

MODULE SPECIFICATION

KEY FACTS

Module name	Midwifery Theory: Knowledge, Profession and Practice
Module code	APM019
School	School of Health Sciences
Department or equivalent	Conjoint Division of Midwifery and Radiography
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	7

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline

Current challenges for the development of the profession of midwifery require midwives, managers and clinical leaders to be able to critically appraise its development in order to influence decisions taken in the formulation of health policy and practice. Knowledge of the history and policy context of the profession and of maternity services is important to underpin this appraisal. Professional midwifery practice requires not only continuing development of clinical expertise and awareness of evidence, but also that midwives be aware of and responsive to the complex circumstances of the lives of childbearing women and the impact of these on the health and well-being of women, their babies and their families as well as on how maternity care is provided. Masters level education provides an important foundation for the development of theoretical and analytical perspectives, to equip midwives with the skills to critically review and develop policy and practice.

Educational Aims

- To introduce the concept and uses of theory in relation to midwifery knowledge and practice;
- To explore the basis of contemporary midwifery theory and practice using a range of academic theoretical perspectives; e.g. sociological, psychological, ethical and legal;
- To explore current challenges and opportunities in the organisation and delivery of midwifery care

This module is a core component of the MSc in Midwifery (Advanced Practice in Health and Social Care). It is delivered through a blended learning approach using the university's Moodle platform and a range of media in addition to course lectures, workbooks, seminars and readings.

The key aim of this module is for you to explore the nature of midwifery knowledge, to study and utilise relevant theoretical perspectives and engage in analysis of the context of maternity care, in order to critically analyse midwifery practice, the current role and status of midwifery, and to consider possible future directions for the profession and models of practice.

Knowledge of relevant areas of theory can form an important tool for midwives in order to critically analyse their own knowledge and to express it authoritatively. Additionally, with increasing emphasis in modern societies on Evidence-Based Practice and moves towards more protocol-based care, theory provides a tool for critical thinking and analysis, which helps to equip midwives with the skills and knowledge to develop, to interpret and to apply evidence critically and effectively.

Content outline

- Models of midwifery care and how they have evolved;
- What is theory? The relevance of theory for understanding patterns of midwifery care and research;
- Challenges to biomedical dominance in maternity care; social and ecological models
- Using knowledge to challenge untested assumptions in maternity care;
- The contribution of sociological and social policy perspectives to understanding contemporary developments in childbirth and the midwifery profession;

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Explore and appraise theoretical (sociological/anthropological, ethical, cultural or psychological) perspectives as a basis for critical analysis of the development of midwifery and its practice

Skills:

- Critically appraise aspects of the development of midwifery knowledge, practice and organization of care in relation to relevant theoretical perspectives
- Critically evaluate, in the light of social theory perspectives, current challenges and opportunities in the organization and delivery of midwifery care
- Critically evaluate the implications of chosen sociological, cultural, ethical and/or psychological perspective(s) for understanding the practice and organization of maternity care

Values and attitudes:

- Synthesise the fields of midwifery knowledge, practice and organisation of maternity care from an analytical perspective
- Critically evaluate the integration of a person- and community-centred approach to practice and policy
- Critically evaluate the professional position and ethos of midwifery

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Teaching pattern:

This module uses a blended learning approach including workbooks, online seminars, lectures and face-to-face discussion. There is a three-hour scheduled session that takes place online or in the classroom (see timetable for details) supplemented by online discussion forums, tutorial support and independent study.

Lead Lectures

This is a useful method for presenting an overview of new material and will stimulate you to read further around this subject.

Small group work

Small groups will encourage you to apply theory to practice and extend the depth and breadth of your knowledge; providing opportunities for debate, exploration of personal thoughts and ideas and practice experiences. For this module, much of the small group work will take place during scheduled online sessions using the virtual learning environment (VLE), Moodle.

Personal Tutorials

Tutorials and reflection on learning with your personal tutor enable your progress to be discussed as well as issues of concern about the programme raised. Tutorials also offer you academic and pastoral support and may be face to face, by email or on line using a

VLE

The Moodle online module enables a variety of communication approaches providing both real time and ongoing discussion and reflection. It will also be used as a platform for core and additional materials and sources. Your main module reading list will also be available via Moodle's electronic reading list facility.

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Total student learning hours
What is midwifery?	Lecture/podcast	3	8	11
	Seminar/group work	6	16	22
	Total for unit	9	24	33
Theory for midwifery & maternal health	Lecture/podcast	3	8	11
	Seminar/group work	6	16	22
	Total for unit	9	24	33
The Profession of Midwifery	Lecture/podcast	3	8	11
	Seminar/group work	6	16	22
	Total for unit	9	24	33

Reflection and assignment preparation	Reflections, Tutorials & Individual directed study	3	48	51
Totals:		30	120	150

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

Overview of assessment methods used, including proportion of coursework/written

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Participation in an online debate	Formative, but students <i>must</i> participate actively in at least one debate	0%	N/A	N/A
3000 word essay	Coursework	100%	50%	N/A

Assessment criteria

There is one formative assignment for which students must demonstrate active participation and will receive tutor feedback, without formal marking. Students will be expected to participate in a face-to-face or online seminar debate, on a key topic and question set within the module. Each student will be expected to put forward their perspective on the topic and to respond to their peers using a critically constructive approach. Participation is required to complete the module.

