

*Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health  
Course Outline*

# **MIDW 523**

## **Real World Midwifery: Sustaining Clinical Practice**

**Course Co-ordinator:  
Robyn Maude**

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health at Victoria University of Wellington, uses all reasonable skill and care in an effort to ensure the information and course content information contained in this outline is accurate at the time of going to print.

Students should be aware, however, that in the event course timetables and venues need to be changed, all attempts will be made to notify the students.

Produced by the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health,  
81 Fairlie Terrace, Kelburn, Wellington 6021.

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# **STAFF TEACHING IN THIS COURSE**

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## **STUDENT ADMINISTRATOR**

Abbey McDonald

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# **CONTACT DETAILS**

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## **POSTAL ADDRESS**

Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health  
Victoria University of Wellington  
P O Box 600  
Wellington 6140

## **PHYSICAL ADDRESS**

The Fieldhouse Centre  
Victoria University of Wellington  
81 & 83 Fairlie Terrace  
Kelburn  
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Email: [nmh@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nmh@vuw.ac.nz)

Web site: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nmh>

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL DATES**

The Graduate School office will be open on Wednesday 3 January 2008 and close on Tuesday 23 December 2008.

In keeping with the practice of other years, academic staff will not be available on Fridays, except for the times they are involved in Schools.

# **COURSE AIMS**

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This clinically focused course aims to explore the central theme of 'keeping birth normal'. It does this by looking at how 'normal birth' is defined and considered within the current practice environment, focusing particularly on the creation and use of evidence and on the role of risk management in maternity care. The skills and knowledge developed in this paper will support and sustain the continuing refinement of midwifery expertise.

# **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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Participants interact in two teaching/learning sessions in order to complete the following:

## **1. Keeping birth normal**

- 1.1. Develop a critical understanding of contemporary research developments which provide an 'in depth' understanding of the psycho-neuro-physiology of childbearing and childbirth
- 1.2. Develop skills in applying this in depth understanding to a range of clinical situations which describe the care of women during labour/birth and the postpartum period.

## **2. Evidence based practice in maternity care**

- 2.1. Become critical and sophisticated consumers of published research in relation to a range of controversial clinical issues.
- 2.2. Develop an evidence portfolio which can be used in defending clinical decision making and in the sharing of information with women/families and medical practitioners.

## **3. The midwife with risk – understanding the place of risk management in maternity care**

- 3.1. Refine clinical judgement skills incorporating an understanding of the theoretical construct of risk and how it influences clinical decision-making.
- 3.2. Develop strategies for implementing this understanding in clinical practice in relation to a range of clinical scenarios

# **COURSE CONTENT**

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The course content runs over two trimesters and is organised around two major features:

- the two Schools (March and August)
- two assignments

This course offers you the opportunity to think deeply about what midwifery is all about in ‘the real world’ . Fundamentally midwifery is concerned about the protection and promotion of normal birth. We will reflect on what ‘normal’ means in a climate of growing intervention and complexity and in an environment of risk management. There will be an emphasis on the exchange of ideas and readings, developing the ability to understand the origins and approaches to midwifery knowledge. You will gain skills in searching and critiquing the relevant literature, communicating this to each other and relating this to your practice.

In order to help you do this we will have several guest speakers at the schools who will demonstrate the development of midwifery knowledge through their own research endeavours.

During the course we expect you to actively pursue, read and critique literature of relevance to this course and to your own interests. Built into the course is the freedom for you to direct your inquiry and to extend your knowledge in ways which are personally meaningful and professionally helpful.

## **PRE-READINGS**

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There is no specific pre-reading required for this course. However there is an expectation that you will browse in the library and on the internet for inspiring books, journal articles and other resources relevant to contemporary midwifery issues including the use of evidence in midwifery and the management of risk in maternity care.

## RECOMMENDED READING/TEXT

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There is no one required text for this course. The texts detailed below are a small example of readings that will support you on your learning journey. Further readings will be provided during the course.

Davis-Floyd, R. E., & Sargent, C. F. (Eds.). (1997). *Childbirth and authoritative knowledge: cross-cultural perspectives*. California: University of California Press.

Devries, R., Benoit, C., Teijlingen, E. R. V., & Wrede, S. (Eds.). (2001). *Birth by design: pregnancy, maternity care and midwifery in North America and Europe*. New York, London: Routledge.

