Course description Social Context of Medicine 2005

During this course, we will try to help you to:

1. Learn some facts about the social context that will affect your medical careers. This will include developing a basic understanding of:
   - the types of organization in which physicians practice
   - the effects of race and of class on people's health and on the delivery of medical care
   - Medicare, Medicaid, and private health insurance
   - managed care
   - challenges facing hospitals
   - problems with cost, quality, and access to care in the U.S.
   - possible ways to address these problems.

2. Improve your ability to think critically, to understand both sides of a controversial issue, and to express your thoughts clearly and succinctly in writing.

3. Learn to recognize and understand the three major points of view (professional, state, market) which underlie conflicting reform proposals for U.S. health care, and be able to use this conceptual framework to evaluate proposals.