NU7304 Contemporary Issues in Gerontological Nursing

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Additional Lecturers  Prof M McCarron, Dr L Daly, Dr C Cunnningham Geriatrician, Dr Damien Brennan, Dr Jan de Vries, ANP Older People, Dr C Donnellon, Professor A Higgins, Prof JB Walsh Geriatrician

ECTS  10

Pre-requisite  As per course entry criteria

Rationale and Aims

Demographic changes have significant implications for the provision and delivery of health and social services to older people in all care settings. The Health Strategy (2001) emphasises the need for better linkages and relationships between key players in the health system and between community and hospital based providers. In a society where the emphasis is on the maintenance of older people in the community setting, closer coordination and integration between primary and hospital services is vital. According to An Bord Altranais (2009) this creates a need for gerontological nurses to possess specialist knowledge and skills relating to the nature and impact of ageing.

The aim of this module is to facilitate the student to critically explore the knowledge, theories and approaches underpinning gerontological nursing practice with particular reference to the organization and delivery of care in the community.

Module Content

- The Ageing Process and Theories of Ageing
- Attitudes to Ageing and Ageism
- The ageing population and demographic projections
- Sociological Issues
- Current Issues in Health Psychology
- Community Health Nursing
- Wellness and Health Maintenance
- Sexual Health in late life to include sexually transmitted infections
- The Experience and Support Needs of Carers
- End of life issues and Palliative Care

Learning Outcomes

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

- critically discuss the challenge for gerontological nurses to provide person-centred care for older persons based on knowledge that reflects the unique characteristics, needs, and responses of older people
- critically debate the bio-psycho-social theories that may positively or negatively influence the health and wellbeing of older adults
- critically examine the sociological processes that influence ageing and gerontological nursing in Irish Society
- critically discuss gerontological nursing considerations associated with age-related
changes
- critically analyse the available health and social services and their effectiveness for the older population from a community health perspective
- critique new developments, contemporary healthcare policies and service developments and their impact on the provision of health services for older people in the community
- critically explore knowledge development and its application to contemporary issues in gerontological nursing and the health services.

Methods of Teaching and Student learning

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<tr>
<th>Methods of Assessment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Essay (3,000 words)</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Contact Hours

| Direct Contact – class and online | 30 |
| Assessment Student Effort        |    |
| Specified Activities             |    |
| Self-Directed Learning           |    |
| Direct Contact: Supervision      |    |
| **Total Hours**                  | **200** |

Indicative Resources


National Council on Ageing and Older People/Dept. of Health & Children. (1998) *Adding years to life and life to years...A health Promotion Strategy for Older People.* Stationery Office, Dublin

