DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH STUDIES  
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS  
Spring 2009

HSTD 30500  
Issues in Women’s Health  
Course Instructor: Lianne Kurina  
Offered: 2008-2009; Spring; M/W 1:30-2:50pm  
PQ:  
ID: BIOS 29317; GNDR 30500  
The course will focus on important sources of morbidity and mortality in women, such as heart disease, breast cancer, depression, eating disorders, and HIV. In addition to learning about the etiology, biology, and epidemiology of these conditions, we will explore related social, historical, political and cultural issues. The course will be comprised of presentations by the instructor, guest lectures by clinical experts in the condition of interest, and student-led discussions of readings.

HSTD 31400  
Social Epidemiology  
Course Instructor: Diane Lauderdale  
Offered: 2008-2009; Spring; T/Th 1:30-2:50pm  
PQ: A course in epidemiology, demography, medical sociology or the equivalent, and familiarity with multivariate statistical methods.  
This course will examine research that has sought to understand how social factors influence health. We will survey and evaluate different types of measurements used in social epidemiology (such as measurements of socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, stress, social support and neighborhood characteristics), types of study designs, and debates and theories in the literature. A prior course in epidemiology or closely related filed (such as demography or medical sociology) is highly desirable. Familiarity with the statistical methods used in the literature we will be reading, in particular multivariate regression analysis, is necessary.

HSTD 31830  
Introduction to Genetic Epidemiology  
Course Instructor: Ben Lahey  
Offered: 2008-2009; Spring; T/Th 10:30-11:50am

HSTD 35100  
Health Services Research Methods  
Course Instructor: Tamara Konetzka  
Offered: 2008-2009; Spring; M/W 1:30-2:50pm  
PQ: At least one course in linear regression and basic familiarity with STATA; or consent of instructor.  
ID: SSAD 46300  
The purpose of this course is to better acquaint students with the methodological issues of research design and data analysis widely used in empirical health services research. To deal with these methods, the course will use a combination of readings, lectures, problem sets (using STATA), and discussion of applications. The course assumes that students have had a prior course in statistics, including the use of linear regression methods.

HSTD 35301  
Aging and Health Policy  
Course Instructor: Tamara Konetzka  
Offered: 2008-2009; Spring; T 3:00-5:50pm  
PQ: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.  
ID: PPHA 42401; SSAD 49022  
This course is a seminar in aging and health policy and the relationships between policy, financing, access to care, and quality of care for the elderly. The focus is on health care systems and policy as opposed to demography and biological aspects of aging. Specific topics include Medicaid and Medicare policy; long-term care insurance and financing; workforce issues; dementia and end-of-life care; the culture change movement; work and retirement as it relates to health policy; and cross-national comparisons of health policy toward the elderly. Students will engage in an
ongoing discussion of policy options and learn to evaluate their potential to improve quality and ensure access for the elderly to health care and long-term care.

HSTD 38300
Health Economics and Public Policy
Course Instructor: Willard Manning
Offered: 2008-2009; Spring
PQ: Microeconomics at the level of the Econ 200-201series or PPHA 323 & 324 or an equivalent of an intermediate microeconomics course.
ID: PPHA 38300; ECON 27700
This course analyzes the economics of health and medical care in the United States with particular attention to the role of government. The first part of the course examines the demand for health and medical and the structure and the consequences of public and private insurance. The second part of the course examines the supply of medical care, including professional training, specialization and compensation, hospital competition, and finance and the determinants and consequences of technological change in medicine. The course concludes with an examination of recent proposals and initiatives for health care reform.
http://harrisschool.uchicago.edu/Programs/courses/syllabi/38300spring08.pdf

HSTD 43200
Causal Inference
Course Instructor: Tyler VanderWeele
Offered: 2008-2009; Spring; T/Th; 10:30-11:50 a.m.
PQ: HSTD 32400, HSTD 32700 or STAT 22400, STAT 22600
ID: STAT 33200
The course will be concerned with the process of drawing causal inferences from observational data in the biomedical and social sciences. The course will introduce a number of fundamental concepts in causal inference and cover methods of estimating causal effects for both point- and time-varying exposures. Concepts and methods that will be covered include: confounding, potential outcomes, propensity scores, directed acyclic graphs, inverse probability of treatment weighting, marginal structural models and structural nested models. Time permitting, the course will also briefly survey a number of other topics such as instrumental variables, non-compliance and surrogate outcomes.