COURSE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

HLSC 3300 addresses how the U.S. health services system is organized, how health services are delivered, and the mechanisms by which health services are financed in the United States. This course provides an undergraduate level overview of the U.S. health services system and its key components, including health system foundations, health system resources, health system policies and processes, and health system outcomes.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Describe the history of the development of the U.S. health care system
2. Describe the current systems in operation in the U.S. health care delivery
3. Analyze the interrelationships among health service systems, policies and service delivery
4. Discuss and debate challenges and problems facing the U. S. health care system

FACULTY

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Office Hours: By appointment; please call in advance, or email via the course email.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND READINGS

Supplemental readings will be posted during the semester as announced on the course schedule or as postings to the discussion forum, Messages from Dr. Miller.

Students are expected to be up-to-date with the assigned readings at all times during the summer semester, as outlined within the course schedule.

TEACHING METHODS

- Online discussions
- Chapter Quizzes (timed; open book)
- Written assignment (on one topic in concerning health care reform)
- Final examination

GRADING OF COURSE ACTIVITIES

The relative contribution to the final course grade is distributed as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Contribution to Final Course Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly course postings/participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences:

- 90 – 100%: A
- 83 – 89 %: B
- 75 – 82%: C
- 67 – 74%: D
- Less than 67%: F

Extra credit work will not be accepted.

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF EACH GRADED COURSE COMPONENT

Course Paper

A complete explanation of the course paper will be provided after the semester begins, including a grading rubric. Grading criteria will be included. This explanatory document will be posted under the Information icon on the course home page. This document is considered an appendix to the syllabus. The paper topics will, in general, center on application of course learning about the US Health Care System.

Weekly Quizzes

Each week, one or two quizzes will be available under the ASSESSMENT icon on the course home page. You will see there the quiz and the dates of availability. You will have 90 seconds to answer each question; for example, if the quiz has 10 questions, then you will have 15 minutes to complete the
quiz. The questions will be in a multiple-choice format. Only one attempt is allowed per quiz. Upon
completion you will see all the questions again, along with items you may have missed and with the
correct answer. Your scores will be available in your personal gradebook.

The schedule for the weekly quizzes is included on the official course schedule. This document is
considered part of the course syllabus.

**Weekly Discussion Postings**

Each week, all students are expected to post to the course discussions. These will be found
under the **DISCUSSIONS** icon on the home page’s menu on the left side of the Blackboard 9.1 menu. This
will bring up several discussion posting options.

The discussion area labeled **Messages from Faculty** is where the instructor will post course
information, updates, etc.

You will also see a discussion forum called **Student Introductions**, which is where you will post
your student introductions. You are welcome to attach a photo of yourself, so your classmates can see
you “really” ...not just as a cyberspace messenger.

The **Weekly Discussion** area, accessed by clicking on that item, will be where you can respond to
weekly discussion postings made by the instructor to that area and ask questions yourself about reading
material assigned for the week. Please note under this discussion area there is a discussion folder for
each week of the course, with the “topic title” next to the course week number and inclusive dates.
Blackboard 9.1 allows the instructor to link the weekly discussion topics and questions under the
Units/Lessons menu button, also to the left on the home page. By using the information in each weekly
unit, the student won’t have to go back and forth as much as was necessary in the past.

It is expected that each student will make a meaningful posting to this area two, or more, times
per week. A “meaningful posting” is one that offers new information about the week’s topic(s) or
further supports the posting of another student by citing additional information on that topic.
Meaningful posts usually contain some new information not previously cited; while the original posting
should be referenced as needed, the follow up response postings should similarly include appropriate
citations. **PLEASE NOTE: Copying and pasting of material from another source, including the internet,
is considered plagiarism (a failure of academic integrity), and will be treated as such. If you find
material you wish to post, please summarize it in your own words and post your summary, and cite
the reference from which the material was obtained. This should be done in formatting recommended
by the American Psychological Association (APA), 6th ed. The instructor will post a link to an internet
site that has information on proper APA formatting under the course INFORMATION area.**

Comments such as, “I agree with this posting,” or “I really like your idea” do not add new
meaning and should be avoided since they add to the time students must review postings and fail to
offer new information about the topic being discussed. Such postings will not count toward the weekly
participation grade. The instructor reads all postings at least every other day, and may make further
comments as well. Students who do not post as suggested are subject to a drop in their discussion
posting/participation grade.
The CYBER CAFÉ area is a discussion area where you can post interesting discoveries outside the material being discussed that week. Meaningful postings in the Cyber Café will count toward your discussion postings for the week.

Course emails (BLACKBOARD [Bb] MAIL icon, menu at left) are not to be used for discussions about the course discussions, quizzes, course paper, etc. Any discussions you have should appear in the discussion areas under the Communication icon. Reserve the course emails for rapid exchanges or contacting the instructor. Remember: If the instructor cannot “see” the discussion, it will not count toward the participation component of the course grade.

Posting etiquette. Each student will show other students and the instructor appropriate respect in postings. Do not use terms that are stereotyping, stigmatizing, or demeaning to one or more groups of individuals. Acknowledging cultural differences in a meaningful way is encouraged for all students. Failure to do this will result in your posting being removed. The second occurrence will result in a deduction in your participation grade of 50%. The third occurrence will result in a reduction of your course grade by 10%. No exceptions will be granted.

