

PSYC 467H: Clinical Neuropsychology Honors

Fall 2008

Instructor: Dr. Julie Alvarez

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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 pm, Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 pm, and by appointment

CLASSROOM: Stern Hall, room 2013
CLASS TIME: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm

PREREQUISITES: Psyc 333 *and* Psyc 367 *and* Junior or Senior Standing

TEXTBOOKS: Freides, D. (2001). *Developmental Disorders: A Neuropsychological Approach*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

American Psychological Association. (2001). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th ed.* Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The primary purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the study of clinical neuropsychology. The course will begin by presenting an overview of brain structures and functions. It then will cover conditions that are due to some malfunction in the central or peripheral nervous system. The objectives are to: (1) survey current neuropsychological knowledge as it pertains to normal functioning and to both neuropathological and psychopathological conditions; (2) present a developmental perspective about neuropsychological factors in pathological conditions; and (3) familiarize students with primary research literature in an area of personal interest.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in neuropsychological assessment, including neural functioning, neuroanatomy, ictal conditions, disorders of sleep/arousal, depression, attention and its disorders, the motor system and its disorders, the visual system and its disorders, language and its disorders, academic and social learning disabilities, childhood psychoses and autism, acquired brain damage, intelligence, and mental retardation.
- Students will gain an understanding of basic research methods in psychology and apply this knowledge by conducting a literature review using appropriate empirical and theoretical literature found through on-line databases (e.g., PsycINFO; PubMed). In addition to applying this knowledge via a written review paper, students also will prepare an oral presentation, which shall adhere to professional standards in the field of psychology.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course is scheduled to meet for 75 minutes, 2 times each week. The course will combine lecture, discussion, videos, and student presentations. Class participation and involvement is valued and strongly encouraged. To this end, there will be an open atmosphere in the class, which depends on unequivocal respect for the opinions and concerns of everyone in the classroom.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance

Attendance is **REQUIRED** and is worth **5%** of your final grade. Each student will be permitted to have **one unexcused** absence during the semester. **One point** will be deducted from your 5-point attendance grade each time you miss a class without an appropriate excuse. Physical illness, death of a family member, religious holidays, and Tulane athletic events (in which you are a participating athlete) qualify as excused absences. Absences will be excused only with **proper documentation**: you must provide me with a doctor's note, a letter from your coach, an obituary, etc. in order for your absence to be excused. Family events, traffic, delayed/cancelled flights, etc. will **not** be excused. **BONUS**: you will earn **one extra credit point** toward your final grade if you attend **all** classes!

Class Presentation

Each student will be required to give a **25-minute** class presentation. Topics will be assigned on Monday, September 15.

Research Paper

Each student will write a paper reviewing primary research literature (10 pages, 5-10 references). Students may choose to write their paper on virtually any topic in the field of clinical neuropsychology of interest to them. The paper must adhere to guidelines provided in the fifth edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.

Note Taking

The morning of each lecture, I will post a lecture outline on Blackboard. This outline will **not** contain all of the information on the slides, so **note taking is required**. You should rework your notes **after each class** so that the overall organization of the ideas expressed in the lecture is clear, and you should review your notes **weekly** in order to facilitate recall on tests.

GRADING

Grades in this course will be based on your performance on two midterm exams, a final exam, attendance, a class presentation, and a research paper. The exams will consist of multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay questions related to the course material, including material from class lectures, class presentations, videos, and reading assignments.

Final grades will be assigned according to the following distribution, with *no curve*:

Attendance	5%				
Class Presentation	15%				
Research Paper	20%				
Midterm Exam 1	20%				
Midterm Exam 2	20%				
Final Exam	20%				
TOTAL:	100%				
		Points Earned	Grade	Points Earned	Grade
		92-100	A	72-77.9	C
		90-91.9	A-	70-71.9	C-
		88-89.9	B+	68-69.9	D+
		82-87.9	B	62-67.9	D
		80-81.9	B-	60-61.9	D-
		78-79.9	C+	Below 60	F

