Clinical Research Curriculum Spring 2016
Health Services Research
February 24 – April 6, 2016
Wednesdays 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Course Director:

Eric Thomas, MD   713 500 7958   Eric.Thomas@uth.tmc.edu

Assistant:

Deborah Garcia   713 500 6708   Deborah.garcia@uth.tmc.edu

Learning Objectives:

After this course, learners will:

- Know what Health Services Research (HSR) is, and identify the types of questions and problems that HSR addresses.
- Have a basic understanding of some common methods used to conduct HSR
- Know when certain HSR methods could be used to answer a question and know the basic strengths and weaknesses of these methods (final project/exam)
- Improve their ability to critically evaluate HSR studies from the peer-reviewed literature

Course Requirements:

Attendance – must attend 5 of the 7 sessions in-person and watch video recordings of all sessions not seen in–person.

Class participation – Be prepared to discuss the reading assignment/homework. You will be called upon. Homework will involve reading and critically assessing HSR studies.

Class project – there will be a project that will also count as the final exam.

> The assignment for the class project will be to write a brief health services research proposal. Your proposal must have the following structure, length, and address the following points:

> Background and Specific Aims (1 page)

> - Describe a problem in our healthcare system that is important and can be addressed with a HSR method/approach. Provide 2-4 references to support your claim that this is an important problem to study.

> - Write at least 1-2 specific aims or hypotheses for your proposed study.

Methods (1-2 pages)

- Describe one or more HSR methods that you will use to address your aims/hypotheses. Try to use one of the methods discussed in class.

- You must include a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of your method. This discussion should be based upon the readings and lectures.

- You do not need power and sample size calculations nor do you need to describe the statistical analysis.

Implications (1/2-1 page)

- Discuss how your study could impact the health care system (eg, how will it affect access to care, the quality or safety of care, financing, insurance policy, other policy issues)

Total page limit is 4 pages

To obtain a passing grade you must:

1. Identify a health services research topic (eg, you cannot propose a RCT of a new drug treat MIs. You can use a RCT for your study design, but testing the efficacy of drugs is not health services research).

2. Provide at least 2 references that support your belief that this is an important topic to study.

3. Use a health services research method that we discussed in class, or ask me advance for approval to us a different method.

4. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the method.

5. Follow the page length guidelines (4 pages max).

Course Schedule:

2/24/16 Introduction	Eric Thomas MD MPH, Professor, UT Houston Medical School
3/2/16 Quality and Safety	Eric Thomas MD MPH, Professor, UT Houston Medical School
3/9/16 Disparities in Healthcare	Jean Raphael MD, MPH, Assistant Professor, Baylor College of Medicine
3/16/16 Healthcare Financing and Delivery System Reform	Pauline Rosenau, Professor, UT Houston School of Public Health
3/23/16 Using Electronic Health Records in HSR	Dean Sittig PhD. Professor, UT Houston School of Biomedical Informatics
3/30/16 Qualitative research	Eric Thomas MD MPH, Professor, UT Houston Medical School
4/6/16 Survey Research	Eric Thomas MD MPH, Professor, UT Houston Medical School