

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL of SOCIAL WORK
S631 Social Policy & Services II: Health Care (3 credits)

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Section No: H028
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I. Course Rationale and Description

The purpose of this course is to provide intensive study of a specific field of service delivery and to provide an opportunity for synthesis and application of learning in the specific social policy area. This course is one of the curricular offerings directed toward the development of a specialization in a specific field of practice. Opportunity for students will be encouraged for direct involvement in the political and organizational processes used to influence policy, the process of policy formulation, and the frameworks for analyzing social policies in light of principles of social and economic justice. The content of the specialized social policy course will build on the analysis of the current patterns in the provision of social services and the role of the "social policy practitioner" in the helping or deterring people in the maintenance or attainment of optimal health and well-being.

The study of the Health Care service delivery system will be focused on two levels of inquiry: (1) the theoretical concepts and skills of social policy analysis explicated in previous courses; namely, the interrelationships inherent in social need and problem definition, formulation of social policy goals and objectives, program design strategies, and realities involved in being a social policy practitioner on social policy issues of a specific service delivery system; and (2) the critical thinking and political realities involved in being a social work practitioner on social policy issues of Health Care.

II. Course Objectives

A. Common Objectives

In this course, students are expected to demonstrate achievement of the following objectives:

1. Develop specialized knowledge in Health Care with focus on:
 - a. the dimensions of the problems affecting the population served;
 - b. the structure, organization, funding of services, and intergovernmental relationships in dealing with the problems;
 - c. the legal frameworks which influence and govern services;

- d. trends and issues which effect service delivery in the specific field;
 - e. differential social work roles and interventions; and
 - f. effects of the service delivery system upon socially and economically oppressed populations.
2. Critically analyze the adequacy, effectiveness, and cost efficiency of social policies that address problems and needs of vulnerable populations and social service delivery systems within a specific field of practice.
 3. Analyze the impact of oppression and discrimination, and understand and apply strategies and skills of change in social policy practice that advances social and economic justice.
 4. Choose appropriate strategies of communication and change tactics with a variety of client populations and colleagues in society within the structure of organizations, communities, and service delivery systems.
 5. Analyze the impact of social policies on client systems, workers, and agencies and focus professional skills in the influence of policy formulation and change.
 6. Understand and evaluate relevant research studies and apply findings to social policy issue.
 7. Apply critical thinking skills within professional contexts, including synthesizing and applying appropriate theories and knowledge to social policy practice.

B. Specific Objectives

In the Social Policy and Services Course, the Health Care section will focus on the health care delivery system and how it has shaped social work practice. The structure, organization, and components of the delivery systems to vulnerable populations. Policies and programs will be examined in the context of contemporary political, economic, cultural and social forces. Particular emphasis will be placed upon the goals, activities involved in contemporary health care problems, issues and trends. Each student is expected to:

1. Prepare a legislative history of various aspects of Health Care Reform.
2. Acquire knowledge of the health status and related health problems of differential populations with particular reference to elements of age, sex, ethnicity, poverty, and geographic location.
3. Understand the structure, organization and intergovernmental funding arrangements of health care delivery systems in the public and private sectors.
4. Understand the legislation(federal, state, and local) that influences the provision of health services, both historically and int he contemporary scene and the importance of the health professional's ability to analyze policy implications of a problem and prepare testimony/position

papers.

5. Critically analyze the adequacy, effectiveness and cost efficiency of social policies on health care that influence resource acquisition, resource allocation (staff deployment & funding), and resource utilization.
6. Choose appropriate strategies of communication and change tactics in organizations, communities and society for the social work roles in management, administration, and interventions effective in the health care field, with vulnerable client populations and colleagues, including interdisciplinary team practice.
7. Identify and analyze trends and issues in social service delivery in the health field, including proposals for health care reform, managed care and health maintenance organizations.
8. Expand skills in analyzing alternative programs for delivery of governmental related health services, especially Medicaid, Medicare and champus programs.
9. Understand and assess the functions/values of community-based health care and the other disciplines in health care and differential patterns for provision of interdisciplinary services.
10. Analyze critically the research behind the proposed national health priorities and to identify the major issues in alternative proposals and the Clinton Health Care Plan.
11. Understand the importance of consumer`s rights and participation in the delivery of health care services to avoid oppression and discrimination and to advance social and economic justice.
12. Prepare a scholarly paper for presentation at a regional conference.

III. Course Outline and Readings

The basic texts that will be required for this course are:

Jennie Jacobs Ironenfeld (1993), Controversial issues in health care policy, Newbury Park, CA: SAGE Publications, 186 pages [JJK] and

Richard Yarian, Ed. (1993). Annual editions: Health 94/95, Guilford, CT.: The Dushkin Publishing Group, 246 pages. [AEH]

(OPTIONAL) You & the law (1995), [YTL] Indianapolis, IN: Indiana Legal Services Support Center, 240 pages

Additionally, a more extensive bibliography is provided and will direct the student to key books and articles dealing with health care policy and services. Six books may be valuable “classic” references for the student in the health care are to consult at some times:

Harriet M. Bartlett. Social work practice in the health field. Washington, DC: NASW, 1961.

Neil F. Bracht (ed.). Social work in health care. New York: Haworth Press, 1978.

Richard C. Cabot. Social service and the art of healing. Washington, DC.: NASW (1915 Classic), 1973.

Dora Goldstine (ed.). Expanding horizons in medical social work. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (1954), 1973.

Dora Goldstine (ed.). Readings in the theory and practice of medical social work. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (1954), 1973.

Anne R. Somers and Herman M. Somers. Health and health care: Policies in perspective. Germantown, MD.: Aspen Systems Corp., 1977.

This topical outline will provide an organizing framework for the course content. Topical units, major concepts, and reading assignments from the texts are listed. A calendar of unit content, book reviews/critical incidents, and possible guest speakers will be discussed in class and distributed later.

- i. Intro
- ii. Social Policy
- iii. Intro to Health Care Policy Issues J&K- 1.
Provider of Care: Health Professions and Health Facilities J&K-6.
- iv. Relationship of Government and Politics to Health and health care L&R-1
Presidential leadership and health policy L&R-5
Congress and Health Policy L&R-6
- v. The Politics of Universal Health Care L&R-14
Gridlock and Breakthrough in American Health Politics L&R-3
- vi. The Costs of Health Care J&K-2
The Political Economy of Health Services L&R-4
- vii. Access to Health Care L&R-13
The Restructuring of the American health Care System L&R-2

- viii. Papers Due-Group Presentation
- ix. On Treacherous Ground, the Strategic Choices of health Care Groups L&R-11
- x. The Evolving Challenge of Health Policy L&R-7
- xi. The Demand for Legislative and National Health Care Reform L&R-10
 - State Roles in health Care Policy L&R-8
 - Public Opinion and Health Policy L&R-9
- xii. The Political Economy of Health Services L&R-4
- xiii. Access to Health Care Services and Suggestions for Health Care Reform J&K-9
- xiv. In-class analysis
- xv. Final Paper Due

IV. Course Format and Assignments

1. Group Assignment I

Legislative Analysis- Each assigned group of students will act, as a committee and research a legislative analysis of a specific health care act or program.

- 2. Each group will present the finds of their research to the class covering all aspects of their research.
- 3. Final Analysis-The class will combine their respective legislative analysis into a final paper to be presented at a regional conference.

There is to be only one paper submitted from all previous class assignments.
Recommended Readings (continued on next page)