**NU7302 Gerontological Nursing: Concepts and Practice**

**Module Leader**
Anna C Ayton, RGN, MSc Gerontological Nursing

**Additional Lecturers**
Dr C Cunningham Geriatrician, CNS Stroke, Dr E Greene PsychEL, Prof M McCarron, Dr C Donnellon, CNS Diabetes, Physio Dept, SALT, TVN, Pharmacology, Prof JB Walsh Geriatrician, Dr Louise Daly

**ECTS**
10

**Pre-requisite**
As per course entry criteria

**Rationale and Aims**

The need to develop a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of older people is recognised in the Health Strategy (2001) and An Bord Altranais Professional Guidance (2009). Care for older persons, traverses multiple contexts and disciplines and gerontological nursing is a specialty at the core of comprehensive care delivery. The National Council for the Professional Development of Nursing and Midwifery (2003) acknowledges that education is essential to ensure the development of competence in order to progress professional development in the specialty of Gerontological Nursing. The aim of this module is to facilitate gerontological nurses to further develop the specialist knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to care for older persons in a holistic manner. The module specifically aims to advance gerontological nurses’ scientific foundation for practice.

**Module Content**

- Gerontological Nursing Practice Settings:
  - Acute Care
  - Rehabilitation
  - Continuing Care

- Specific pathologies common in older persons and their affect on activities of living to include:
  - The concept of multiple pathology
  - Management of Stroke (acute & rehabilitative care)
  - Alterations in Mental Status (delirium, depression & dementia)
  - Person Centred Dementia Care
  - Parkinson’s Disease
  - Diabetes
  - Mobility and Older People
  - Falls and Older People
  - Issues related to Communication Disorders
  - Issues related to Swallowing Disorders
  - Tissue Viability
  - Pharmacology (pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, polypharmacy, compliance etc)
  - Issues Related to Elimination

**Ethics of Caring for Older Persons**
Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the concept of multiple pathology and the implications for caring for older persons
- Critically evaluate current research findings designed to promote and maximise the functional abilities of the older person in a variety of care settings
- Demonstrate a problem-solving multidisciplinary approach to the promotion and maximisation of rehabilitation and independence in older people
- Demonstrate advanced skill in the appropriate assessment of cognitive function in the older person with confusion, using valid and reliable assessment tools
- Critically explore the issues in relation to the older person who exhibits behaviour that is challenging and implement appropriate evidence based practice interventions
- Critically evaluate research-based methods of swallowing assessment and interventions for older persons
- Demonstrate specific knowledge of pharmacological issues in gerontological nursing practice

Methods of Teaching and Student Learning: Lecture, group work and discussion, tutorials.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Methods of Assessment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Written Examination (Two hours duration)</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Contact Hours

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<tr>
<th>Direct Contact</th>
<th>30</th>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Student Effort</td>
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<td>Specified Activities</td>
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<td>Self-Directed Learning</td>
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<td>Direct Contact: Supervision</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
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Indicative Resources


Dunning, T. (2005) *Nursing Care of Older People with Diabetes*. Blackwell, United Kingdom


