

Office of Public Health Studies
Public Health 602: Introduction to Health Services
Fall 2008

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Office Location: Biomed D 210, Office Hours: By appointment
Class Time: Thursday 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Location: Biomed C-104

Pedagogy Methodology

This course is taught by the Socratic Method; **Teaching by Asking Rather than by Telling.** Socratic questioning is effective when there is more than one "correct" answer or no clear answer or solution. The primary goal of the Socratic Method is to explore the contours of often-difficult issues and to teach students the critical thinking skills they will need in their profession. This method encourages students to go beyond memorizing facts or the current state of affairs to focus on achieving excellence, --to become thinkers and leaders.

Course Description

This course examines essential components and issues of the private and public health services in the United States. The content is presented as analytical approach to the historical, political, ethical, and organizational contexts for health services. A comparison of the US health service system will be made to other countries' health service systems and an investigation into Hawaii's health services. The course investigates current trends, public health practices, problems, and critical issues in the delivery and access of health services.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, each student should be able to:

1. Identify, summarize, present, and discuss components of the health services in the United States including: managed care, health care institutions, health care professionals/personnel, public health promotion, and disease prevention, Medicare, Medicaid, health care economics and financing, long term care, pharmaceuticals, medical technologies, health planning and management.
2. Research, summarize, and present the status of various local health care organizations in Hawaii.
3. Review, analyze, and evaluate health service problems, practices, differences, limitations, and/or trends in health service in the U.S.
4. Compare, contrast, and present the differences and similarities of key health service components of the US health service system and other countries' health service system.
5. Synthesize, integrate, and apply the health service options in order to tackle critical issues such as access, cost, health service politics, health disparities, and quality of care.

Required Text Shi, Leiyu & Singh Douglas (2008). *Delivering Health Care in America: A Systems Approach*, Sudbury, MA.: Jones and Bartlett Publishers. (Required)

Additional readings as assigned. (Required)

General Guidelines:

Graduate school is an adult endeavor similar to a professional level job. Students are expected to attend all classes and complete assigned work on time. Course work is expected to be at *graduate* proficiency.

All written assignments must be typed with a title page consisting of the article's title, student's name, course number, and date. The font size is 12 pt, 1 ½ spacing, New Times Roman, APA style, citations for referenced work, margins one-half inch, with page number and header or footer on each page.

Final grades are earned from completed assignments, class attendance, and participation. All assignments must be completed for a passing grade.

Earning a graduate degree from the Office of Public Health Studies will require presenting your work to colleagues and faculty. If you have difficulty with public speaking, please make an appointment with your professor as soon as possible.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Always cite when using another's work or words. Please be familiar with the University of Hawaii Student Conduct Code, available at the Office of Student Affairs at the Student Services Center.

There will be no extra credit assignments. Incompletes for this course will only be allowed with documented and unavoidable reasons. My dog ate my homework or my computer crashed does not suffice.

The class schedule may be revised by the professor as needed. Topics for discussions may be re-scheduled or changed, on availability of guest speakers, or progress and interests of the class as the semester progresses.

Students are welcomed and encouraged to meet with me to review their progress or clarify course assignments and expectations. Please contact via telephone or email to schedule appointments.

Please be considerate and turn your cell phones off during class.

Course Assignments

All students are expected to read the assigned articles and chapters of the required textbooks *prior* to class discussion. It is recommended that students know the terminology and be able to answer the questions at the end of each chapter. All students are expected to attend and actively participate in every class. Assignments include four components listed below. Grading is based on a point system of 100 points. Students must complete *all* assignments according to description and assigned guidelines (including on time) in order to pass the course.

1. Attendance, participation, and discussing assigned reading. Students are expected to read articles and assigned chapters before class. This is not a lecture course. Graduate students should be knowledgeable and active participates in the educational process. Please show up for class on time so that the class can start and finish on time 1:00 to 3:30pm. Attendance is high priority for this course because of the presentations, discussion, and reciprocal learning that occurs in class. An absence may be necessary, but let the professor know before you miss class if possible. Students who have unexcused absences will lose five points for every absence and a prorated amount for partial absences. Total points = 20.

2. Health service organization presentation and handout. Students will collect information about one the local health service agency and present their findings in class. The investigation should involve visiting the organization, talking to employees and possibly clients of the organization, and searching for public information about the organization on the web, printed materials, and other resources. Each presentation must include audiovisuals, an activity, and the opportunity for classmates and professor to ask questions at the end of the presentation. The purpose is to apply the health services knowledge from class to understanding the structure and set-up of a local health service agency. The presentation should include an interesting handout that has the details of your selected organization. Handout styles for you to consider are Executive Summary (of Annual Report), Pamphlet/Brochure (multi-page to include all info), Magazine (tell a story), and Internet (horizontal flip chart). Try to give us the facts, then add an item that you think is particularly interesting. Please include, but you are not limited to: 1) name, address, phone numbers, fax, locations of organization, 2) mission, goals, vision, 3) target clientele include ethnic groups, age, etc if relevant, 4) annual operating budget and funding sources, 5) major activities/services/projects with brief descriptions, 6) organization chart, 7) number of employees/volunteers with job title, 8) other interesting aspects and 9) references (online, brochure, etc.) and contact person/people for all sources for information. Please bring (or send e-copies 24 hours in advance) copies of your handout to share with everyone in class on the day of your presentation. Do not copy/paste from the agency's documents or website. Use your own words and cite all quoted facts like annual budget. If they already have an organizational chart, you lucked out. Copy/paste and **cite** where you found the information. Please let the professor know if you need audiovisual equipment (PowerPoint) a week before your presentation.

