

**MW7002  Sharing the Woman’s Experience – Social  Theory and Birth**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Leader</th>
<th>Colm O’Boyle</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECTS</td>
<td>5 ECTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Hours</td>
<td>115 hours</td>
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<td>Classroom: Lecture 24 hours</td>
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<td>Classroom: Small group learning 10 hours</td>
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<td>Classroom: Examinations 1 hour</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Directed student learning 20 hours</td>
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<td>Independent learning 20 hours</td>
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<td>Practice: 40 hours</td>
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<td>Pre-requisite</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>Co-requisites:</td>
<td>MW7001, MW7003, MW7004</td>
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**Aim and Rationale**

The organisation of maternity care in Ireland and, in particular, the delivery of midwifery led care, is such that exposing the midwifery student to the concept of continuity of care/carer is limited in the environment of a tertiary obstetric referral maternity hospital. The aim of this module is to attempt to provide the midwifery student with an opportunity to share and listen to one woman’s experience of her pregnancy, birth and postnatal period.

It is envisaged that this experience will provide the student with a social perspective in which pregnancy and birth take place. Whilst every assistance will be given to the student in meeting a woman, the responsibility then rests with the student to negotiate, in partnership with the woman, the accomplishment of the goals of this unit of learning.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this module, the midwifery student will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to listen to the woman and hear her experience;
- Value the realities of women and their families’ experiences;
- Begin to identify women’s support networks;
- Begin to identify the needs of different family forms and the supports available to them;
- Discuss the provision of health care, in particular primary and maternity care, and its relationship to women, families and communities;
- Discuss the choices for maternity care in Ireland;
- Begin to demonstrate an understanding of childbirth as a normal healthy life event;
- Discuss society’s views of childbirth, motherhood and parenting and the values it places on these;
- Begin to demonstrate the ability to negotiate an effective partnership with the woman.
Assessment

The following must be submitted together, as one piece of work:
1. A log of at least 2 meetings with the woman must be recorded. The log heading should record the date, time and duration of each meeting, where it happened and who, if anyone else, was present.
The log record will describe the main points of the woman’s experience, that is, her pregnancy, birth and postnatal story (200 - 300 words each).
The log must in no way identify the woman but rather highlight the sociological topics which have been uncovered.

2. A separate written analysis of the specific sociological issues pertaining to, or impacting on, this woman’s experience of pregnancy, childbirth and / or the puerperium (1000 words).
Your analysis will draw upon your log and your reading around the associated sociology of birth.
Literature sources which help give ‘meaning’ to these issues must be incorporated and fully Harvard referenced.

Content and Process

Childbirth as a normal life event
The views of Irish society on childbirth, motherhood and parenting and the family (including knowledge of the Constitution)
Support for the woman in pregnancy, childbirth and postnatally (including the types of support)
Choices for maternity care – providers and environment
Community support groups e.g. community mothers, AlMS, La Leche, Home Birth Association,
Impact of change on the family i.e. pregnancy and childbirth
Social Perspectives
Reflection skills
Negotiation skills

The essence of this unit of study is for the student to gain an understanding of pregnancy and childbirth through the eyes of the woman. The relationship will include antenatal and postnatal visits and attendance at the birth if this is appropriate and welcomed by the woman. With assistance from midwives in the antenatal clinic and midwifery led services, the student will be facilitated to meet with a woman willing to share her experiences. The accomplishment of the remainder of the requirements of the module is the responsibility of the student. Regular meetings with midwifery lecturers will provide a venue for discussion and reflection.
Research and study into salient aspects of the woman’s issues is required. The sources of knowledge that the student accesses to help give ‘meaning’ to these activities must be documented (these will also need to be evident in the log). This process of reflection and recording is a valuable part of the learning experience of this module and will also help in the preparation for the assessment of the unit. Appropriate and pertinent references should be included.
Essential Reading


