**I. Course Overview: Clinical, Public Health and Socio-Economic Perspectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sept. 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Definitions of health, disease and illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• How does individual health relate to community health?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Social determinants of health and disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Resource allocation issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Implications for nurse leaders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Health Policy: Crisis and Reform in the U.S. Health Care Delivery System*

Ch. 2: Commonwealth Fund Commission. Why Not the Best? Pp.42-48

*Blackboard:*

McKinlay &. McKinlay. Medical Measures and the Decline of Mortality.

Schroeder, S. Improving the Health of the American People.

**II. Clinical Perspectives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>September 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
III. Epidemiology and Public Health: Concepts, Measures, and Contributions to Health Policy

- Descriptive vs. analytic methods.
- Social factors affecting health and disease
- How do we measure and assess health status?
- Implications for acute care

Health Care Delivery in the United States
Chiasson, M. and Jonas, S. “Measuring Health Status.” Ch. 2.

Blackboard:
Frumkin, H. “Urban sprawl and public health,” Public Health Reports.

IV. The Uneven Distribution of Disease

- How do such factors as age, gender, race, poverty, occupation and lifestyle affect morbidity and mortality?
- How are health and disease distributed across geographic areas?
- Implications for national, state and local policy

Health Policy: Crisis and Reform in the U.S. Health Care Delivery System
Fiscella, K. and Williams, D. Health Disparities Based on Socio-Economic Inequalities. Pp. 49-60
Kunitz and Pesis-Katz, I. Mortality of White Americans,...Pp. 61-70

V. Health Services Research Perspectives: Urban Health

- How do individual and community characteristics affect health?
- How can health and health care be compared among cities?
- Are cities healthy places to live?

Take Care New York. Download from NYC DHMH Website
Blackboard:
Wennberg, J. Hospital use and mortality among medicare beneficiaries in Boston and New Haven. *NEJM*.
Frumkin, H. Urban sprawl and public health. *Public Health Reports*.

B. HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATION AND FINANCING

VI. The U.S. Health Care System: Pt.1 –The VHA
Special guest lecture

VII. The U.S. Health Care System: An International Perspective Pt. 2 - Oct. 20
- 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?
- How does the US system compare to that of other developed nations? Developing nations?
- What is the role of government in the U.S. healthcare system? How does this differ from other countries?

*Health Care Delivery in the United States*

*Health Policy: Crisis and Reform in the U.S. Health Care Delivery System*
Chapter 9: Public Financing.

VIII. The Rise, Fall and Significance of Managed Care
Oct. 27
- Organizational structures of managed care
- Reimbursement mechanisms of managed care
- Future of managed care and its relation to hospitals
- Strengths and weaknesses of managed care
- Impact of rising co-insurance payments

*Health Care Delivery in the United States*
Hunt and Knickman. Financing for Health Care. Ch. 3.
Finkler. Costs and Value. Ch. 17.

*Health Policy: Crisis and Reform in the U.S. Health Care Delivery System*
Private Insurance and Managed Care. Ch. 10.
C. HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AND CHALLENGES

IX. Comparative Analysis and Performance of Health Care Systems November 3

Health Care Delivery in the United States

Health Policy: Crisis and Reform in the U.S. Health Care Delivery System
White, J. Compared to Other Countries, How Exceptional are the Health and Income Security Arrangements in the U.S.? Pp. 400-404.

Blackboard:

X. Global Health: An International Perspective Nov. 10
- Public health in a global context
- How does global health affect New York City?
- Public health infrastructure

Blackboard:
Garrett, L. The collapse of global public health.
Farmer, P. and Garrett, L. From ‘marvellous momentum’ to health care for all.

Health Policy: Crisis and Reform in the U.S. Health Care Delivery System
WHO. Health Poverty and MDG. Pp.373-375.

XI. The Role and Impact of Patients on the Health System November 17

Blackboard:
Pitts, V. Illness and the Internet: Writing and Reading Breast Cancer in Cyberspace
XII. How Will the Health System Respond to Population Aging and the Rise of Chronic Illness?

- The need for long-term care and alternative modes of delivery
- Chronic illness
- Growing older in cities

Health Care Delivery in the United States
Feldman, Nadash, and Gursen. Long-Term Care. Ch. 9.

Health Policy: Crisis and Reform in the U.S. Health Care Delivery System
Aging and Long-Term Care. Ch. 4

Blackboard:
Shoven, J., “New Age Thinking: The aging of the world’s population won’t be the crisis we fear.” Foreign Policy, Jan/Feb 2008.

XIII. Quality Improvement and Safety

- How do we measure and monitor the quality of health care services?
- How do we assess the effectiveness and appropriateness of care?
- What are the ethical issues in the quality of health care delivery?

Health Care Delivery in the United States
Kropf, R. Information Management. Ch. 13.
Wakefield, D. and Wakefield, B. The Complexity of Health Care Quality. Ch. 15.

Health Policy: Crisis and Reform in the U.S. Health Care Delivery System
Quality of Care, Ch. 7.

XIV. Health Care Reform for the U.S.

Health Policy:
Ch 12, pp. 381-410

Blackboard:
More readings will be posted