Module Name: Historical, Legal and Theoretical Foundations of Nursing
Module Code: NU1S03
ECTS: 5
No. of Hours: 20
Term: Michaelmas
Assessment Date: Week 16
Module Leader: Dr Fiona Timmins
Lecturers: Jacqueline Whelan, Mark Monahan

Aims

The aim of this module is to introduce the student to the nature of nursing and the role of the nurse by exploring the concepts underlying the practice of nursing. The module will also introduce the student to fundamental legal principles and to the legal framework that governs nursing practice. The module is presented in three units of study, as follows:

- Unit 1: The Nature of Nursing
- Unit 2: Nursing knowledge and practice
- Unit 3: Legal perspectives in nursing

Learning Outcomes

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

Unit 1 Nursing and the nursing role
- Briefly describe the development of modern nursing in Ireland, and its contribution to contemporary nursing practice.
- Discuss the factors that influenced the development of the profession of nursing.
- Describe some examples of the role and function of nursing within the context of professional regulation and competence requirements.
- Describe some examples of the role and function of nursing within the organisation of healthcare.
- Describe, using examples, how modern nursing influences contemporary health care practice.
- Describe emerging challenges related to the nurse as member of the multidisciplinary team.

Unit 2 Nursing knowledge and practice
- Discuss the concepts of person, health, society, environment, nursing, and related concepts, such as caring, health and altered health.
- Describe the nature of nursing knowledge
- State the principle ways of knowing that informs the practice of nursing.
- Explain how different forms of knowledge and knowing relates to nursing practice.
- Describe the phases of the nursing process
- Identify models of nursing that guide nursing practice.
- Describe the nursing process and care planning using the Roper, Logan and Tierney
Activities of Living model of nursing
- Discuss problem solving in nursing including advantages and disadvantages of this concept.

Unit 3 Legal perspectives in nursing
- Outline the structure of the Irish legal system.
- Distinguish between common law, civil law, criminal law, and human rights law.
- Describe the legislation governing nursing in Ireland and outline its application in governing professional practice, with particular reference to the role and function of An Bord Altranais.

Indicative Content

Unit 1 Nursing and the nursing role (6 lectures)
- Brief overview of development of nursing - including the historical, political, social, cultural, economic and international factors influencing its development.
- Brief overview of the development of professional nursing in Ireland
- Definition of professional nursing
- Introduction to advanced and specialist nursing practice
- The role and function of nursing within the context of a regulated profession
- Introduction to the role and function of nursing within the healthcare setting
- The nurse as member of the multidisciplinary team.

Unit 2 Nursing knowledge and practice (8 lectures)
- The concepts of the person, health, nursing, society, environment and related concepts such as caring and altered concepts.
- Construction of knowledge.
- Patterns/ways of knowing that inform the practice of nursing.
- Theoretical frameworks in nursing.
- The systematic approach to nursing care to include nursing documentation.
- Problem solving in nursing.

Unit 3 Legal perspectives in nursing (6 lectures)
- Sources of law, structure of the Irish legal system.
- Irish legal system and common law, civil law v. criminal law.
- Constitutional law and rights, human rights law
- Legislation governing nursing (Nurses Act 1985, revised legislation 2008)
- An Bord Altranais (role and functions, fitness to practice).
- Areas of practice upon which the law impinges.
- Structure of the health services.

Teaching and Learning Activities
- Lectures
- Directed learning
Student Effort Hours

- 100

Assessment

Mode of Assessment: Seen Examination
Assessment Details:
- 2 hours
- Answer 2 out of 3 questions

Reading List

Essential Reading

Unit 1


Unit 2


Unit 3


Recommended Reading

Unit 1


Unit 2


Unit 3

An Bord Altranais (2000b) Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Framework.


*Additional readings will be provided for individual lectures, as appropriate.