Donley, J. (1998). *Birthrites: natural vs unnatural childbirth in New Zealand*. Auckland, New Zealand: The Full Courts Press.

Downe, S. (Ed.). (2004). *Normal childbirth: evidence and debate*. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone.

Kirkham, M. (Ed.). (2003). *Birth centres. A social model for maternity care*. Cheshire, England: Books for Midwives.

Kitzinger, S. (2005). *The politics of birth* Oxford: Books for Midwives.

Mander, R., & Fleming, V. (Eds.). (2002). *Failure to progress. The contraction of the midwifery profession*. London, New York: Routledge.

Moberg, K. (2003). *The oxytocin factor: Tapping the hormones of calm, love and healing*. Cambridge: Da Capo Press.

Murphy-Lawless, J. (1998). *Reading birth and death: a history of obstetric thinking*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Odent, M. (1999). *The scientification of love*. New York: Free Association Books Limited.

Tew, M. (1995). *Safer childbirth? A critical history of maternity care* (Second ed.). London., UK: Chapman & Hall.

Wickham, S. (2006). *Midwifery : best practice 4* Edinburg: Books for Midwives.

Wilson, J., & Williams, J. (2002). *Law and clinical risk in midwifery: the right to a perfect baby*. Oxford: Books for Midwives.

# **WORKLOAD**

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30 point courses in the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health have an average workload of twelve hours per week.

# **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

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In order to successfully complete this course you are required to attend all Schools unless under special circumstances prior arrangements have been made with the course co-ordinator.

Students must submit and pass all pieces of assessment to satisfactorily complete the course.

# **GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES**

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Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the VUW homepage at:

[http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support



# **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

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Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:  
[www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html)

## **SCHOOL CATERING**

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The Graduate School will provide **a light snack for lunch** while students are attending Schools, and tea & coffee for morning and afternoon break. While we try to cater for the majority of students please feel free to bring your own supplies if your needs are not being met.

During the lunch breaks you may wish to investigate a variety of student cafes within walking distance on campus and several cafes at Kelburn shops approximately 10 mins walk from the School.

# COURSE TIMETABLE

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WEEK STARTING Monday	DATES	EVENT	ACTION
4 February	6 February	Waitangi Day	
11 February			
18 February			
25 February			
3 March			
10 March			
17 March	21 March	Good Friday	
24 March	24 March 25 March	Easter Monday VUW holiday	
31 March	<b>31 March &amp; 1 April</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> School</b>	
7 April			
14 April			
21 April	25 April	ANZAC Day	
28 April			
5 May			
12 May			
19 May			
26 May			
2 June	2 June	Queens Birthday	
9 June			
16 June			
23 June			
30 June			
7 July			
14 July			
21 July			
28 July			
4 August			
11 August			
18 August	<b>18 &amp; 19 August</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> School</b>	
25 August			
1 September			
8 September			
15 September			
22 September			
29 September			
6 October			
13 October			
20 October			
27 October	27 October	Labour Weekend	
3 November			

# **SCHOOL TIMETABLE**

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## **1<sup>ST</sup> SCHOOL**

Dates: Monday 31 March & Tuesday 1 April 2008

Times: 0930hrs – 1700hrs

Venue: Room 203 83 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn, Wellington

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## **2<sup>ND</sup> SCHOOL**

Dates: Monday 18 & Tuesday 19 August 2008

Times: 0930hrs – 1700hrs

Venue: Room 202 83 Fairlie Tce, Kelburn, Wellington

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# ASSIGNMENTS

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**Assignment information including grade descriptions, the procedures for submitting assignments and referencing information is available on the Graduate School's Website.**

Assignment cover sheets and acknowledgement postcards are attached at the back of this outline. Please ensure you complete an assignment cover sheet and attach it to the front of each assignment you submit. All assignments are to be sent to **Abbey McDonald, Student Administrator**, who will record the details and pass it to the appropriate marker. **Please do not address assignments to members of the academic staff, as they are not necessarily the markers of the assignment.** If you want to have receipt of your assignment acknowledged, complete an acknowledgement postcard and attach it to the front of your assignment.

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health has set a number of assessment tasks and due dates to best meet the outcomes of the course. In keeping with the Graduate School's stated philosophy that no assessment work shall serve the Graduate School alone, it is possible to negotiate alternative assessments and schedule. This should be undertaken in consultation with the course co-ordinator.

