NUR 841: Issues Impacting APN Practice

Spring 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

Sections: 001 (East Lansing)
701 (Kalamazoo)

Faculty: Manfred Stommel
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Instructors

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Class Meetings

Thursdays, 1:15-3:05

Course Description

This two-credit course is designed to provide an understanding of the economic, organizational and political environment in which advanced practice nurses spend a major part of their professional life. The course juxtaposes a macro- or system-perspective to a micro- or business-perspective. Basic principles of economic and organizational theory will be employed to describe the structure of the U.S. health care market, the financing of the service delivery system, and the organizational context of service delivery. A few comparisons with the health care systems of other advanced industrial countries will serve to address issues of equity, access, and quality of care. The insights gained from an understanding of the basic economic and organizational principles underpinning the U.S. health care system will be applied to a discussion of the role of the advanced practice nurse in the provision of primary care. This includes an examination of the patterns of cooperation and competition among various primary care providers. It also includes an emphasis on reimbursement procedures for APN services, as well as the ethics of clinical decision-making under a system of economic incentives and disincentives inherent in re-imbursement rules.

Prerequisites

NUR801 or permission from instructor.
**Instructional Methods**

Class time will be spent in the form of lectures, interspersed with ample discussions. In addition, students will participate in a limited number of group projects that require independent research. The instructors will select three of the projects for presentation in class. For the discussion sections in this course to be successful, it is **required** that students complete all assigned readings in time.

**Course Objectives**

Upon completion of NUR 841, the student should be able to:

1. Analyze the economic and political forces underpinning the U.S. health care system.
2. Analyze the basic principles of financing and insurance for health care services.
3. Analyze the market forces and government regulations shaping the labor markets in primary care.
4. Articulate the impact of contemporary economic, political and ethical issues on APN practice.
5. Analyze how political, economic and social policies influence access, delivery and organization of primary care.
6. Discuss principles of effectiveness and efficiency in primary care.

**Method of Evaluation**

1. **IN-CLASS MID-TERM (35%)**

   The mid-term exam is an individual exam that requires the student to answer questions in the format of SHORT essays (approximately one page of response per question).

2. **GROUP PRESENTATIONS IN CLASS (30%)**

   Within the first four weeks, students will be asked to form work groups (with a maximum of 5 members). Each group will prepare a paper for presentation that contains a realistic **business plan** for a particular clinical setting of your choice. The plan should contain a purpose of mission statement for the clinic, a short business history (if applicable), a description of the organizational
set-up, a profile of the typical clientele, a marketing plan, a management plan and a realistic financial plan including a list of sources of funds, expected expenditures, etc. The paper should also emphasize the contribution of the APN to the solvency of the clinic. More detailed information about this assignment will be given in class. Group papers will be turned in two weeks before the in-class presentation, and the instructors will select three papers for class presentation. (All papers will be made available on a special course web site.) Assignment of students to groups will occur by mid-February.

3. IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM (35%)

Like the mid-term exam, the final is an individual exam that requires the student to answer questions in the format of SHORT essays (approximately one page of response per question).

Required Books


+ assigned articles in Course Pack.
Course Calendar

Week 1 (January 10):

General perspectives on the role of markets and government in the provision of healthcare
(Readings: Blank: pp. 143-147, pp.283-295)

Week 2 (January 17):

Healthcare and the Profit Motive: Compatible or Conflicting Goals?
The example of the pharmaceutical industry
Problems of voluntary private insurance: ‘adverse selection’ and ‘moral hazard’
Stolberg & Gerth: NYT Series: In a drug's journey to market, discovery is just the first of many steps; How companies stall generics and keep themselves healthy; Drug industry has ties to groups with many different voices; Pushing pills with piles of money; As devastating epidemics increase, nations take on drug companies; R. Kuttner, The AHCS - Wall Street and Health Care, NEJM)

Week 3 (January 24):

Introduction to developing a business plan:
What are the core elements of a business plan of a business plan?
Why is it important for NP's to know about business planning?
Readings: Buppert, Chapter 11, Appendix 11A/B
Fettig and Riegel: Adult Daycare: An entrepreneurial opportunity for nursing

Week 4 (January 31):

The financing of U.S. health care: Who pays for what and how?

Week 5 (February 7):

The U.S. Health Care Delivery System I: Hospitals, nursing homes, and community-based care
The U.S. Health Care Delivery System II: Nurses and physicians:
Their training and labor markets. Who should pay for the training of medical/health care professionals?
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(Readings: Blank, pp. 23-37, 83-91; Bodenheimer & Grumbach: pp. 77-114;
T. Bodenheimer, The AHCS - Physicians and the Changing Medical
Market Place, NEJM; Mundinger, Can APN Succeed in the Primary Care Market?)

Week 6 (February 14):

Access to medical care and health status of population groups;
Why are there so many uninsured people in the U.S.?
(Readings: Blank, pp. 72-82; Bodenheimer & Grumbach: pp. 21-46;
R. Kuttner, The AHCS - health insurance coverage, NEJM)

Week 7 (February 21):

Cost control and quality of care: conflicting or compatible goals?
Cost control and rationing of health care services;
(Readings: Bodenheimer & Grumbach: pp 191-240; Blank, pp. 72-99, pp.154-178;
T. Bodenheimer, The AHCS - The Movement for Improved Quality in Health Care NEJM;

Week 8 (February 28):

MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Spring Break

Week 9 (March 14):

International comparisons: Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain
and Japan.
The uniqueness of the United States among advanced industrial nations:
government programs and regulations without national health insurance;
(Readings: Blank, pp. 128-153; Bodenheimer & Grumbach: pp. 7-20, 241-258; Anderson,
In search of value: an international comparison of costs, access, and outcomes.)

Week 10 (March 21):

Relevant regulations of NP Practice
Buppert: Chapters 3-6,
Pearson: Annual Legislative Update, Nurse Practitioner, January 2000 7-57
Web sites to be provided
Week 11 (March 28):

Measuring and monitoring quality performance:
HEDIS and Provider Report Cards
Readings: Buppert: Chapter 15,
Web sites to be provided

Week 12 (April 4):

Preparing for Practice: Contracting; Employer Expectations
Readings: Buppert: Chapters1 and 10
MNA: NP Resource Document

Week 13 (April 11):
Policy Issues related to the role of the APN: discussion will take place about how policy affects the APN and what is the role of the APN in policy change.

Due Date for Group Paper

Week 14 (April 18):

Professional and Ethical Issues: Panel Discussion
Responsibilities of NP; Future Challenges for NP; Practice Questions
Buppert: Chapters 8, 14 and 16.

Week 15 (April 25):

Class Presentation of Business Plan

Week 16 (May 2):

Final Exam