Module Name: Professional Concepts for Nursing  
Module Code: NU2S02  
ECTS: 5  
No. of Hours: 20  
Term: Michaelmas and Hilary  
Assessment Date: Week 37-38  
Module Leader: Jacqueline Whelan  
Lecturers: Carole King, Jacqueline Whelan, Helen O’Shea

Aims

This module aims to develop students’ knowledge of professional concepts central to nursing. The module will provide students with the opportunity to explore the following: philosophical, ethical, spiritual, caring and legal perspectives of nursing in three distinct units of learning as follows:

- Unit 1 - Philosophy and Ethics for Nursing Practice.
- Unit 2 - Theoretical Foundations of Caring Spirituality, Spiritual Well-Being, Grief and Loss.
- Unit 3 - Legal Perspectives in Nursing.

The significance/relevance of professional concepts will be explored in the context of the nurse/patient/client relationship and contemporary nursing practice.

Learning Outcomes

Following completion of this module the student should be able to:

Unit 1 Philosophy and Ethics for Nursing Practice
- Appreciate the significance/relevance of philosophy for nursing.
- Outline the theoretical foundations of ethical nursing practice.
- Employ an ethical decision making framework to critically debate aspects of nursing practice.

Unit 2 Theoretical Foundations of Caring, Spirituality, Spiritual Well –Being, Grief and Loss
- Outline the Theoretical foundations of Caring in Nursing.
- Discuss the concept of caring and Professional Care
- Discuss the concept of spirituality and associated concepts of hope and advocacy.
- Acknowledge the significance/relevance of health related dimensions of Spirituality and consider ways in which the Spiritual dimension may impact upon health and wellbeing.
- Debate the theories of bereavement and grief in relation to loss, death and dying.
Unit 3 Legal Perspectives in Nursing
- Give an account of the statutory background to the health services and nursing profession.
- Develop an understanding of legal frameworks and principles that inform effective professional nursing practice.
- Explore the concepts of duty of care, tort and negligence and the implications for nursing practice.
- Analyze and discuss the principles relating to consent to treatment and its application to nursing practice.
- Discuss how principles of data protection and confidentiality apply to personal health information.
- Explore the role of Health and Safety legislation in the Health Services.
- Give an account of the statutory and professional background to medication management in nursing.

Indicative Content

Unit 1 Philosophy and Ethics for Nursing Practice (6L)
- Philosophy and Philosophical Enquiry in Nursing.
- Theoretical Foundations of Ethical Practice.
- Ethical Decision Making.
- Application of ethical concepts to nursing practice for example consideration of life issues, cultural considerations and ethics, balancing veracity and fidelity.

Unit 2 Theoretical Perspectives of Caring, Spirituality and Well-Being, Grief and Loss (6L)
- Concept of Caring and Theoretical Foundations of Caring.
- The Process of Caring, Elements of a Professional Caring Relationship.
- Application of caring concepts as they relate to student life experiences, practice setting and professional practice.
- Concept of Spirituality and related concepts of advocacy and hope.
- Theoretical Perspectives of Spiritual Care.
- Principles of Spiritual Care. and barriers influencing the Provision of Spiritual Care.
- Theories of Grief, Bereavement, Loss and Disenfranchised Grief.
- Application of spiritual, grief and loss concepts as they relate to student life experiences, practice setting and professional practice.

Unit 3 Legal Perspectives in Nursing (8L)
- Statutory and legal instruments relating to the health services and the nursing profession.
- Health and Safety legislation in the Health Services and the Statutory and professional background to medication management in nursing.
- Overview of childcare legislation, overview of the role of the coroner.
- Introduction to patients’ rights and an introduction to intellectual disability law.
- Introduction to Mental Health Legislation.
- Concept of negligence.
• Concept of consent.
• Concept of confidentiality.

Teaching and Learning Activities

• Lectures
• Directed Learning

Student Effort Hours

Assessment

Mode of Assessment       Seen Examination
Assessment Details        3 exam questions, one from each unit of study.
                          Answer 2 questions out of 3 (Allow 1 hour per question).

Reading List

Essential Reading

Unit 1


Unit 2


Unit 3

Recommended Reading

Unit 1


Unit 2


Unit 3


All other reading as per unit of study on law in Year 1.