



University College Dublin

School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health Systems

UCD Health Sciences Summer School

Introduction to Health Systems (5 ECTS)

This module is aimed at enabling students understand the meaning and importance of health systems in delivering health for all. The module will introduce the students to the concept of health systems and health systems frameworks outlined by World Health Organization (Building Blocks) and World Bank (Control Knobs). It will focus on the implications of different frameworks to enable access to healthcare as a human right in the national and global context. The module will present comparative and multidisciplinary perspectives on health systems in developed and developing nations. It will enhance the understanding of how health systems approach is being applied to address major health challenges in a range of contexts. The module content will encourage students to think critically about different models of health systems reflecting on themes of equity and justice. In particular, students will be asked to consider how citizens are positioned with varying degrees of power to access healthcare and to participate in health policy and decision-making.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module the students should be able to:

1. Describe the concept of health systems
2. Discuss the merits and limitations of a range of health systems frameworks
3. Recognise the importance of policy actors including users and global influences on health systems
4. Illustrate their understanding of how health systems approach contributes to health for all
5. Discuss their role in strengthening health systems

Teaching and Learning Strategy:

The teaching component of the module will run over two weeks. In these two weeks the students will receive tuition in a combination of large group lectures as well as smaller group work sessions. The third week of the module does not require attendance on campus. During this week, students will work autonomously to prepare their reflective essay for submission.

The teaching and learning in this module will be structured as follows:

Class contact: Lectures	15 hours
Class contact: Group work	3 hours
Specified learning activities (Integrated Assessment)	25 hours
Autonomous student learning: Independent study	70 hours
Total	113 hours

Assessment:

Further details on the assessment to be provided in April.

A minimum grade of D- is needed to pass the course.

Reading:

Reading List

1. Mossialos, E., Wenzl, M., Osborn, R. and Anderson, C., 2015. 2015 International Profiles of Health Care Systems.
2. Murray, C.J. and Frenk, J., 2000. A framework for assessing the performance of health systems. Bulletin of the world Health Organization, 78(6), pp.717-731.
3. Hsiao, W.C., 2003. What is a health system? Why should we care. Harvard School of Public Health, working paper, 33.
4. Atun, R. and Menabde, N., 2008. Health systems and systems thinking. Health systems and the challenge of communicable diseases: experiences from Europe and Latin America.
5. MacLachlan, M., Mannan, H. and McAuliffe, E., 2011. Access to health care of persons with disabilities as an indicator of equity in health systems. Open medicine, 5(1), pp.10-12.

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Regulations:

School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health Systems Referencing and Writing Guidelines are appended as separate documents. The University grading descriptors are also attached as a separate document.

Campus supports:

The Health Sciences Library is in the building where the students will take class. All students will have a library card which will gain them access to this facility. Each student will also have an academic mentor to guide them through this course and its assessments.

Course lecture overview (15 hours):

1. Class Schedule to be confirmed in April

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