NU7204: Situating Midwifery and Maternity Care in Ireland Today

Module Leader  Margaret Carroll, R.G.N., R.M., R.N.T., B.N.S. (N.U.I.), M.Sc. (Belf.)
ECTS  10
No. of Hours  See Appendix
Pre-requisite  Undergraduate Study

Rationale
Midwives who undertake the MSc in Midwifery are the potential future leaders of the midwifery profession in Ireland. There is an urgent need for midwives to understand and critique the evolution of maternity services and the midwifery profession in Ireland so that they can participate in and lead the development of services in partnership with women.

Aim
The aim of this module is to provide a challenging opportunity for midwives to explore and understand the historical and socio-political context of midwifery and maternity service provision in Ireland.

Expected Outcomes
Having completed this module, participants will be able to:

- Critically examine the role and function of the midwife and the profession of midwifery from historical and socio-political context;
- Critically analyse the historical and socio-political development of maternity services in Ireland;
- Compare and contrast the culture and context of midwifery developments in Ireland with midwifery and maternity care internationally;
- Discuss the influence of feminism and the women’s movement internationally and in Ireland on midwifery and maternity care.

Indicative Content
- Historical overview of midwifery from a national and international perspective
- Feminism and the women’s movement
- Women and the Irish Constitution
- Women’s roles in contemporary Irish society and consequent impact on their experiences of pregnancy and birth
- Legislative changes in 20th Century affecting the midwifery profession and maternity services
- Evolution of midwifery, the definition, role and sphere of practice of the midwife
- Place of birth – influences

Teaching/Learning Strategies: Lecture/group discussion, seminar presentation

Mode of Assessment  Weighting
Written Assignment (5,000 words)  100%
Essential Reading List – more detailed lists may be provided by module lecturers


