

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

UCLA School of Public Health

Health Services 249M: **Review of Current Health Services Management Literature**

Fall 2002/Winter 2003/Spring 2003

Instructor: Paul R. Torrens, MD,MPH

Date/Time: Fridays, 6:00 - 7:00PM

Room: Room 41-268

Restrictions: Restricted to students in the Master of Public Health Program for Health Professionals

Background

An essential component of graduate education in health services management is the development of a broad knowledge regarding the current literature in academic and professional journals in health services. Since the field of health services is undergoing such major challenges and pressures, and since the field of health services is changing so rapidly, it is important that students (a) remain current on the most recent developments in health services management and (b) be able to place these current developments in proper context of academic research and theory. This course is designed to fill this important component in the graduate education of master's students in health services management.

Methods of the Course

There will be two streams of academic and professional journal articles and reviews that will be accessed in this course. In the first stream, the students themselves will be instructed to select the most relevant/important/interesting article that they have read in the period between each class session and will be required to write a brief review of that article. Each student's individual review will be faxed into the MPH-HP Program office several days before the next class session and the MPH-HP Program office will duplicate each student's review and then assemble a collection of all the individual reviews for each student. (i.e. in a class of 35 students, there will be 35 different reviews of 35 different articles; each student will get a complete set of the 35 different reviews at the time each class meets). When the class assembles for the next session, the course instructor (who will have previously reviewed the 35 different reviews) will select several of the reviews which seem to be either (a) related to one another and on the same or related topics, or (b) containing particularly important information, developments, or insights. He will then call upon the student who has written the review selected for discussion to make a brief (5 minutes) presentation on the relevant article and why he/she thinks it is significant. Following this there will a brief (5 -10 minute) discussion period with the entire class participating, asking further questions, or commenting on the material being presented. The instructor will vary the topics, session by session, and will also see to it that all students are selected for presentation of their reviews, so that each student will have the experience of making a brief, succinct, professional presentation of their review before a constructively critical audience of their peers.

The second stream of articles will be articles that are selected by the instructor for review by the entire class of students. For each session, the instructor will select one article to be read and informally reviewed by all the students in the class; a formal, written review of the article selected for each session may be required of the students in the class, depending upon the workload and general pace of the discussion of students' other reviews. Whether a formal, written review of the index articles selected by the instructor is required or not, each student will be required to prepare a brief oral review of the index article and its importance.

Grading for the Course

Grading for the course will be assigned on the following basis:

- (a) active participation in all the seminar sessions and the discussions of the articles under review.....1/3
- (b) preparation of an individual review of a student-selected article for each class session.....1/3
- (c) preparation of an individual review for each of the instructor selected articles for each class.....1/3