UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Scientific and Disciplinary Foundations of Nursing Sciences

2627-1-K0102D003-K0102D00302

Aims

The course aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the foundations of nursing science. In addition to strengthening knowledge of the scientific and disciplinary basis of nursing and midwifery care, the course seeks to reinforce students' professional identity through the analysis of philosophical approaches, conceptual models, nursing theories, and the core concepts and values internationally recognized as fundamental to nursing science. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to critically interpret nursing theories and conceptual frameworks, understand their relevance to research and clinical practice, and apply theoretical perspectives to the development of evidence-based nursing.

Contents

Foundations of nursing science. Professional identity and disciplinary development. Philosophy, conceptual models, and nursing theories. Nursing knowledge development. Evidence-Based Nursing. Nursing languages and classification systems. The Human Processes Nursing Care Model. Theoretical foundations for nursing research.

Detailed program

The course explores the foundations and evolution of nursing science as an academic discipline and professional field. Students will examine the development of nursing knowledge according to Meleis and discuss the evolution of nursing science within the Italian context. The course also presents the definition and classification of the nursing discipline developed by the University School of Nursing Disciplines during the 1990s. The role of language in describing and measuring nursing phenomena, with particular emphasis on nursing diagnoses and standardized nursing classification systems. Evidence-Based Nursing will be examined from a scientific and disciplinary perspective, together with the relationship between philosophy, nursing theory, and research. Students will also

explore disciplinary and multidisciplinary methods and tools that support knowledge generation and its application to nursing practice, including nursing documentation in the era of e-health.
The course introduces the major schools of thought in nursing science, including the Needs School, the Interaction School, and the Outcomes School, together with selected nursing theories developed within these traditions. Particular attention will be devoted to the Human Processes Nursing Care Model, examining its theoretical foundations and implications for nursing practice. Additional topics include the definition and components of nursing theories; types of theories; levels of theorization in nursing science, including grand theories, middle-range theories, and situation-specific theories; the development of concepts and theories; and methods for the critical analysis and appraisal of nursing theories. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to develop the theoretical knowledge required for advanced nursing research and as preparation for subsequent coursework in Nursing Research Methodology.

Prerequisites

As defined by the Academic Regulations.

Teaching form

Lectures

Textbook and teaching resource

Provided by the teacher.

Semester

First year, first semester

Assessment method

The assessment method will be communicated in detail by the teacher.

Office hours

By appointment, arranged via email with the teacher.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY