

BSH 5000

Behavioral Science and Health Capstone

Spring 2009

The Behavioral Science and Health (BSH) program provides you with a perspective on health and health care from a variety of academic disciplines. The Capstone course is the final class of the BSH program and allows you to apply the interdisciplinary coursework of your academic studies to one central theme. Our theme this semester is Technology and Health Care. Throughout this semester you will hear leading experts discuss how societal institutions, social norms, health care, and technology interact to determine technological advances in health care sectors on domestic and international levels.

Your BSH coursework provides you with an excellent foundation to analyze and discuss this year's lectures concerning health care and technology. For instance, your work in Health Economics prepared you to analyze how new technology is developed and marketed to the masses; while your coursework in Ethics enables you to address whether privacy laws are more important than improving health outcomes and reducing health care costs via electronic medical records, a technological advance. However, you are expected to use all your studies together in a dynamic manner instead of singularly in a static one. For example, you can use economics and ethics together to analyze whether the cost to develop artificial limbs is the best way for society to spend its research dollars. Possible questions you could address on this topic include: Should we focus on cancer research instead? Is restoring a person's ability to walk the same as prolonging a cancer patient's life by five years? Why? What are the economic benefits and costs of each technological advance? What are the ethical implications of selecting one form of research over the other?

The economics/ethics example is just one of many discussions we will have during the term. Additional questions and subjects addressed are:

- What is technology?
- How are technological advances determined? By society? By insurance firm officials? By government officials? By all three?
- Are some technological advances more beneficial than others? Why?
- How new technologies are marketed (for coverage) to government officials, insurance officials, and society in general
- The research process of technological advances
- Do technological advances spread throughout the world or are they confined to Western nations? Is this ethical?
- How technological advances in one health sector influence other health and non-health sectors
- How new technological developments influence and in many cases are hindered by existing cultural institutions and norms

These are just a few of the topics you will hear lectures on this semester. The course does not end with the lectures; the purpose of the Capstone course is to provide you with a setting in which you can apply your past studies to a single facet of health and health care. Thus, weekly

discussion sections are held for you to discuss the lecturers' material among your peers. The discussion sections provide you with a chance to further develop the material you have learned throughout your BSH studies by interacting with your peers, leading the discussion sections, and composing papers on the various topics discussed throughout the semester.

The Capstone Course is an exciting class and provides you with the opportunity to hear leading experts discuss current, relevant issues influencing the future of health care. We are excited about the upcoming term and look forward to sharing and discussing with you all how technology and health care interact. The course specifics and tentative schedule are found below. If you have any questions please let us know.

INSTRUCTORS:

Norm Waitzman, Ph.D.
Department of Economics
Office: 308 KDGB
Office Phone: (801) 581-7600
Office Hours: by appointment
waitzman@economics.utah.edu

Polly Wiessner, Ph.D.
Department of Anthropology
Office: 102 Stewart
Office Phone: 581 5757
Office Hours: By Appointment
wiessner@soft-link.com

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Shelly Braun
Departments of Anthropology & BSH
Office: 213 D Stewart
Office Phone: 581-5027
Office Hours: T 2:30-4:00
& by appointment
shelly.braun@utah.edu

Edward Coffield
Department of Economics
Office: 1 BUC
Phone: 603-969.4271
Office Hours: M 1:30-2:30; T 12:30-1:30 & by
appointment
edvolone@aol.com

COURSE FORMAT: CLASSROOM TIME AND WEBCT

LECTURE:

- The Senior Capstone is a gathering of guest speakers, followed by student discussion of materials. We will meet together in ST 104 each Tuesday, 4:35-6:00 to listen to the featured speaker. Please keep in mind the speakers are providing us with their time and expertise on the fascinating topic of health care and technology. We are the representatives of the Behavioral Science and Health program to these speakers, their friends, and their colleagues (*people you may be interviewing with for an employment position*).
- As in all settings a respectful environment is expected. Please ensure your cell phones are turned off and PUT AWAY (no text messaging), do not access the internet, do not talk among yourselves during lectures, and pose your questions to the speakers in a respectful manner.

DISCUSSION:

- Later in the week you will meet in your respective discussion sections to discuss the topic presented by the speaker and related reading materials.

- The reading materials, slides from speakers (when available), announcements, and other course-related materials and information will be managed through the BSH 5000 WebCT webpage.