## **Graduate School guidelines for submission and return of student assignments:**

1. All assignments are to be submitted to the Graduate School by 5.00pm on the nominated due date.
  - 1.1 An extension to the due date may only be given in exceptional circumstances. Such circumstances would typically be sickness (as evidenced by a medical certificate) or bereavement.
  - 1.2 Application for an extension must be made to Course Co-ordinators at least 24 hours before the due date.
  - 1.3 Course Co-ordinators may grant an extension of up to 2 weeks.
  - 1.4 Any extension requested for longer than 2 weeks must be agreed to and signed off by the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or in her absence the Head of School.
2. Dean's extensions
  - 2.1 are available in exceptional circumstances for only the final piece of assessment in any course,
  - 2.2 must be applied for in writing at least 48 hours prior to due date,
  - 2.3 may be approved for up to 4 weeks by the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or Head of School with the appropriate documentation provided,
  - 2.4 may be extended beyond 4 weeks with written approval by, and an interview with, the Teaching and Learning Co-ordinator or Head of School.

3. Student coursework assignments submitted by the due date will be returned with feedback within four weeks of the due date. Students who do not submit within this timeframe may be subject to delays in their assignment being returned and may not receive comprehensive feedback.
4. Assignments which remain outstanding for up to two weeks without due cause beyond the due date will be marked, but cannot attract a grade higher than a 'C' (pass) grade.
5. Assignments that remain outstanding beyond two weeks from the due date without due cause will attract an 'E' (fail) grade. These assignments will not be marked and will not be able to be resubmitted for grading.
6. In exceptional circumstances withdrawal from assessment is a mechanism that may be recommended by the Course Co-ordinator to the Head of School when all avenues for extension have been exhausted and the Course Co-ordinator is satisfied that the student will be able to complete the required work in the negotiated timeframe. This timeframe will normally be to the end of the following trimester and will not extend beyond three trimesters.

**Final assignments will not be accepted by email.**

Students must submit and pass all pieces of assessment to satisfactorily complete the course.

## **ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

At all times students must act within the boundaries of professional Codes of Conduct, relevant legislative frameworks and the governance, rules and contracts of their employing organisation. Further information with regard to student's ethical responsibilities and relevant templates can be accessed on the Blackboard site or will be provided in class if required.

# ASSIGNMENT WRITING: GUIDELINES FOR FORMAT AND PRESENTATION

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The Graduate School recommends the use of APA referencing for all assignments and information on APA referencing can be found by searching online:

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: 5th ed. (2001).

Students can also request a copy of the Referencing the APA Style A Brief Guide (Brochure) from Student Learning Support Services or view on:

[http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st\\_Services/slss/studyhub/reference/APA.pdf](http://www.vuw.ac.nz/st_Services/slss/studyhub/reference/APA.pdf)

- Assignments should be concise and relevant; when a word limit applies students should avoid exceeding it. Keep within 10% of the stated limit, e.g. 3000 words means 2750 - 3300. Word count includes references
- Font size 12, Times New Roman or Arial only
- Double or 1.5 line spacing. Justify all text
- 4.5-5 cm margin on the left side for marker's comments.
- Assignments must be typed and printed clearly on one side of A4 size white paper only, with all pages fastened together by staple or secure clip.
- All pages should have a footer which includes the following:
  - Course number, assignment number and student ID number (left aligned), e.g. *NURS 512, Assignment 2, 300011122*
  - Page number (right aligned)
- Include a title page and always attach an assignment cover sheet on top. The cover sheets are included with the Course Outline.
- Appendices: These are additional materials related to the text but not suitable for inclusion because of its length or format (e.g. policy documents, etc). These are not marked or counted in the word limit, but should be clearly referred to as appropriate within the main text (e.g. see Appendix A).
- Do not use plastic sheets, clear files or folders to put the assignment in (except for your portfolio), as these make it difficult for markers to handle.
- Ensure you keep a copy of your assignment until it is returned from being marked.

# CONFERENCE & SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

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Students of the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health are encouraged to present their work at professional conferences and as papers for publication. Students should discuss this with the course co-ordinator in the first instance. Dissemination of findings from academic work is a very important part of graduate education and assists clinical teams and professional groups to access up-to-date and new knowledge. Course co-ordinators will provide academic guidance in relation to the targeted activities, and also in relation to the proper academic processes of authorship and acknowledgement.

