THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Health Care Policies and Services
Social Work 634, Section 001
Winter 2003

Professor Deborah Schild Wilkinson, Ph.D., MPH, MSW
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Course location: SSWB 2752
Tuesdays, 2:10 p.m.– 5:00 p.m.
Office hours: TBA
Alternatively, by appointment.

Course web-site: http://coursetools.ummu.umich.edu/2003/winter/swps/634/001.nsf

Course list serve:  w3-swps-634-001@umich.edu

1. Course Description:

This course will examine the strengths and limitations of the current U.S. health care system with selective comparison to international systems and highlight the various roles that social workers perform. This course will focus on the organization of services (i.e., public health and prevention/promotion services, primary care, hospitals, and long-term care). The role of the public and private sectors in health care and health policy will be presented, with special attention to the financing of health care, cost containment, managed care, fee-for-service, single payer plans, and employment linked health insurance. Vertical and horizontal integration of systems of care, access to care, utilization, and quality of care will be covered. This course will also explore health care for the underserved, alternative and complementary medicine and services, and health workplace issues, such as maldistribution, surplus of specialists, multi-skilling, underrepresentation of minorities, gender and race hierarchies, etc. Also, the impact of technology and especially information technology on health care will be reviewed.

2. Course Content:

This course will provide students with an overview of the organization and financing of health care in the U.S., including the leading types of organizations providing health care services, how much money is spent on health care, public outlays versus private health care expenditures, how health care providers are paid, and the determinants of rising costs. Cost-containment efforts will be reviewed, and students will analyze the impact of various cost-control efforts, with a special emphasis on the implications of the trend to corporate, for-profit medicine on equity, access, and quality of care. Federal, state, and local government roles and functions in health care will be addressed, and the U.S. system will be compared with the Canadian and other health care systems. The political economy of health care and its impact on health services across the life
span will be examined. The structure, functions, and relationships of the health work force will be analyzed, with special attention to issues of race and gender. The roles, status, and future of social work will be addressed.

Multicultural issues in health care will be a major focus of this course, and students will analyze the cultural competence of the U.S. health care system in terms of programs, policies, and providers and will learn to identify areas and strategies for reform. The role of social work in promoting social justice in health care will be addressed.

3. Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the evolution, organization, and distribution of health services in the U.S., including gaps and excesses, and inequities in access and quality of care.
2. Identify the strengths and limitations of the U.S. health care system compared with health care systems in other countries and directions for needed change.
3. Describe financing mechanisms for health care and their impact on equity and access.
4. Discuss the contributions and limitations of alternative and complementary medicine and health services.
5. Discuss current health work force issues, including maldistribution, hyperspecialization, skill mix, and race and gender hierarchies.
6. Describe the role of technology, including technology assessment and information and communications technology.
7. Discuss current ethical issues and controversies and apply ethical principles and decision-making in health care.
8. Describe the history, roles, functions, and future of social work in health care.

4. Relationship of the Course to Four Curricular Themes:

- **Multiculturalism and Diversity** issues will be integrated throughout the course and will be prominent in the content related to cultural competence in health care programs, policies, and the contributions and limitations of alternative and complementary medicine and health services.
- **Social Justice and Social Change** will be addressed through content on equity, quality and access, ethical issues in health care, and the role of social work in promoting social justice and social change in the health system.
- **Promotion, Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation** will be addressed in content on the organization of health services, cost containment, allocation of resources, and ethical issues in health care.
- **Behavioral and Social Science Research** will be presented throughout the course and will include findings from medical sociology, political science, health care economics, health psychology, and medical anthropology.
5. Relationship of the Course to Social Work Ethics and Values:

This course will examine current ethical issues and controversies in health care. Students will analyze these topics and apply ethical principles and decision-making to issues such as: the principles of autonomy, professional beneficence, professional autonomy, and societal risk and benefit; resource allocation; the public’s health vs. private rights; informed consent and confidentiality; use of life-support technology; assisted suicide; genetic technology; population control; abortion; environmental justice; right to care; organ procurement; and cultural and religious issues.

6. Course Requirements

Attendance
You are expected to attend and to be prepared to take part in each class session. Attendance is important for you to keep up with course work. Missing three classes will reduce your final grade one half grade (e.g. an A will be reduced to an A-) and each additional absence will reduce your final grade an additional half grade. As adult learners, I expect you to make appropriate decisions about attending class. Please notify me as soon as possible if you must miss a class. It is your responsibility to get materials, handouts, or class notes from one of your classmates if you are unable to be in class. Please be cognizant of the disruptive nature of coming to class late. If you are delayed, please enter the classroom as quietly as possible and wait until break to catch up with what is going on. I will leave handouts by the door of the classroom so you may pick them up when you enter.