READINGS:

Readings will be assigned on a weekly basis and will be available on the BSH WebCT webpage.

Assignments: Grading Criteria:

- 2 papers: 7 pages each: Each paper will examine a topic relevant to the course materials from a variety of points of view and be based information from speakers, readings, and outside sources. (Assignments will be discussed in detail in discussion sections).
- Weekly abstracts: 1 page or less: This is a weekly summary of speaker and reading (detailed instructions will be given in discussion sections)
- Participation: You are required to present course materials in your discussion section a few times over the course of the semester (details will be discussed in discussion sections)

Expectations:

- Students are expected to attend lectures and discussions, read assigned materials, and participate in class discussions.
- NO late work will be accepted without PRIOR arrangement.
- Students are expected to contribute to a positive learning environment during the class period: this means NO phone calls, NO surfing the web, and NO text messaging during the class period. All cell phones and beepers, etc. are to be turned off during class.
- No computers unless approved by Ed or Shelly

Grading:

- Papers: 50% (2 @ 25 each)
- Abstracts: 25%
- Participation: 25%

Jan 13

❖ BSH SENIOR CAPSTONE 2008, INTRODUCTION

Norm Waitzman, PhD

Professor, Economics; Department Co-Chair, Behavioral Science and Health.
University of Utah

(no abstract this week)

Jan 20

❖ *Telehealth*: Increasing Access to Health Care

Libbey Chuy

Telehealth Program Coordinator, Association for Utah Community Health

Abstract due in discussion section

Jan 27

❖ Electronic Medical Records and Personal Privacy

Leslie Francis, PhD, JD

Alfred C Emery Professor of Law; Professor, Philosophy. University of Utah

Abstract due in discussion section

Feb 3

❖ Clinical complexity, human limitations, and bedside decision-support with computerized protocols

Alan Morris, MD

Director of Research, Pulmonary Division, LDS Hospital; Professor of Medicine,
Adjunct Professor of Medical Informatics. University of Utah

Abstract due in discussion section

Feb 10

Biotechnology

Abstract due in discussion section

Feb 17

❖ The Impact of Technology on Health Care in Ghana

Steve Alder, PhD

Professor, Family and Preventive Medicine; Chief, Division of Public Health.
University of Utah

Topic Statement for Paper #1 due Feb 17 (in lecture).

Abstract due in discussion section

Feb 24

❖ Artificial Limbs

Richard Norman, PhD

Professor, Bioengineering. University of Utah

Abstract due in discussion section

Mar 3

- ❖ Rebuilding Heart Tissue with Stem Cells

Amit Patel, MD, BS, MS

Professor, Cardiothoracic Division, School of Medicine. University of Utah

PAPER #1 DUE MAR 3. , 4:35 PM (in lecture)

Abstract due in discussion section

Mar 10

- ❖ Medical Technology vs. Public Health: Impact on Mortality and Morbidity Measures

Melvin Konner, MD, PhD

Samuel C. Dobbs Professor, Anthropology, Emory University; Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science; Member, Board of Trustees, Russell Sage Foundation.

Abstract due in discussion section

Mar 17 SPRING BREAK

Mar 24

- ❖ Addiction Technologies

Glen Hanson, PhD

Director of NIDA; Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology. University of Utah

Abstract due in discussion section

Mar 31

- ❖ Reconstructive Surgery

Rick Anderson, MD

Medical Director of Oculoplastic Surgery, Inc. and The Center for Facial Appearances, Salt Lake City, Utah

Abstract due in discussion section

Apr 7

- ❖ Improving Health Care for Veterans: Technology in the VA.

Charlene Weir, PhD

Professor, Biomedical Informatics. University of Utah School of Medicine; Associate Director of Education and Evaluation. Veterans Administration Geriatric Research Clinical Center, UtahTBA

Abstract due in discussion section

Apr 14

❖ Himalayan Eye Care

Geoff Tabin, MD

Co-Director Himalayan Cataract Project; Professor Cornea and External Eye Diseases & Director Division of International Ophthalmology, Moran Eye Center. University of Utah

Topic Statement for Paper #2 due Apr 14 (in lecture)

Abstract due in discussion section

Apr 21

❖ Furry Technology

Peggy Chud

Intermountain Therapy Animals

Abstract due in discussion section

Apr 28

❖ Spring Social

No abstract due this week

PAPER #2 DUE APRIL 28 , 4:35 PM (in class)