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University of Toronto at Scarborough College
Division of Life Sciences

Clinical Neuropsychology

PsyC31

Tuesdays 5-7 PM, SW 128

Dr. Paul Comper

Paul.comper@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday 3:00-4:45pm (or by appointment)

Office Location: PL103, #1

Clinical Psychology Laboratory

Teaching Assistants:

Stephanie Bass: Stephanie.bass@utoronto.ca

Sarah Uzzaman: Sarah.uzzaman@utoronto.ca

Brief Description of Clinical Neuropsychology:

Neuropsychology is the research discipline that seeks to understand brain and behavior relationships through the study of both healthy and damaged central nervous systems. It seeks to identify the biological substrates of behaviors, from creative genius to mental illness, which account for intellectual processes as well as personality.

Clinical Neuropsychology is an *applied science* that is concerned with the behavioural expression of brain dysfunction (Lezak et al., 2004). The clinical neuropsychologist uses standardized tests to tie the biological and behavioral aspects together. Inferences are made on the basis of accumulated research. Overall, the clinical neuropsychologist interprets every aspect of the examination (both quantitative and qualitative components) to ascertain the relative cognitive strengths and weaknesses that a patient with suspected or known neuropathology.

Findings from a neuropsychological examination can be used to make diagnoses, inform rehabilitation strategies, and direct various aspects of patient care.

In this course we will comprehensively explore the science and practice of clinical neuropsychology.

Important Notes:

- A. All course related inquiries are to be directed to the Teaching Assistants course e-Mail addresses as provided on the first page.
- B. Every enrolled student must ensure that they have access to the course website via the UTSC intranet. All course related content will be posted here (e.g., lecture slides, important announcements, and midterm grades). The only format that will be used for all posted documents is Adobe PDF. Free reading software is available at www.adobe.com.
- C. Every effort will be made to post the lecture slides on the Monday evening prior to each class (before 10 pm) or earlier.
- D. All students need to ensure that they have the necessary prerequisites for this course. If this course is taken without having completed the prerequisites, the registrar will not allow you credit for this course at the time of graduation. This can jeopardize the completion of your degree.
- E. The prerequisites are Psychological Research Methods (PSYB01H), Abnormal Psychology (PSYB32H), Human Brain & Behaviour (PSYB65H), and any of the following statistics courses: PSYB07H, SOCB06H, STAB22H. The only exclusion for this course is PSYC32H which is reserved for co-op students in the Behavioural Disorders Stream.
- F. If a lecture is cancelled because of an unforeseen circumstance (e.g., snow-storm cancellation, unexpected illness), students are still responsible for the material that was to be presented in the lecture that day. I will do what I can to cover the missed material the following week as time permits.
- G. If a student is absent from a midterm examination due to illness or other extenuating circumstance, they must contact the instructor by way of the Teaching Assistants via the course e-mail addresses as soon as possible. For medical reasons, students must use the University of Toronto Student Medical certificate. It can be downloaded on the UTSC website. Matters concerning the final examination are dealt with solely by the Registrar's office.
- H. Make-up midterm examinations are held exactly one week after the original exam date. Exact details will be listed on the intranet.
- I. For all examinations, you must bring your U of T student ID cards. You are also encouraged to bring a pencil and eraser to allow for making answer changes.

J. Students with a disability/health consideration are encouraged to approach me and the AccessAbility Services Office (416-287-7560). You can also drop by their office, S302B, inside the Resource Centre. A coordinator is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations.

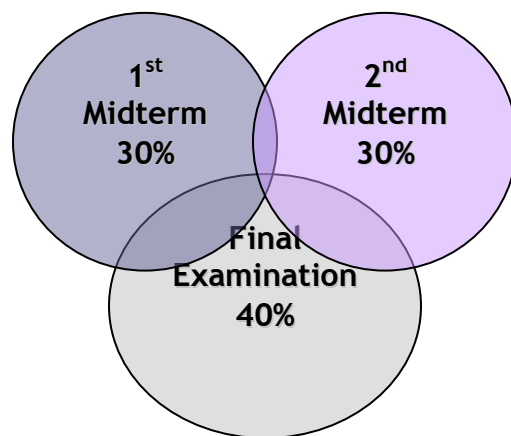
Readings:

Lezak, M.D., Howieson, D.B., & Loring, D.W. (2004). *Neuropsychological assessment* (4th Edition). New York: Oxford University Press.

**This is the same book that was used last year.*

Grading Scheme:

Your grade will be determined by three examinations. Two in-class midterms and one final examination. All exams are multiple-choice in format.



1st Midterm

- Administered in-class (February 2)
- Will consist of 50 multiple choice questions
- Worth 30% of your final grade

2nd Midterm

- Administered in-class (March 9)
- Non-Cumulative
- Will consist of 50 multiple choice questions
- Worth 30% of your final grade

Final Exam

- UTSC final examination period
- Cumulative (but representative of entire course learning)

Will consist of 50 multiple choice questions
Worth 40% of your final grade

Important Dates:

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|--------------------|------------------------------------------|
| • January 4 | Classes begin for S/resume for Y courses |
| • January 17 | Last day to add S section courses |
| • February 16-20 | Reading Week |
| • March 21 | Last day to drop S Section courses |
| • April 12 - May 1 | Final Examination period |

Lecture Dates and Readings:

January 5

Lecture:

Welcome & Introduction

History, Theory and Practice of Neuropsychological Assessment

Chapter 1

January 12

Lecture:

Basic Concepts

Chapter 2

The Neuropsychological Examination: Procedures

Chapter 5

January 19

Lecture:

The Behavioural Geography of the Brain

Chapter 3

Orientation and Attention

Chapter 9

January 26

Lecture:

The Rationale of Deficit Management

Chapter 4

Perception

Chapter 10

February 2

First Mid-Term Examination

The examination will cover chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 & 10

February 9

Lecture:

The Neuropsychological Examination: Interpretation

Chapter 6

Memory I: Tests

Chapter 11

February 16

No class (Reading week).

February 23

Lecture:

Neuropathology for Neuropsychologists

Chapter 7

Verbal Functions and Language Skills

Chapter 12

March 2

Lecture:

Neuropathology for Neuropsychologists, Continued

Chapter 7

Construction

Chapter 14

March 9

Second Mid-Term Examination

The examination will Cover chapters 6, 7, 11, 12 & 14

The examination is non-cumulative

March 16

Lecture:

Neurobehavioral Variables and Diagnostic Issues

Chapter 8

Concept Formation and Reasoning

Chapter 15

March 23

Lecture:

Neurobehavioral Variables and Diagnostic Issues Continued

Chapter 8

Executive Functions and Motor Performance

Chapter 16

March 22

Testing for Response Bias and Incomplete Effort

Chapter 20

Overall Review of the Neuropsychological Examination

End of the Term

The final examination will be scheduled by the registrar's office approximately midway through the term. Details will be provided in class and on the intranet once known. The final examination will cover Chapters 8, 15, 16, and 20 and is cumulative although do note that the exam questions will be most representative chapters 8, 15, 16, and 20.