HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE FOR NURSE LEADERS. FALL 2010

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Class Meetings: Tuesdays, 6:45-8:25 PM
Payson House, Rm. 25, 435 E. 70th St.

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

Three books are required:


The textbook edited by Professor Kovner focuses on the organization of the health care delivery system in the United States. It should serve as a useful reference book and will provide students with a strong foundation for their future studies and health care careers. The book by Dr. Groopman provides a familiar and enlightened clinical perspective from which this class takes off to consider epidemiologic and health policy perspectives. The book by Professor Smith provides a more critical perspective on what he calls the “pathologies” of the American health system and provides a set of useful case studies for discussion and for the mid-term examination.

In addition to these books, for most sessions I have posted required readings on NYU’s blackboard system under the tab called “Course Documents.” Under “Course Information,” you can find this syllabus and possible updated versions or corrections as I make them. You may also use blackboard to communicate with me and your fellow classmates.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
There are no examinations in this course. In addition to attending and participating in classes, I will ask that you submit three written assignments: 1) a 2 page bio-sketch about your educational and professional background and your objectives in the nurse leader program; 2) an individual paper based on a case study in the Forensic Case Files book; and 3 team reports, in lieu of a final examination, which I will evaluate based on the extent to which they reflect an understanding of the key issues discussed in the required readings.

Bio-sketch – Please attach a photo with this document. It will help me remember your name.

Individual Paper – This short exercise will involve reading chapter 5 of Forensic Case Files and answering all the discussion questions in the chapter. I will post more details about this assignment on blackboard under the tab called “Assignments.”
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 New York City’s Take Care New York policy. 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. 16 - Dec. 7). 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.

To prepare for this project, 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. The assignment is for your team to write a report about how your hospital or unit within a larger hospital could assist in implementing recommended policies in this policy paper. You paper will be evaluated based on how well you assimilate the concepts raised in the class readings. Due date: December 7.

CLASS TOPICS AND READINGS

A. PERSPECTIVES ON MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

I. Course Overview: Clinical, Public Health and Socio-Economic Perspectives  Sept. 7
  • Definitions of health, disease and illness
  • How does individual health relate to community health?
  • Social determinants of health and disease
  • Resource allocation issues
  • Implications for nurse leaders

Blackboard:

II. Clinical Perspectives

III. Epidemiology and Public Health: Concepts, Measures, and Contributions to Health Policy

September 21
- 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*

*Blackboard:*

IV. The Uneven Distribution of Disease

Sept. 28
- 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

*Blackboard:*
- *Take Care New York*. Go to NYCDHMH web site and find publications under this heading. Also search for all publications on disparities in New York City.
- Mackenbach et. al. Socioeconomic inequalities in health in 22 European countries, NEJM 2008. vol 358 (23)
- Berkman, L. and Epstein, A. Beyond health care -- Socioeconomic status and health, NEJM 2008. vol 358 (23)

V. Health Services Research Perspectives: Urban Health

October 5
- How do individual and community characteristics affect health?
- How can health and health care be compared among cities?
- Are cities healthy places to live?

*Blackboard:*
- Wennberg, J. Hospital use and mortality among medicare beneficiaries in Boston and New Haven. *NEJM*.
- Wennberg, J. Variations among regions and hospitals in managing chronic illness: how
much care is enough?
- 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:* Dr. Cynthia Caroselli, the Nurse Executive and Associate Director for Patient Care Services at VA NY Harbor HCS

D. Smith. *Forensic Case Files*. Ch. 4: Nursing: Where is it going and why does it never get there?

*Blackboard:*

VII. The U.S. Health Care System: An International Perspective Pt. 2 -

*Oct. 19*

- 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?

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VIII. The Rise, Fall and Significance of Managed Care

*Oct. 26*

- 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*
- Finkler. Costs and value. Ch. 17.

Smith, D. *Forensic Case Files*, Ch. 6: The Market: Why It Doesn’t Work – Or does it?

*Blackboard:*
C. HEALTH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE AND CHALLENGES

IX. Comparative Analysis and Performance of Health Care Systems

Health Care Delivery in the United States
- Rodwin, V. Comparative analysis of health systems among wealthy nations. Ch. 6.

Blackboard:

X. Global Health: An International Perspective

• Public health in a global context
• How does global health affect New York City?
• Public health infrastructure

Blackboard:

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

Blackboard:
- Pitts, V. Illness and the internet: Writing and reading breast cancer in cyberspace
- Zola, I. Medicine as an institution of social control. Ch. 38. in Conrad, P. The Sociology of Health and Illness: Critical Perspectives

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

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**

November 30

- 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?

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- Kropf, R. Information Management. Ch. 13.
- Wakefield, D. and Wakefield, B. The complexity of health care quality. Ch. 15.

**XIV. Health Care Reform for the U.S.**

December 7

D. Smith, *The Forensic Case Files*, Ch. 8: Diagnosing and Treating the Pathologies of the U.S. Health System.

*Blackboard:*