Health Assessment II: Neuropsychological Assessment (PSY 5326-251/252)

Spring 2012

Tues 9:30-12:20 or 12:30-3:20 Office hours: Mon 1:30-3:30

Dr. Joe Etherton Wed 10:30-11:30 Thur 1:00-2:00

310G or by appt.

512 245-6367

je27@txstate.edu

Textbook (required): Hebben & Milberg (2009). Essentials of Neuropsychological Assessment, 2nd ed. Wiley Press.

Supplemental readings/lecture notes from:

1. Snyder, Nussbaum, & Robins (2005). Clinical Neuropsychology: A pocket handbook for assessment. American Psychological Association. (not required, but recommended for those going further in neuropsychology).

2. Blumenfeld, H. (2010). Neuroanatomy through Clinical Cases. (readings to be provided via TRACS).

COURSE DESCRIPTION. The primary goals for this class include gaining *content knowledge* about clinical neuropsychology as a field, issues and techniques in neuropsychological assessment, some forms of neuropathology, and the instruments used to evaluate neuropsychological functioning. In addition, some activities will be geared toward the goal of *skill acquisition*; this will include demonstration and administration of different instruments, as well as report writing. By the end of the course students should understand the methods and instruments used in neuropsychological assessment, different forms of brain dysfunction, test administration and interpretation, and report writing.

COURSE FORMAT. This course will include a significant lecture component, particularly in the first half of the course. However, many classes, particularly in the last half of the semester, will involve student demonstrations of instruments, as well as hands-on practice in administering different instruments. Learning about neuropsychological will occur in part through *administering* instruments, but also through the subjective experience of serving as an *examinee*; this is intended to illustrate at what cognitive/neuropsychological functions are engaged by different assessment instruments.

DISABILITY ACCOMMONDATIONS. If you are a student with a disability who will require an accommodation(s) to participate in this course, please contact me within the first two weeks of the semester. You will be asked to provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services (Suite 5-5.1, LBJ Student Center, telephone 245-3451). Setting up these accommodations requires some time, so please contact me as early as possible to initiate this service.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. Plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty, including copying from the work of others on exams, are contrary to the principles and purpose of the university and diminish the value of an education. Students’ performance on exams, papers, and presentations must reflect their own work. Papers that paraphrase the ideas of others must credit these sources, and students must not pass off the ideas or work of others as one’s own. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Potential penalties for copying others’ work on exams or for plagiarism include an F for the work or for the entire course, and may involve more severe penalties. Such consequences are easily avoided by adhering to principles of academic integrity.

ATTENDANCE. At the graduate level, regular (nearly perfect), punctual attendance is expected. Students should arrive on time and should attend every class, particularly given that classes meet only once per week. If an absence cannot be avoided, please notify me as soon as possible. Missing more than 2 classes or repeated tardiness will result in the final grade being lowered by one letter grade.

GRADING. Your grade will be based in part on your performance on a midterm exam, a final exam, three assessment reports, presentation/demonstration of two instruments. In addition, part of your grade will involve selecting three different forms of neuropsychological dysfunction (e.g., stroke, dementia, aphasia) and role-playing each of these as a patient during test administration by another student. As part of this you will need to provide a “history” (school performance, social functioning, injury/medical history, made-up by you) that your examiner can use for his/her assessment report. Summary write-ups of each of the dysfunctions you role-played will also be turned (i.e., the characteristic symptoms and deficits associated with the condition, the tests used to detect, characterize, and quantify the impairment, and the pattern of test performance associated with the condition) For the write-up you should specify what functions would be impaired, but also which would be preserved, and your role-play during testing should reflect this.

Points for the graded activities will be allocated as follows:

GRADED ACTIVITIES

1. Exam 1 100 pts

2. Exam 2 100 pts

3. Final Exam 100 pts

4. Report WAIS + instruments administration I 40 pts

5. Report WAIS + instruments administration II 40 pts

6. Report WAIS + instruments administration III 40 pts

7. Examinee disorder summary 1 20 pts

8. Examinee disorder summary 2 20 pts

9. Examinee disorder summary 3 20 pts

10. Instrument presentation/demonstration 1 20 pts (P/F)

11. Instrument presentation/demonstration 2 20 pts (P/F)

520 Total Points

Grading is based on 90 = A, 80 = B.

Schedule (subject to change)

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| Jan 17/19 | Introduction to Neuropsychological Assessment | Essentials ch. 1, 2 |
| Jan 24/26 | Review of interview, clinical history | Essentials ch. 3 |
| Jan 31/Feb 2 | Test selection, administration, scoring | Essentials Ch. 4 |
| Feb 7/9 | Test interpretation, special issues | Essentials ch. 5, 6 |
| **Feb 14/16** | **Exam 1** | Essentials ch. 1-6 |
| Feb 21/23 | Neuropathology | Readings, lecture notes (from Synder; Blumenfeld) |
| Feb 28/March 1 | Neuropathology | Readings, lecture notes (from Synder; Blumenfeld) |
| March 6/8 | Test demonstration, administration | Selected instruments |
| **March 12-16** | **Spring Break** |  |
| *March 20/22* | Test demonstration, administration |  Selected instruments |
| March 27/29 | Neuropathology | Readings, lecture notes (from Synder; Blumenfeld) |
| April 3/5 | **Exam 2** | Neuropathology readings and lecture notes |
| April 10/12 | Test demonstration, administration | Selected instruments |
| April 17/19 | Test demonstration, administration | Selected instruments |
| April 24/26 | Test demonstration, administration | Selected instruments |
| Th. sect May 3 2:00Tu sect May 8 11:00 | **Comprehensive Final Exam** |  |

**Due dates:**

Assessment Report 1 and examinee write-up 1 of condition by **March 27/29**

Assessment Report 2 and examinee write-up 2 of condition by **April 10/12**

Assessment Report 3 and examinee write-up 3 of condition by **April 24/26**