COURSES POLICIES

1. Tulane University expects the highest level of academic honesty and integrity. Accordingly, all students enrolled at Tulane University must abide by the principles of the Honor Code (<http://college.tulane.edu/code.htm>). Academic dishonesty of any kind will **not** be tolerated in this course. Honor Code violations will be reported to the Honor Board in accordance with the Honor Code. A conviction of an Honor Code violation is a serious offence with grave consequences. Conviction of a first offence usually results in a WF for the course, a period of disciplinary probation, and notation on the student's permanent record. Conviction of a second honor board offense typically results in expulsion from the University.
2. When you come to class, please turn off your cell phone! I expect that you will show respect to your classmates and to me by refraining from any behavior (e.g., talking, sleeping, reading, text messaging, arriving late, leaving early) that will serve to interfere with the class session. **YOU MUST COME TO CLASS ON TIME AND YOU MAY NOT LEAVE CLASS EARLY!!!**
3. All examinations will take place as scheduled on page 4 of the syllabus. Please adjust your schedule accordingly. **NO EARLY EXAMS OR MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!!** Also, you must come to the exams **ON TIME**.
4. All examinations will cover information from lectures **AND** assigned readings. Usually, the information I think is really important will be covered in both. However, there are some important topics that the textbook doesn't discuss. For those topics, the information presented in lectures will be the primary basis for exam questions. Similarly, some topics are covered quite well by the textbook and we won't spend much time on them in class. Again, these topics are "fair game" for exam questions.
5. To request accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 504-862-8433. If you already have registered with ODS and have academic accommodations through the Center for Educational Resources and Counseling (ERC) that you would like to use in this class, please schedule a meeting with me as soon as possible (preferably during the **first two weeks** of the semester) to discuss the nature of the accommodation(s). I also need a completed copy of the official **Course Accommodation Form** for the **Fall 2008** semester. Remember, it is *your* responsibility to inform me *prior to each examination* that you will be taking the exam in the ERC. Failure to do so may result in your inability to take the exam in the ERC.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS*

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
Wed 8/27	Introduction and Course Overview	Syllabus
Mon 9/1	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY	
Wed 9/3	NO CLASS: HURRICANE GUSTAV EVACUATION	
Mon 9/8	Overview of the Field of Clinical Neuropsychology	Chapter 1
Wed 9/10	Neurons and Neural Functioning	Chapter 2
Mon 9/15	Development of Brain Structures and Neuroanatomy *Class Presentation Topics are assigned today*	Chapter 3
Wed 9/17	Basic Principles of Neuropsychology	Chapters 4-7
Mon 9/22	EXAM 1 (chapters 1-7): 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm	
Wed 9/24	Review Exam 1 / *Topic for Research Paper is Due Today*	
Mon 9/29	Disorders of State: Ictal Conditions	Chapter 8
Wed 10/1	Disorders of Sleep/Arousal, Depression, and Mania	Chapter 9
Mon 10/6	Attention and its Disorders	Chapter 10
Wed 10/8	Class Presentations I	
Mon 10/13	Disorders of the Motor System	Chapter 11
Wed 10/15	Class Presentations II	
Mon 10/20	The Visual System and its Disorders	Chapter 12
Wed 10/22	Class Presentations III	
Mon 10/27	EXAM 2 (chapters 8-12): 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm	
Wed 10/29	Review Exam 2 / *First Draft of Research Paper is Due Today*	
Mon 11/3	NO CLASS - Instructor out of town	
Wed 11/5	Hearing, Language, and their Disorders	Chapter 13
Mon 11/10	Academic and Social Learning Disabilities	Chapter 14
Wed 11/12	Class Presentations IV	
Mon 11/17	Childhood Psychoses and Autism	Chapter 15
Wed 11/19	Class Presentations V	
Mon 11/24	Acquired Brain Damage	Chapter 16
Wed 11/26	NO CLASS - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!	
Mon 12/1	Intelligence and Mental Retardation	Chapter 17
Wed 12/3	Course Evaluations/ *Final Version of Research Paper is Due*	
Mon 12/15	FINAL EXAM (chapters 13-17): 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	

* Note: I reserve the right to modify this schedule.