

**UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY
EXTERNAL DEGREE PROGRAM**

HSA 205-06 Introduction to the American Health System

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A macro-level examination of the origin, structure and operation of the American Health System and its subsystems and components. Topics include hospital systems, public health systems, long-term care systems, financing systems, health services delivery systems, health care providers and contemporary issues confronting the American health system. Three semester credits.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop an overview of the American health system.
2. Develop an overview of disease patterns in the United States, and the underlying determinants of health services utilization.
3. Review the different health financing mechanisms and the role of each in the American Health System.
4. Examine the roles and duties of each level of government in providing public health services, and the role of ambulatory services.
5. Examine the characteristics and the role of the hospital industry in the American health system and role and scope of services included in long-term care.
6. Explore the various settings and arrangements for the provision of mental health services.
7. Examine the nature and role of the pharmaceutical industry, and role of select professionals in the American Health System
8. Explore the role and impact of health policies on health services delivery; to present how quality of care is assessed and assured, and to present ethical issues related to the development and distribution of health services.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Text: Williams, S. J., & Torrens, P. R. (2002). *Introduction to Health Services* (6th ed). Albany, NY: Delmar/Thomson Learning, Inc.

You may purchase your textbook through MBS Direct by calling their toll free number at: 800-325-3252 or through the UIU homepage: www.uiu.edu. Click on the link called Resources for Center, External Degree and Online Program learners. Follow the link and select External Degree for your location.

It is also suggested that you have access to a copy of the APA guidelines for publications. These guidelines are almost universally the required format for published works, such as trade, scientific, and research journals. The guidelines can be found in: American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (5th ed.). Washington, DC.

COURSE SYNOPSIS:

This course is structured into six (6) Units. The course is designed with eight goals in mind:

1. To introduce the learner to the historical evolution, technology available to the American people, and to provide an overview of the American Health System
2. To familiarize the learner with the historical and current patterns of disease in the United States, and with access to health services.
3. To introduce the learner to methods of financing and structuring health services.
4. To familiarize the learner with the evolution of public health, the provision of ambulatory services.
5. To introduce the learner to the hospital system and the long-term care system.
6. To familiarize the learner with the mental health system.
7. To familiarize the learner with non-financial resources for health care.
8. To examine assessing and regulating health services, and examine ethical issues in public health and provision of health services.

INTERNET RESOURCES:

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. <http://www.jcaho.org>

American Nurses Association. <http://www.ana.org> or <http://www.nursingworld.org/about/index.htm>

American Public Health Association. <http://www.apha.org/membership/basic.htm>

American Hospital Association. <http://www.aha.org/about/history.html>

American College of Healthcare Executives. <http://www.ache.org>

The Journal of Health Administration Education. <http://www.aupha.org/journ.htm>

American College of Healthcare Executives. <http://www.ache.org>

Modern Healthcare. www.modernhealthcare.com

American Health Care Association. www.ahca.org

AHRQ-Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality. www.ahrq.gov

Federation of American Hospitals. www.americashospitals.com

Healthcare Financial Management Association <http://www.hfma.org>

National Library of Medicine www.nlm.nih.gov/

Law Library Thread <http://lawlibrary.ucdavis.edu/LAWLIB/Oct98/>

ACADEMIC RESOURCES:

Upper Iowa University maintains Library facilities to serve all students. For students enrolled in online courses, access to the Library's web site is through UIU's web site at <http://www.uiu.edu> click on the Library tab to get to the login page.

Learners enrolled in External Degree courses should also have ready access to the Internet, but this is not required. Learners should be encouraged to utilize those as resources for course assignments. Internet based research is extremely helpful and should be used, as appropriate, to supplement and update the lessons.

Online Writing Laboratories (OWLs) are provided by several universities to assist students to assess and improve student writing. The Purdue University OWL provides handouts on writing skills and related topics for free download at <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

UNIT 1: Overview of the Health Services System:

- Preface: pp. xi - xiii
 - Chapter 1 "Historical Evolution and overview of Health Services in the United States" pp. 1 – 17
 - Chapter 2 "Overview of the Organization of Health Services in the United States" pp. 18 – 46
 - Chapter 3 "Medicine and Technology" pp. 47 – 60
 - Chapter 4 "Patterns of Illness and Disease and Access to Health Care" pp. 61 – 89
- Learning Objectives: 1 & 2**

UNIT 2: Financing and Structuring Healthcare

- Chapter 5 "Financing Health Services" pp. 92 – 123
 - Chapter 6 "Managed Care: Restructuring the System" pp. 124 – 139
 - Chapter 7 "Private Health Insurance and Employee Benefits" pp. 140 – 160
- Learning Objective: 3**

UNIT 3: Providers of Health Services

- Chapter 8 "The Evolution of Public Health: A Joint Public-Private Responsibility" pp. 162 – 176
 - Chapter 9 "Ambulatory Health Care Services" pp. 177 – 201
 - Chapter 10 "Hospitals and Health Systems" pp. 202 – 233
- Learning Objectives: 4 & 5**