Final Examination

The final exam will be posted under the Assessments icon during the last week of the summer semester. It will consist of three short-answer essay questions. You will have 48 hours to submit the final examination. It will cover all material from the course. Further information will be distributed to students later in the semester.

OTHER INFORMATION

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at 361.825.5816 or visit the office in Corpus Christi Hall 118. Qualifying students should do this during the first week of classes. Online information is available at http://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/.

Academic Advising:

Not all students in the course are necessarily enrolled through the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS). However, the CONHS requires that students enrolled in the college consult with an Academic Advisor regarding their degree plan and/or changes to their degree plan. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan and indicate plan is active by signing the plan. Once the plan is completed it will be filed in the student’s record. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Island Hall, within the College’s office. If you need to
contact your advisor, or an advisor in the CONHS, please call 825-2648, and ask to speak to an undergraduate advisor.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to a penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one's own work.) Students are directed to the following site for additional information, including the penalties that may be invoked, at [http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=11#Academic_Honesty](http://catalog.tamucc.edu/content.php?catoid=2&navoid=11#Academic_Honesty).

**Grade Appeal Process:**

As stated in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CONHS) Handbook under section VII Policies and Procedures, a student that believes he or she has an academic grade appeal is encouraged to go through the CONHS academic review process prior to pursuing University Grade Appeal. See the handbook for the process. As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outline in the course syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.
**COURSE SCHEDULE**

*This schedule may be revised during the semester. If so, students will be notified in postings from the instructor.*

(Posted URL links were verified May 14, 2014 or later.)

The course weeks run from Monday, 8am, to the following Monday at 8am. This schedule may be changed during the summer semester; changes will be announced to the main discussion area. Supplemental readings may also be announced by the instructor during the semester. *Important University calendar dates are shown in RED.*

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**Week 1: June 2 (Monday) – June 9, 2014**

**Introductions and History of the US Health Care System**

*Tuesday, June 3: Last day to register or add a class*

**Student expectations:**

- Each student will review of the course documents, including the syllabus and schedule.
- Each student will introduce himself/herself under the discussion heading, *Student Introductions*.
- Each student will review *materials currently listed under each of the icons* accessible from the course home page. This will facilitate understanding about where course materials can be found at any time during the semester.

**Readings/Assignments:**

Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 1. History of the US Healthcare System

Complete Quiz 1.

Another reading:


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**Week 2: June 9 – June 16, 2014**

**The Affordable Care Act of 2010 and Aspects of the US Health Care Services Delivery**

**Reading Assignments:**

Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 2. Impact of the Affordable Care Act on Healthcare Services

Chapter 3. Current Operations of the Healthcare System

Complete Quiz 2 and 3.

Another reading:


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**Week 3: June 16 – June 23, 2014**

**The State and National Government’s Role in Health Care**

Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 4: Government’s Role in US Health Care
Chapter 5: Public Health’s Role in Health Care
Complete Quiz 4 and 5.

Week 4: June 23 – June 30, 2014
Inpatient and Outpatient Healthcare Services
Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 6: Inpatient and Outpatient Services
Complete Quiz 6

Two readings:

The Daily Take Team. (2013. May 8). One hospital charges $9,000—another, $38,000. Available at http://truth-out.org/opinion/item/16256-one-hospital-charges-8000another-38000

Week 5: June 30 – July 7, 2014
The Actual Provision of Care: Who Does It?
Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 7: US Healthcare Workforce
Chapter 8: Healthcare Financing
Complete Quiz 7 and 8.

A reading:

Week 6: July 7 – July 14, 2014
The Alphabet Soup: Managed Care, Integrated Health Care Systems (HMOs, PPOs, ACOs, etc.), and IT (Information Technology)
Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 9: Managed Care Impact on Healthcare Delivery
Chapter 10: Information Technology: Impact on Health Care
Complete Quiz 9 and 10.

Week 7: July 14 – July 21, 2014
Legal Aspects of Health Care
Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 11: Healthcare Law
Complete Quiz 11.

Week 8: July 21 – July 28, 2014
Ethical Aspects of Health Care
Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 12: Healthcare Ethics
Complete Quiz 12
**Supplemental Reading:**

**Week 9: July 28 – August 4, 2014**

The Conundrum of Mental Health

Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 13: Mental Health Issues
Complete Quiz 13

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**STUDENT PAPERS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE WEDNESDAY, JULY 30, AT 8am.**

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**Week 10: August 4 – (Thursday) August 7, 2014**

Synthesis

Tuesday, August 5: Last day to withdraw from the University
Thursday, August 7: Last day of class and final examinations

Niles, 2nd ed.: Chapter 14: Analysis of the US Healthcare System
No Quiz this week.

Each student is requested to complete the course evaluation before submitting the course final exam. Dr. Miller will provide the password needed for the evaluation to all students. Course evaluations remain anonymous when submitted.

The course final examination will be available from 8am, Monday, August 4, and must be turned in (via course email) before 8am, Thursday, August 7.

**REQUIRED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE COURSE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE**

After reviewing the course syllabus and schedule, each student will use the course (Blackboard) email function (available under the MAIL icon on the home page) to email the instructor that both documents have been downloaded, read, and understood. Each student may ask pertinent questions at that time as well. The instructor will reply to the student email within 24 to 48 hours.

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