UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
Department of Health Services Administration

HSA 7106
Health Care Access and Utilization
Fall Semester, 2014

INSTRUCTOR
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MEETINGS
Fridays, 9:00 – 12:00, HPNP Room G108

TEXT
There is no formal text book for this course, and none has been ordered through the local bookstores. There are, however, several books and reports that might be of value to various students, depending upon experience and background. For example, in many ways the Medicare and Medicaid programs are built upon a series of reports describing access to care and the medical care utilization behavior of retirees and others without health insurance. During the 1970s and 1980s, the Institute of Medicine, as well as a series of appointed commissions, reported on variation in access and utilization with a view to defining responsive policy and program initiatives. These works generally focus on either the supply or the demand side of a simple transactional model. If you have not previously been exposed to this literature, I urge that you devote some exploration time. I can provide additional “starting point” references if you like, but a good older example is:

Aday LA; Fleming GV; Andersen RM. Access to Medical Care in the US: Who has it, Who Doesn’t. Pluribus Press, Chicago,1984. (See especially the unusually thorough bibliography)

OBJECTIVES
The course is a doctoral level seminar. The primary objective is to provide a vehicle in which student participants can pursue their own examination of the processes and mechanisms in which people use medical care. In
general, the focus is on pursuit of greater understanding of variation in the degree to which individuals have access to health care services (usually meaning they have the means and opportunity to obtain health care) and variation in the degree and manner in which that access is realized (usually manifested in the use of services). These questions reside at the intersection of three complex systems: (a) the social and economic structure of society, (b) medical care structures, processes and financing, and (c) health and health outcomes. There will be considerable focus on health and health care in the relatively contemporary U.S. The seminar meetings will include organized discussions in several key topic areas as described below, but it is anticipated that each student will also pursue an individual program of inquiry, including structured reading and/or data analysis. That individual inquiry should result in the preparation of an academic paper. The papers will be formally presented and serve as the primary focus of class discussions during the second half of the course.

Although some readings that are germane to various topic areas are identified below, it is my expectation that students will seek out and review relevant materials other than those noted.

**REQUIREMENTS**

The course is organized as a seminar. Hence student attendance and participation are required. Useful participation is, in my experience, associated with timely completion of relevant reading, thinking, and related preparation.

Each student is required to identify a specific topic area of interest within the course and pursue relatively independent inquiry in the literature on that topic. Each student will prepare an academic paper on the topic he/she has selected. The foundation for the paper will derive from a structured, systematic review of current literature germane to the question of interest. The literature review will be summarized and submitted in the form of a bibliography (details to be discussed in class). The paper will be orally presented in class at a scheduled time, presumably as a lecture/discussion. It is to be submitted in final written form before 5:00 PM on December 10, 2014. Extensions to this deadline will be granted only with great reluctance and must be formally requested BEFORE the deadline.

**EVALUATION**

Student performance will be evaluated in the four required areas: attendance and participation (10% of final grade); bibliography (20% of final grade); oral presentation (20% of the final grade) and the formal paper (50% of the final grade).
TOPICAL OUTLINE

August 29       Introduction and Bureaucracy
September 5     Historical and Disciplinary Perspectives on Obtaining Medical Care
September 12    No Class Meeting
September 19*   The Behavioral Model
September 26    Extending the Behavioral Model
October 3       Need
October 10      Predisposing Characteristics, Part 1
October 17      Predisposing Characteristics, Part 2
October 24**    Enabling Characteristics
October 31*     Contextual Factors
November 7      The Current Landscape (ACA and related questions)
November 14     Student Presentations
November 21*    Student Presentations

* Faculty meetings; class schedule may be adjusted
** Possible travel; class schedule may be adjusted

RESOURCES

Additional text resources and some data germane to any student paper topic may exist. On line access to major professional or trade groups (e.g. the American Hospital Association and the Florida Hospital Association for information on hospitals) are a useful starting point. Web sites of the major health oriented foundations (Kaiser, Johnson, Commonwealth, Pew, etc.) are also valuable, as are the online resources of the Public Health Service, the NIH, HRSA, and other aspects of the federal health establishment. But I urge that you devote attention to the academic journals. Fewer than two dozen publications represent the "core" of our periodical literature. These include the following journals. You are encouraged to review recent volumes and current issues of these
journals throughout this course, and indeed throughout the period of your study in the PhD program.

American Journal of Public Health
American Journal of Law and Medicine
Annals of Internal Medicine*
Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*
Journal of Health and Social Behavior
Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law
Journal of Health Care for Poor and Underserved
Hastings Center Report
Health Affairs
Health Services Research
Inquiry
Law, Medicine and Health Care
Medical Care
Medical Care Research and Review
The Milbank Quarterly
New England Journal of Medicine*
Public Health Reports
Social Science and Medicine
Theoretical Medicine

* Although primarily clinical in orientation, these journals do carry frequent articles on organization, financing and policy issues.

Some Key Readings/Sources

1. Aday LA; Begley CE; Lairson DR; Slater CH. Evaluating the Health Care System: Effectiveness, Efficiency and Equity (2nd ed.), Chicago: Health Administration Press, 1998.


12. Davidson PL; Cunningham WE; Nakazono TT; Andersen RM. Evaluating the effect of usual source of dental care on access to dental services: comparisons among diverse populations. *Medical Care Research and Review*, 1999 Mar, 56(1):74-93.


