



**Core Course: Health Systems Organization**  
 PA 574 (PSU), CPHM 540 (SON, OHSU), H 533 (OSU)

**Course Description:** This course is designed to introduce graduate students in the Oregon MPH Program to basic concepts and issues in the organization, financing, and delivery of health services. The primary focus of this course is the systemic aspects of health services production and delivery. Specialized systems develop to produce, deliver, and finance health services which seek to address the health needs of populations with respect to death, disease, disability, discomfort, and dissatisfaction. Through learning in this course, students will examine the inter-relationships of system structures, subsystems, and processes, as well as their interactions with the larger social, cultural, economic and political environments in which they exist. The emphasis is on using different conceptual models for understanding the current health system, its strengths, and areas for improvement. As a result of this course, students will develop an increased understanding of the organization of health services delivery systems in modern societies: how such systems are and can be organized, financed and managed; how health care resources are and can be produced; how health services are and can be provided, paid for, accessed, and consumed; and how various system configurations can and do affect the outputs and outcomes of those systems. The focus is on the United States, with international comparisons used to illustrate similarities and differences.

**Credits:** 3 credits

**COMPETENCY TABLE**

<b>COMPETENCY</b>	<b>RELATED COMPONENTS</b>	<b>LEARNING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>COMPETENCY DEMONSTRATIONS</b>
1. <b>Apply concepts of systems thinking to analysis of health services.</b>	1. Compare public health with medical care. 2. Describe the organization of health and other social systems. 3. Analyze the United States context, and enhance this understanding through international comparisons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required readings</li> <li>• Class discussions</li> <li>• In-class discussions or group work</li> <li>• Viewing films</li> <li>• Guest speakers</li> <li>• Websites and internet searches</li> <li>• Written assignments</li> <li>• Short project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate skills of systems thinking in class discussions</li> <li>• Mid-term papers demonstrating analysis of several related topics</li> <li>• Group presentations on international health systems with reference to U.S. context</li> <li>• Group presentations on systems approach</li> </ul>

COMPETENCY	RELATED COMPONENTS	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	COMPETENCY DEMONSTRATIONS
<p>2. <b>Identify, differentiate among, and describe the elements of the organization, financing and delivery of health services.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe organizational structures.</li> <li>2. Describe public and private financing mechanisms, and explain how they work.</li> <li>3. Define and discuss delivery processes, including the various components of the health services workforce.</li> <li>4. Articulate the relationship between and among organization, financing and delivery processes.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required reading</li> <li>• Class discussions</li> <li>• In-class assignments</li> <li>• In class discussions or group work</li> <li>• Literature review</li> <li>• Guest speakers</li> <li>• Written assignments</li> <li>• Group project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term papers on several related topics</li> <li>• Critically examine these issues in class discussions</li> <li>• Group project written report</li> </ul>
<p>3. <b>Articulate and analyze major issues in health services and systems, and propose strategies for addressing or resolving them.</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify current issues.</li> <li>2. Describe the roles of multiple stakeholders.</li> <li>3. Discuss and critique examples of model systems, with particular reference to the Institute of Medicine aims and rules for the future health system.</li> <li>4. Articulate the relationship between system structure and desired outcomes.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required reading</li> <li>• Class discussions</li> <li>• Self-check quizzes</li> <li>• In-class assignments for discussion or group work</li> <li>• Literature review</li> <li>• Guest speakers</li> <li>• Written assignments</li> <li>• Take home assignment to compare alternative health care reform policies</li> <li>• Position paper to analyze the perspectives of key players in U.S. health care system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critically examine these issues in class discussions</li> <li>• Oral or poster presentations</li> <li>• Final examination or paper on characteristics of a future ideal health system</li> <li>• Final examination on critical evaluation of U.S. health care system</li> <li>• Group project written report</li> </ul>