Total = 20 points based on student evaluations of presentation (10 pts) and professor evaluation (10 pts)

A few agencies to consider: Shiner's Hospital for Children Hospital, Straub, Papa Ola Lokahi, Queen's Inpatient Medical Center, Tripler Army Medical Care, Kahuku, Diabetes & Hormone Center, St. Francis, Kapiolani, Kaiser, Pala Loma, HI Dept of Health, Koaia Kalihi Valley, Waimanalo Health Center, Queen's Outpatient Medical Center, Castle Medical Center, KPHC, Leahi Hospital, Emergency Room services (include EMS, Fire, & Police), Wellness Center at JABSOM Kaka'ako campus. (Complementary and Alternative Health Care).

3. Country Comparison Health Service presentation and report/article on the differences and similarities between the US health service system and one other country's health services. Begin by laying a foundation on health services in each country. Please explain how each system is set-up, insurance and/or cost issues. Tell us about the country's major health issues. Compare how people access care in that country, the health care settings such as clinics, outpatient, inpatient, types of services like acute, chronic, emergency, and long term care, types of health professionals and location if relevant (only in urban areas?). What is the status of their medical technology and is it universally available? What are the cost, availability, and use of pharmaceuticals and/or other treatments? What is the role and size of public health services? What are their health disparities? Describe the major health policies that guide the country's approach to health services. Please include a paragraph on comparing the financial aspects of health services. Last paragraphs should conclude what you consider the best in each health system and how that can be used to improve the health system in either or both countries.

This is a lot of information. Try using charts, graphs, or list comparisons to present information simply and factually. Please document your sources of information (cite & reference page). Use primary sources, published within the last 5 years, and with at least two from peer-reviewed research journals.

Each presentation must include audiovisuals, activity, handout, and a question and answer session. Please let the professor know if you need audiovisual equipment (PowerPoint) a week before your presentation.

Total = 30 points based on student evaluations of presentation (10 pts) and professor evaluation (10 pts).

Report/article (10 pts). Students may use this information as one of the resources to write their research article.

List of Countries: Australia, Nigeria, Canada, Cambodia, China, Iraq, Cuba, Guam, France, Indonesia, India, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, Korea, Singapore, New Zealand, Afghanistan, Philippines, Malaysia, Russia, United Kingdom, Vietnam, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Italy, Rhodesia, Mexico, Sweden, Brazil.

4. Research Article stating what you think is or would be the most cost effective and beneficial health service system. Incorporate what you have learned from the text, study of the different types of health service systems around the world, your experience, the information that you and your classmates have shared, documented resources (facts/science/experience/research) (cite classmate if your use their handout, see #3) analyze the state of health services in the world then write a position article or report. Include, but not limited to, public health, community health, insurance, health law, health economics, education of health service professionals, health disparities, genetics, environment, stress, preventable diseases, infant mortality rates, cost of services, ethics, uninsured, --everything pertaining to the quality and effectiveness of health service. Length 10-15 pages, 1 ½ spacing, New Times Roman, APA style, references, header/footer, title page, page numbers, Total = 30 pts, Article (25 pts) due Dec 4 or before, Outline (5 pts) due Sept. 25 or before.

Grading Points	Total Points	Percentages
1. Class attendance and participation	20	20%
2. Outline (due Sept 25 or before)	5	5%
3. Research article (Dec 1 or before)	25	25%
4. Local health service presentation	20	20%
5. Country comparison presentation and report	30	30%
Total	100	100%

Grading Scale

A = 90 – 100 points -----	Excellent graduate or professional level work.
B = 80 – 89 points -----	Average graduate work. Met requirements of the assignments.
C = 70 – 79 points -----	Below graduate level work. May or may not meet all requirements.
D = 60 – 69 points -----	Insufficient work. Did not meet minimum requirements.
F = 59 – below-----	Unacceptable work and effort.

Master of Public Health Competencies:

As stated in the Student Handbook: “To ensure that students are able to integrate their classroom experiences with the realities of the practice of public health in the field, there are specific competencies to be achieved in the MPH degree program and within their specialization.”

By graduation, MPH students must demonstrate ability to apply public health perspectives, knowledge, and skill in the areas of cultural understanding, communication, policy development, program planning, critical analysis and public health practice. Since PH 602, Introduction to Health Services is a required course for MPH degree, some of the competencies listed below will be addressed in this course while others are left for other courses taken later in the degree program.