Module Name: Working with the Older Person
Module Code: NU3P04
ECTS: 5
No. of Hours: Lectures 18, Tutorials 2
Term: Hilary
Assessment Date: Weeks 35-36
Module Leader: Brian Keogh
Lecturers: Brian Keogh, Professor Agnes Higgins

Aims

This module will provide the theoretical basis that underpins the delivery of comprehensive nursing care for the older person with mental health problems living in a variety of settings. Throughout the module emphasis is placed on the promotion and maintenance of independence and adaptation while taking into account the bio-psychosocial, cultural and spiritual changes that occur as a result of the aging process. In addition, government and other mental health policies influencing the provision and delivery of mental health care for the older person will be outlined. The importance of working with clients’ families and/or carers is addressed together with the relevant statutory and voluntary organisations as an approach to the care of the older adult.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Understand the concept of healthy aging and outline the biopsychosocial, cultural and spiritual processes that influence aging and mental health in the older person.
- Describe national and international demographic changes in relation to the older person and their impact on health service provision and the psychiatric/mental health nursing profession.
- Identify mental health problems that affect the older person.
- Apply the use of the nursing process/nursing model in the care of the older person with a mental health problem.
- Examine the role of the psychiatric nurse when caring for older people with mental health problems
- Discuss the contribution that family/carers make in the care of older people with mental health problems
- Identify professional, legal and ethical issues that impact on the older person with a mental health problem.

Indicative Content

Mental health and the aging process: Healthy ageing; biopsychosocial, cultural and spiritual issues relating to normal ageing; mental health and aging.

Delivering comprehensive nursing care for older people: demographic trends in relation to older people in Ireland; Policy issues related to older people in Ireland, mental health problems
associated with the older adult, specifically depression and the spectrum of dementia related disorders.

**Provision and delivery of care to the older adult:** delivery of comprehensive nursing care and interventions for the older person including assessment; communication and interpersonal skills, pharmacological and non pharmacological interventions, working with families and informal carers; the role of statutory /voluntary organisations; legal and ethical issues specific to mental health care/nursing for the older adult.

**Teaching and Learning Activities**

- Lectures
- Tutorials
- Directed learning.

**Student Effort Hours**

- 100

**Assessment**

**Mode of Assessment**  Unseen Examination

**Assessment Details** 2 hour unseen examination.
Answer 2 questions of 3

**Reading List**


