POPLHLTH 215
Dynamics of Health Systems

15 Points
Semester 2, 2017

Course Prescription

If we are going to make health systems better we need to understand what ‘better’ means. This course examines how approaches to quality and efficiency can be understood to examine changes in health systems, in response to the environment. The influence of key players is a key focus throughout this course.

Goals of the Course
The overarching purpose of this course is to introduce students to the key dynamics of a health care system and how these factors interplay to affect health outcomes. Specific goals include:

• Growing critical thinking in how key health professional groups and bases of power influence health services design and performance.
• Build an awareness of frameworks of quality and the context in which they can be applied
• To build capacity in system thinking to understand how cost and quality effect health care efficiency.
• To build an understanding of how health services and systems can be implemented in order to maximise quality and efficiency.

Learning Outcomes
At the successful completion of this course, the students should:

• Be able to explain the characteristics of the key professional groups and bases of power in healthcare;
• Have an understanding of the key principle, methods, and tools for health care quality improvement;
• Have an understanding of frameworks and factors that explain the dynamics of health care efficiency;
• Be able to explain the key stages of the implementation process, and factors that affect it.

Content Outline
The course covers:

• Dynamics of health professional roles: roles and interactions between players, the institutional environment, the political view of health professional roles.
• Dynamics of resource allocation: what information goes into resource allocation, and what procedures are used within resource allocation.
• Quality improvement: quality frameworks, managing safety and risks, tools/data/measurement, implementation, and change management

Learning and Teaching
The course is taught via lectures on Monday afternoons from 12:35-2:25 in Weeks 1-11 of the semester, with Week 12 being a public holiday. Tutorials times are scheduled before and/or after the lecture, with the specific times to be confirmed after class size is known.
POPLHLTH 215

Teaching Staff
Co-ordinator: TBC
Teaching staff: Assoc. Prof. Tim Tenbensel, Dr Peter Carswell and Dr Richard Edlin.

Programme Administrator

Campus Teaching Dates in 2017
This course is offered in Semester 2, on Mondays in Weeks 1 through 11.

Learning Resources
All the materials are available on the course webpage which is accessible through Canvas as soon as the semester has started.

Assessment
There are three pieces of coursework (totalling 60% of final mark) and one exam (40% of final mark) for POPLHLTH 25. The coursework involves two individually-completed written assignments, with the final assessment being a group presentation to occur in tutorial time in Week 11. Details on the coursework will be released in-seminar.