Neuropsychological Assessment (PSY 5326)

Spring 2016

Thurs 2:00-4:40 Office hours: Monday 12:30-3:30

Dr. Joe Etherton Tuesday 12:30-2:30

UAC 233 or by appt.

512 245-6367

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

Supplemental readings/lecture notes from:

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

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 learning to administer standard neuropsychological instruments. 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. However, many classes, will involve learning about and 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 on your performance on two regular exams, a take-home final exam, and a presentation. Earning full course credit will also require participation in practice administrations of neuropsychological tests as examiner, examinee, and observer. This activity will be graded in a pass/fail manner (earning all 50 points for fully engaging in these tasks, or 0 points for failing to do so).

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. Presentation (20 minutes) 50 pts

5. Testing participation (pass/fail) 50 pts

400 Total Points

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

Schedule of topics. Note: This schedule is subject to change due to illness, weather, etc.

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| 1/21 | Introduction to Neuropsychological Assessment | a. Essentials ch. 1  b. WAIS-IV overview |
| 1/28 | Interview, clinical history. | a. Essentials ch. 2, ch. 3; WAIS-IV practice admin (checklist for subtests 1-3). |
| 2/4 | Test selection, administration, scoring | Essentials Ch. 4a. WAIS subtests 4-6 |
| 2/11 | Test selection, admin | Ch. 4 b; WAIS subtests 7-10 |
| 2/18 | Test interpretation, special issues | Essentials ch. 5, 6. CVLT, Rey CFT |
| 2/25 | **OUT OF TOWN- NO CLASS** |  |
| 3/3 | Report writing | Essentials ch. 7. Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (admin + score) |
| 3/10 | **Exam 1** | **Chapters 1-7, WAIS administration** |
| **3/14-18** | **Spring Break** |  |
| 3/24 | Neuroanatomy, Validity Measures | Readings, lecture notes (from Snyder; Blumenfeld) |
| 3/31 | TBI and concussion; *presentations* | Readings, lecture notes (from Snyder; Blumenfeld) |
| 4/7 | Dementias; *presentations* | Readings, lecture notes (from Snyder; Blumenfeld) |
| 4/14 | Cerebrovascular disease; *presentations* | Readings, lecture notes (from Snyder; Blumenfeld) |
| 4/21 | Frontal lobe dysfunction; *presentations* | Readings, lecture notes (from Snyder; Blumenfeld) |
| 4/28 | **Exam 2** |  |
| Due 5/5 4:30pm. | **Take-home Final Exam** |  |