Mid-Term Exam

UNIT 4: Providers of Health Services

- Chapter 11 "The Continuum of Long-Term Care" pp. 234 – 279
 - Chapter 12 "Mental health Services" pp. 280 – 307
- Learning Objectives 5 & 6**

UNIT 5: Non-Financial Resources for Health Care

Chapter 13 “Pharmaceuticals” pp. 310 – 325

Chapter 14 “Healthcare Professionals” pp. 326 – 350

Learning Objective: 7

UNIT 6: Assessing and Regulating Health Services

Chapter 15 “Health Policy and the Politics of Health Care” pp. 352 – 372

Chapter 16 “Assessing and Improving Quality of Care” pp. 373 – 391

Chapter 17 “Ethical Issues in Public Health and Health Services” pp. 392 – 413

Learning Objective: 8

Final Exam

GRADING POLICY:

You will be completing six (6) units during this course. You will also have a Mid-Term and a Final Exam. Each unit should increase your knowledge of the assigned reading area. The six Unit Assignments contain a writing assignment and short answer questions. If you have any questions about the Unit Assignments, do not hesitate to contact your instructor.

You will have three (3) hours to complete the Mid-Term Exam and the Final Exam. Do not be nervous about the amount of time allowed or finishing early. The amount of time is designed to make the exams less stressful.

The Unit Assignments are worth 60 percent of your grade. The Mid-Term and Final Exams are worth a 40 percent of your grade (100 percent total).

Grading Scale:

Undergraduate Courses:

90 – 100%	A
80-<90%	B
70-<80%	C
60-<70%	D
Below 60%	F

UPPER IOWA UNIVERSITY USES A STANDARD GRADING SYSTEM:

- A** = All work is excellent, shows exceptional understanding of materials; logical, clear, and insightful written and oral work, incorporates knowledge from other sources and moves easily to the next level of understanding, works well beyond minimum requirements.
- B** = Understanding material is good to very good, demonstrates good grasp of material, good oral and written skills, produces more than the minimum requirements, quality of all work is high.
- C** = Satisfactory understanding of the material, submits only the minimum requirements, communicates adequately in oral and written formats, displays an adequate understanding of all basic concepts.
- D** = Quality and quantity written and oral work is below average and barely acceptable.
- F** = Quality and quantity written and oral work is unacceptable.

CHEATING, ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM:

Because cheating, academic dishonesty and plagiarism are affronts to the University community as a whole and a denial of the offender's own integrity, they will not be tolerated. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- the use of unauthorized books, notes or other sources in the giving or securing of help in an examination or other course assignments,
- the copying of other students' work or allowing others to copy your work,
- the submission of work that is not your own or allowing others to submit your work as theirs,
- the submission of the same work for two or more classes without the approval of any instructors involved.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- sharing academic materials knowing they will be used inappropriately,
- having access to another person's work without permission,
- providing false or incomplete information on an academic document,
- changing student records without approval.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- the presentation of another's published or unpublished work as one's own,
- taking words or ideas of another and either copying them or paraphrasing them without proper citation of the source,
- using charts, graphs, statistics or tables without proper citation.

Detected cheating, academic dishonesty, or plagiarism will result in consequences that may, at the instructor's discretion, include course failure. In addition, an offender may be reported to the Senior Vice President for the Extended University, the Dean of the Extended University, or designee for possible disciplinary action, which may include suspension or dismissal from the University. Upper Iowa University may make use of various plagiarism detection services. Individuals, by enrolling in courses offered by the University, consent to submission by the University of course-related assignments to such services and the retention of a copy of such assignments by the service. Extended University Catalog 2005/06 page 87.

COPYRIGHT PROTECTION:

In recognition of the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code), Upper Iowa University reminds both faculty members and learners that a willful infringement of the law may result in disciplinary action. The University library has available materials discussing the "fair use" concept, along with criteria and guidelines for reproduction and use of copyrighted materials

ATTENDANCE:

Even though a student does not attend a regular classroom in the traditional sense and keep up with a set schedule of assignments, it should be pointed out how important it is to keep yourself on a regular timely schedule if possible to complete and send in units. It is too easy to set work aside and decide to do it later. Suddenly, the need to complete assignments and get them in by deadlines can become stressful and, at times, impossible. The key would be to set time aside on a regular basis and submit work in a timely manner.

LIBRARY RESOURCES:

As a student of Upper Iowa University, you have access to the resources of the Henderson-Wilder Library on the Fayette campus. If travel to the campus is not feasible, you can access the library through the University's website. For InfoTrac access information, please contact the library at library@uiu.edu.

WITHDRAWAL:

If you wish to withdraw prior to the last day of the enrollment period you must contact the External Degree office by phone or in writing. After your original six-month enrollment period you no longer have the option to withdraw from the course. You must finish the course or have a final grade assigned based on the coursework submitted.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

If you require accommodation for special needs, please provide documentation to: Director of External Degree.

This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.