There is one summative (assessed) assignment in which you are expected to complete an essay on a topic area of your own choice, to include the following:

- Evaluation of the development of midwifery practice in your own or an alternative setting (which can include other countries).
- Engagement in critique of either the social, cultural, political, ethical or psychological aspects of midwifery and analysis of their inter-relationships.
- Recommendations for the future development of midwifery practice.

This is a written assignment of 3000 words that will carry 100% of the marks for the module.

Feedback on assessment

Students are encouraged to engage in the readily available professional support from module leaders in preparation for their assignment. This will usually be through tutorials online using Moodle but supplemented by email, telephone or face-to-face contact as needed. Written feedback on assessments will be provided within 3 weeks of submission.

Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 50%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Borsay A and Hunter B. (eds.) (2102) Nursing and Midwifery in Britain Since 1700. Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke.

Bryar R and Sinclair M. (2011) Theory for Midwifery, Second Edition,

Bryson, V. & Deery, R. (2010) Public policy, 'men's time' and power: The work of community midwives in the British National Health Service. Women's Studies International Forum Volume 33, Issue 2, March-April 2010, Pages 91-98

Davis-Floyd, R. (1994) The ritual of hospital birth in America. In: SPRADLEY, J. P. And MCCURDEY, D. W. eds. Conformity and conflict. Readings in cultural anthropology. New York: Harper Collins. 323–340.

Davis-Floyd, R.E. & Sargent, C.F. (eds) (1997) Childbirth and Authoritative Knowledge: Cross-Cultural Perspectives. London: University of California Press.

Davis-Floyd R. Barclay L. Daviss B. and Tritten J. (2009) Birth Models That Work University of California Press, London & Los Angeles.

Department of Health (2007) Maternity Matters: Choice, access and continuity of care in a safe service. HMSO, London, The Stationery Office.

De Vries, R. Benoit, C. Van Tijlingen, E.R. Wrede, S. (eds) (2001) Birth by Design: Pregnancy, Maternity Care and Midwifery in North America and Europe. London: Routledge.

Downe S, (2008) Normal Childbirth Evidence and debate. 2nd edn. London: Elsevier.

Healthcare Commission (2008) Towards better births: A review of maternity services in

England. Commission for Healthcare Audit and Inspection, London (now the Care Quality Commission).

Hunter B. & Deery, R. (2008) *Emotions in Midwifery and Reproduction*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

JORDAN, B. (1993) *Birth in four cultures: a cross-cultural investigation of childbirth in Yucatan, Holland, Sweden and the United States*. Illinois: Waveland Press. 151–168.

Kings Fund (2008) *Safe Births: Everybody's Business. Independent Inquiry Into The Safety Of Maternity Services In England*. Kings Fund, London.

Kirkham M (1996) Professionalisation past and present: with women or with the powers that be? In Kroll D (ed) *Midwifery Care for the Future: Meeting the Challenge*. London: Balliere-Tindall.

Kirkham M (1999) The culture of midwifery in the National Health Service in England. *Journal of Advanced Nursing* 30 (3): 732–9.

McCourt C, Stevens T, Sandall J, Brodie P (2006) Working with women: continuity of carer in practice. In Page L, McCandlish R (eds) *The New Midwifery: Science and Sensitivity in Practice*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Churchill Livingstone.

Leap N. and Hunter B. (2013) *The Midwife's Tale. An oral History from Handywoman to Professional Midwife*, 2nd edition, Yorkshire: Pen and Sword History.

Lupton, D. (1994) Chapter 1: Theoretical perspectives. *Medicine as culture*. London: Sage. 5–19.

McCourt C. (ed) (2010) *Childbirth, Midwifery and Concepts of Time*. Oxford & New York: Berghahn.

Midwifery 2020 (2010) *Midwifery 2020: Delivering Expectations*. Accessed from: www.midwifery2020.org

Oakley, A. (2003) *Essays on Women, Medicine and Health*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Pairman S. Midwifery Partnership: A Professionalizing Strategy for Midwives, in Kirkham M. (ed.) (2010) *The Midwife-Mother Relationship*, 2nd edition, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Sandall J, Soltani H, Gates S, Shennan A, Devane D. (2016) Midwife-led continuity models versus other models of care for childbearing women. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2013, Issue 8. Art. No.: CD004667. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004667.pub3.

Sharp, J. (original author) and Hobby, E. ed. (1999) The midwives book: or the whole art of midwifery. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 145–173.

Soltani, H. & Sandall, J. (2012) Organisation of maternity care and choices of mode of birth: A worldwide view. Midwifery 28:146-149.

Van Teijlingen E (2005) A critical analysis of the medical model as used in the study of pregnancy and childbirth. Sociological Research Online 10 (2), available from www.scoresonline.org.uk/10/2/teijlingen/ (accessed 03/09).

Wilson, A. (1995) The Making of Man Midwifery: childbirth in England 1660- 1770. Harvard University Press, Harvard, Mass.

Key Journals:

Midwifery; Birth; Social Science and Medicine; BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth; International Journal of Childbirth; BMJ Quality and Safety; Sociology of Health and Illness; Evidence-based midwifery; Anthropology and Medicine.

Version: 5.0

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For use from: 2018-19

Appendix: see <http://www.hesa.ac.uk/content/view/1805/296/> for the full list of JACS codes and descriptions

CODES

HESA Code	Description	Price Group
103	Nursing and allied health professions	C2

JACS Code	Description	Percentage (%)
B720	The study of the principles and techniques to allow midwives to deliver babies and treat mothers in the pre-natal, delivery and post-delivery periods.	100%