

The course introduces students to psychological theories as they apply to the everyday experiences of nursing. They will examine both the patient's and their own responses to stressful situations in relation to illness.

(Further details are attached)

Further Details (S260 Psychology)

The course introduces students to psychological theories generally and in particular to how they might apply to everyday nursing experiences. Patients' behaviour will be explored and made comprehensible in relation to crises of illnesses and hospitalisation. Patients' and families' dynamics in relation to responses to crises will be examined. Comparative approaches in psychological literature will be compared and contrasted in considering traditions of management, measurements, psychological testing and psychodynamics.

The objectives of the course are to provide students with intellectual equipment that will enable them to locate their patients and to understand their observations of them and of themselves; to develop supporting mechanisms in relation to their patients' needs and particularly skills in identifying areas of stress and in the care of patients with mental handicap.

The subject-matter will be explored through a generational approach, by taking a developmental psychological view of the human life cycle, by focussing on students' practical work as they discuss their learning experiences which arise out of the clinical situation. Students' own responses will also be discussed and shown to depend on similar variables to those of their patients: the dynamics of the family, the meaning of illness and of belonging to particular social and cultural groups. Whilst the theoretical framework will use a developmental psychological approach, psychological theories will be discussed and their appropriateness for nursing considered.