This useful document outlines why the needs of older people are important and examines a range of policy issues that impact on those needs.


As the name suggests, this book looks at issues of gender and ageing. Written by experts in the field, it explores topics such as widowhood, sex and ageing, gay and lesbian experiences and social networks. It is an academic book so some may find it a challenging read.


This book looks critically at the whole issue of quality of life; how it can be conceptualised and approaches to its measurement. It draws on the experiences of older people and how they talk about their quality of life.


This book, part of a developmental psychology series, comprehensively examines theories of ageing: social, psychological and biological. It has a separate section devoted to a discussion of advanced ageing.


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This paper summarises the barriers that prevent older people with a learning disability from accessing health care.


An article by the co-founders of the RCN Gerontological Nursing Programme, arguing the case for nursing education that prepares expert nurses in gerontological nursing.  
This article will provide some insights into the rationale behind the development of this programme.


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This is the first of a series of five articles that trace the development of gerontological nursing in a variety of care settings. It could be useful to read the article relevant to your own practice setting before you tackle the module assignments. The first paper highlights some of the tensions that currently exist in acute care settings. For example, the care of older people in acute hospital settings has been severely criticised. However, nursing older people is still not regarded as a worthwhile specialty and often both pre- and post-registration programmes fail to include the principles of nursing older people that can be applied in any setting.


This article considers the future of nursing in nursing homes. The importance of nursing in such environments is highlighted. The authors argue that work in long-term care settings must be valued if the quality of care is to be improved.


In this final article, the authors consider the future prospects of gerontological nursing, with particular focus on the philosophy of care, expert gerontological nurses and evidence-based practice. Nolan and Tolson conclude that there is a need for further research and improvements in nurse education if gerontological nursing is to consolidate its place in nursing practice.


This important book draws on the findings of a longitudinal study funded by the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, which evaluated the educational preparation of nurses in the care of older people. The book sets out the ‘senses’ framework – security, continuity, belonging, purpose, fulfilment and significance.
You will need your Athens password to hand to access this article.

This book, written by a team well known for their research with older people, is targeted at students on gerontology courses. It covers topics such as ideas and models of growing older, attitudes, the lived environment, memory, sexuality and intimacy, safety and risk. Each chapter is set out with key points, exercises and summaries. The ethos running throughout the book is one of person-centred practice.


Royal College of Nursing (2005) One year on: caring in partnership: older people and nursing staff working towards the future, London: RCN.
This is the recently launched RCN older people strategy, that has been developed in partnership with older people.


In this article, Titchen and McGinley explore the concept of critical companionship, building on the discussion in the programme handbook. The article may therefore be helpful as you begin your learning journey.

This article describes the current developments in health policy that emphasise the promotion of independence. The article also outlines the implications of these developments for community nurses. The authors argue that if policy initiatives are to be fulfilled, community nurses’ education must reflect current policy.


An interesting and accessible article that examines 17 nursing theories and models in order to discover nurse theorists’ views on ageing and whether they offer insight into how gerontological nursing could be organised.


This article, written by researchers at the RCN Institute, argues that nurses need to take an active role in shaping and implementing health policy and examines ways in which the policy impact of nursing research might be increased.

**Useful websites**

You may find it useful to browse the content of these websites during your studies.

Age Concern  
[www.ageconcern.co.uk](http://www.ageconcern.co.uk)

Alzheimer’s Society  
[www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

Counsel and Care  
[www.counselandcare.org.uk](http://www.counselandcare.org.uk)

Department of Health (England)  
[www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (Northern Ireland)  
[www.dhsspsni.gov.uk](http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation  
[www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)

King’s Fund  
[www.kingsfund.org.uk](http://www.kingsfund.org.uk)

Help the Aged, *Age Discrimination Campaigns*  
[www.helptheaged.org.uk/CampaignsNews/AgeDiscrimination/_default.htm](http://www.helptheaged.org.uk/CampaignsNews/AgeDiscrimination/_default.htm)

Office for National Statistics  
[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

Scottish Executive (Scotland)  
[www.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.scotland.gov.uk)

National Assembly for Wales (Wales)  
[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

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