Assignments
You have one major assignment that will be submitted in two segments and three brief assignments for this class. In addition to these, there will be one class-based exercise. Full instructions for the assignments are attached at the end of the syllabus and can be found on the class web site.

Format of papers
All papers must be typewritten and double-spaced using a 12 point font and one inch margins. Use APA for your papers, including proper headings and citations.
I grade all papers for my classes anonymously.

You may submit your assignments in hard copy or on a disk. If you give me an electronic copy, it must be submitted in PC format, and preferably using MSWord. (I cannot read Mac disks.) Please confirm with me in class that I am able to open your disk. Do not put your name on the disk, but instead, include a separate file titled “author” with your name in the file. With your paper submission, include a title page without your name on it, and provide a separate duplicate title page with your name. Only after I have read and graded all the papers, will I determine which paper belongs to whom.

General Expectations for Written Work
I fully expect that in all written work that students will adhere to the following NASW editorial policy:

In the interest of accurate and unbiased communication, the NASW publications program subscribe to a belief in the importance of avoiding language that might imply sexual, ethnic, or other kinds of discrimination, stereotyping, or bias. NASW is committed to the fair and equal treatment of individuals and groups, and material submitted should not promote stereotypic or discriminatory attitudes and assumptions about people. (Health and Social Work, 11:3, Summer 1986.)

Plagiarism – not referencing another’s words or ideas – is a violation of academic integrity and will be grounds for failure on an assignment. In addition, papers or journal entries with are completed for another course are not acceptable and will be assigned 0 points. Please refer to page 57-59 of your Student Guide to the Master’s in Social Work Degree Program 2002-2003 for further discussion of plagiarism.

All assignments are due only on the dates specified. Incomplete grades are assigned only through negotiation with me and that negotiation must occur before the paper’s due date. Unless an extension contract has been arranged between a student and me, any assignment that is not completed on the due dates will be assigned 0 points.

Grading

Each assignment will be given a letter grade. The criteria for each grade are as follows:

- **A or A-** Mastery of subject content, demonstration of critical analysis, creativity and/or complexity in completion of assignment. The difference between A and A- is based on the degree to which these skills are demonstrated.
- **B+** Mastery of subject content beyond expected competency, but has not demonstrated additional critical analysis, creativity or complexity in the completion of the assignment.
- **B** Mastery of subject content at level of expected competency – meets course expectations.
- **B-** Less than adequate competency, but demonstrates student learning and potential for mastery of subject content.
- **C or C-** Demonstrates a minimal understanding of subject content. Significant areas needing improvement to meet course requirements.
- **E** Student has failed to demonstrate minimal understanding of subject content.

In assigning grades on papers, I take into consideration both content and format. Though content is more heavily weighed, format, and presentation are also important. Failure to follow APA guidelines for referencing and for headings will result in a lower grade.

For assistance with writing, you may go to the Writing Workshop, 1139 Angell Hall, (734) 764-0429.

I suggest that you have someone who is unfamiliar with your subject read your paper before you turn it in. An outside reader can tell you if your writing is not clear, if you omitted a word or
phrase, or if you used the wrong word. Spell checkers and grammar checkers are useful tools, but not as reliable as a human reader.

Grades will be based on the following:

- Policy analysis, 40 points.
- Policy advocacy, public commentary, 10 points each (30 points).
- Policy development presentation and participation, 30 points.

Final grades will be assigned with the following scale:

- A+ = 99 - 100
- B+ = 86 - 89
- C+ = 74 - 77
- A = 95 - 98
- B = 82 - 85
- C = 70 - 73
- A- = 90 - 94
- B- = 78 - 81
- C- = 66 - 69

I will take into account class participation, attendance, tardiness and/or preparation for class when making final grade assignments.

7. Course resources:

Required texts:


Course web site:
A web site for this course is located at http://coursetools.ummu.umich.edu
The web site includes: this syllabus; a course schedule independent of the syllabus; the detailed assignment information; useful links, and any additional reading assignments not currently listed on the written syllabus. Announcements related to the class will also be posted as needed. A discussion section has been activated for this class. You may use it to post ideas about health policy, to ask questions of me and of your classmates, or to otherwise engage in class related discussion.

Course list serve:
A list serve for the class has been set up. The address is: w3-swps-634-001@umich.edu. The list serve will be used for announcements. If you have questions about the class that will be of interest to other class members, you may use the list serve. If you have questions that are specific to your own work, please use my personal e-mail address: drsw@umich.edu.
Please refrain from sending jokes, chain mail or other non-course related messages on the list serve.