For all conference, professional and workplace presentations our VUW Power Point template should be used. You are also required to use this template for all school presentations as part of your assignment requirements. This template is available and can be accessed by those students using Blackboard or you can email: [abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz) for a copy of the template to be sent to you.

As a general rule, presentations and papers should cite yourselves as post-graduate students, and name the Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health as the organisation. In keeping with academic conventions course co-ordinators and teaching associates who help with the ideas and preparation of the paper/presentation should be directly acknowledged or named as co-authors.

# REPORTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND AWARDS

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At the end of each year the Graduate School reports to the University details of student special achievements (such as awards, grants, presentations, and publications).

You are required to complete and submit this form Record of Special Achievements related to Study at Victoria (attached to back of outline) with your final assignment for this course.

If you would prefer to complete and submit this form electronically, a copy of the form can be located on Blackboard, our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nsemid/research/student-achievements.aspx> or you could contact [Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz) to request a copy.

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## Assignment Number One

Assignment Name: Using the Evidence to keep birth normal

Due Date: 13 June 2008

This assignment is worth 50 % of your final grade

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1. Discuss the impact of the environment on the psycho-neuro-physiology of childbirth and how you would use this knowledge to create the ideal birthing environment. (*Length 3000-5000 words*)

**Or**

2. Critically examine the published research evidence pertaining to one 'controversial' issue in maternity care and provide an account of information that you would give to women to assist their decision making on this issue. This should include **how** you provide the information. (*Length 3000-5000 words*)

**Or**

3. A topic of your choice relating to keeping birth normal and/or providing evidence for practice (must be negotiated with course co-ordinator) (*Length 3000-5000 words*)

This assignment contributes to objectives 1 and 2



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## Assignment Number Two

Assignment Name: Risk and normality

Due Date: 17 October 2008

This assignment is worth 50% of your final grade

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1. Discuss how 'keeping birth normal' is affected by current risk assessment strategies in the context of a clinical scenario from your own practice (*Length 3000-5000 words*)

**Or**

2. Discuss how different perspectives on risk might impact on decision-making in relation to one maternity-related clinical condition. (*Length 3000-5000 words*)

**Or**

3. A topic of your choice related to keeping birth normal and/or the management of risk (must be negotiated with course co-ordinator) (*Length 3000-5000 words*)

This assessment contributes to objectives 1,2 and 3

Please note:

You are required to complete and submit this form Record of Special Achievements related to Study at Victoria (attached to back of outline) with your final assignment for this course.

If you would prefer to complete and submit this form electronically, a copy of the form can be located on Blackboard, our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nsemid/research/student-achievements.aspx> or you could contact [Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz) to request a copy.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH**  
**Record of Special Achievements related to Study at Victoria**

At the end of each year the Graduate School reports to the University details of student special achievements (such as awards, grants, presentations, and publications). Please complete this form and **submit with your final assignment for the course**. If you would prefer to complete and submit this form electronically, a copy of the form can be located on Blackboard, our website <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/nsemid/research/student-achievements.aspx> or you could contact [Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Abbey.mcdonald@vuw.ac.nz) to request a copy.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Course Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Industry sponsorship**

Name of Sponsor	Notes in relation to the conditions of sponsorship	Value	Year
eg, C&C DHB	50% Student fees paid on successful completion of the course of study	\$	2008

**Special awards, Prizes & Scholarships**

Name of Award/ Prize/ Scholarship	Source/Provider	Notes in relation to the prize/award/scholarship	Value/ Form	Year
eg 'Best clinical innovation'	Mental Health College of Nurses	A project that I developed while doing my practicum course resulted in our clinical team changing the way in which we met with and involved families in patient care	\$500 Award Certificate	2008

**Professional presentations / Seminars /Conferences**

If you gave any professional presentations, seminars or conference papers during the year please provide the details below use APA style for referencing these

*Example:* Student, A. (2008). New models of nursing documentation and their relevance to orthopaedic practice. Paper presented at the Orthopaedic Nurses study day 'Stepping towards the future' held in Wellington, 14 August 2008.

**Publications (Book reviews, editorials, journal articles, chapters, monographs, books etc)**

*Example:* Student, A & Teacher, B. (2008). Mental Health Consumers speak about their Health Education Needs. *Contemporary Nurse*, 5(4), 114-126.

**Other Special Achievements**

If you have had any other special achievements during the year please provide the details.

**Attach and submit with your final assignment thank you**