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University of Toronto at Scarborough College
Division of Life Sciences

Clinical Neuropsychology

PSYC32 (Laboratory)

PsyC32

Lecture: Tuesdays, 5-7 PM, SW 128

Laboratory: Tuesdays, 7 to 8 pm, SW128

Instructor: 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/Lab Instructors:

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 the laboratory component of this course you will learn how to administer, score and interpret a wide variety of neuropsychological 'tests' and measures. By the end of this term, each student should be capable of performing the psychometry for a complete neuropsychological evaluation competently.

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 (stephanie.bass@utoronto.ca; sarah.uzzaman@utoronto.ca).
- 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. Students enrolled in PSYC32 are also required to be enrolled in the Behavioural Disorders Stream of the Co-op Program in Psychology and its Applications. The only exclusion for this course is PSYC31.

Textbooks/Readings:

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

**Available in the UTSC Bookstore.*

Strauss, E., Sherman, E. & Spreen, O. (2006). *A compendium of neuropsychological tests: Administration, norms and commentary* (3rd ed.). Oxford University Press.

**This book may be purchased at Amazon.ca*

Various other readings and handouts will be made available by the lab instructors.

Grading Scheme:

1. Lecture Component: - Worth 70% of your final grade

1st Midterm

Administered in class on February 2, 2010
Will consist of 50 multiple choice questions
Worth 20% of your final grade

2nd Midterm

Administered in class March 9, 2010
Non-cumulative
Will consist of 50 multiple choice questions
Worth 20% of your final grade

Final Exam

Held during UTSC final examination period
Non-cumulative (but representative of entire course learning)
Will consist of 50 multiple choice questions
Worth 30% of your final grade

2. Laboratory Component - Worth 30% of your final grade

Lab take home test

Due January 26, 2010
Will consist of short answer and practical (scoring related) questions from lab-assigned readings
Worth 5% of your final grade

Presentation - Administration/scoring of neuropsychological tests

Dates to be determined in class by the lab instructors and will be added to the presentation schedule (please see last section of syllabus for schedule)
Worth 5% of your final grade

Final In-vivo Examination (1 hour)

Date to be determined in class (usually prior to OTSC final exam period)
Will involve in-vivo testing (~30 min) and scoring/behavioural observation summaries (~30 minutes)
Worth 20% of your final grade

Laboratory Schedule:

January 5

Lab 1

Topic: Neuropsychological Evaluation and & History Taking
Readings: Lezak, Chapter 5

January 12

Lab 2

Topic: Scoring Procedures
Readings: Provided in lab

January 19

Lab 3

Topic: Attention & Working Memory; Perception
Tests: Digit Span, Judgment of Line Orientation, Visual Form Discrimination,
Face Discrimination
Note: Take Home test handed out. This test covers assigned readings, lecture
notes and scoring procedures

January 26

Lab 4

Topic: Verbal Memory
Tests: California Verbal Learning Test-III; Wechsler Memory Scale-III (WMS-
III) Story Recall
Note: Take Home Test due today

February 2

Midterm Test #1 - No Lab today

February 9

Lab 5

Topic: Visual Memory
Tests: Rey Complex Figure Test, WMS Faces

February 16

Reading Week - No Lab today

February 23

Lab 6

Topic: Language
Tests: Boston Naming Test; Controlled Oral Word Association Test

March 2

Lab 7

Topic: Construction

Tests: Rey Complex Figure Test; WASI Block Design

March 9

Midterm Test #2 - No Lab Today

March 16

Lab 8

Topic: Executive Function

Tests: Wisconsin Card Sorting Test; Trail Making Test

March 23

Lab 9

Topic: Motor Performance

Tests: Grooved Pegboard, Finger Tapping Test, Grip Strength Test

March 30

Lab 10

Topic: Intelligence

Tests: Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI)

Final In-Vivo Exam: Date TBA in lab

Presentation Schedule

Date	Tests	Presenter (s)
January 19	Attention & Working Memory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digit Span • Judgment of Line Orientation Test • Visual Form Discrimination • Face Discrimination 	
January 26	Verbal Memory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Verbal Learning Test - II • WMS-III Story Recall (Logical Memory) 	
February 9	Visual Memory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rey Complex Figure • WMS-III Faces 	
February 23	Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Naming Test • Controlled Oral Word Association Test 	
March 2	Construction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rey Complex Figure Test • Block Design subtest of the WASI 	
March 16	Executive Functions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Card Sorting Test • Trail Making Test 	
March 23	Motor Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grooved Pegboard Test • Finger Tapping Test • Grip Strength 	
March 30	Intelligence Wechsler Abbreviated Scale of Intelligence (WASI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vocabulary • Similarities • Matrix Reasoning • Block Design 	