8. Course schedule:

The Course Schedule that follows is tentative and is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class, on the course web site and via list serve. They will be made far enough in advance so that you will have sufficient time to make adjustments in your reading and assignments. Additional reading assignments may be given in class, as well as on the course web-site.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session and Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Preparation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 – January 14</td>
<td>Overview of U.S. Health Care Systems Paying for Care Federalism and Health Care</td>
<td>B-G Ch. 2 – 5, pp. 5 – 52 H-R Ch. 2, pp. 41 – 70</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 – January 21</td>
<td>Health Care Organization Cost Controls Governors and State Legislators and Health policy</td>
<td>B-G Ch. 6 – 9, pp. 53 – 103 H-R Ch. 3 – 4, pp. 71 – 110</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 – January 28</td>
<td>Long Term Care &amp; Prevention Managed Care Introduction to social justice and health</td>
<td>B-G Ch. 10 – 11, pp. 104 – 126 H-R Ch. 5, pp. 113 – 141 R-B-S Ch. 1 – 3, pp. 6 – 52</td>
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<td>5 – February 4</td>
<td>Quality of Health Care, Ethics &amp; Rationing (1) SCHIP Justice and health (2)</td>
<td>Commentary 1 due B-G Ch. 12 – 13, pp. 127 – 159 H-R. Ch. 6, pp. 142 – 186 R-B-S Ch. 4 – 7, pp. 53 – 96</td>
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<td>6 – February 11</td>
<td>International Health Care – National Health Insurance Presentations 1 (5 nations) Public Mental Health Rationing (2)</td>
<td>B-G Ch. 14 – 15, pp. 160 – 184 H-R Ch. 7, pp. 187 - 206 R-B-S Ch. 8 – 10, pp. 102 – 143</td>
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7 - February 18  Conflicts & Workforce  B-G Ch. 16-18, pp. 185 – 208  
Presentations 2 (Professional Organizations)  
Oregon’s rationing  
Rationing (3)  
H-R Ch. 8, pp. 207 - 226  
R-B-S Ch. 11 – 13, pp. 144 – 182  

February 25  No Class – Winter term break  

8 - March 4  Tobacco Money  Commentary 2 due  
Presentations 3 (Health Industry)  
Ethics and Clinical Trials  
H-R Ch. 9, pp. 227 - 250  
R-B-S Ch. 14- 16 pp. 183 - 205  

9 - March 11  Racial Groups – trials and mistrust  
Presentations 4 (Grass roots organizations)  
Gender issues  
H-R Ch. 10, pp. 251 - 269  
R-B-S Ch. 17 – 18 pp. 212 – 234  

10 - March 18  Stigma, compassion and disability  
Presentations 5 (government agencies)  
Children’s needs  
H-R Ch. 11, pp. 273 –291  
R-B-S Ch. 19 – 21 pp. 235 – 269  

11 - March 25  Meeting the needs of the aged  
Policy decisions 1 – eligibility  
Caring for Caretakers  
Justice, Health and Poverty  
R-B-S Ch. 22 – 25 pp. 270 – 312  

12 - April 1  Alternative Care  Policy Brief due  
Policy decisions 2 – benefits  
Organ transplants and other scare resources  
R-B-S Ch. 26 – 28 pp. 319 – 372  

13 - April 8  When should care end?  Commentary 3 due  
Policy decisions 3 – delivery of services  
Disability (2) and Responsibility  
R-B-S Ch. 29 – 31 pp. 373 – 425  

14 - April 1  Wrap up of justice issues  
Policy decisions 4 – funding of services  
Wrap up class (Whew!)  
R-B-S Ch. 32 – 34 pp. 426 – 457
9. Housekeeping

Electronic Devices
In consideration of your classmates, and due to their disruptive nature, I request that all students
turn off all telephones and pagers while you are in my class. This is your time and I want you to
be able to protect it. I prefer that you receive no messages during class time, however, if you
must be on call for an emergency, please let your home or office knows that you are only
available for emergencies that no one else can handle. If you must carry a pager, please set it to
vibrate only.

Special Circumstances
If there are any circumstances that require that I and/or the class adapt to your special needs,
please consult with me.

Religious Observances
Please notify me if religious observances conflict with class or due dates for assignments so we
can make appropriate arrangements.

10. Additional Materials: the following books and journals may serve as useful references for
you in your research for your assignments.

A. Books:


New York: Oxford University Press.


York: Oxford University Press.


Cambridge, MA: Center for National Health Program Studies, Harvard Medical School/
Cambridge Hospital.


B. Journals:

American Journal of Public Health
Ethnicity and Disease
Health and Social Policy
Health and Social Work
International Journal of Health Services
Journal of the American Medical Association
Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved
Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law
Journal of Public Health Policy
Medical Care
New England Journal of Medicine
Social Science and Medicine