

CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY (PSYC31H3S)

COURSE SYLLABUS – WINTER 2020

Instructor: Anthony C. Ruocco, Ph.D., C.Psych

Class Time and Location: Thursdays from 3:00PM-5:00PM in SW-128

Office Hours and Location: Thursdays from 2:00PM-3:00PM in SW-513

Email: anthony.ruocco@utoronto.ca

Teaching Assistants:

Courtney Berezuk, M.A. (courtney.berezuk@mail.utoronto.ca)

Jacob Koudys, M.A. (jacob.koudys@mail.utoronto.ca)

Required Textbook: Goldstein, L. H., & McNeil, J. E. (Eds.) (2013). *Clinical neuropsychology: A practical guide to assessment and management for clinicians* (2nd ed.). Chichester, UK: John Wiley & Sons.

Please note: Course announcements will generally be made through Quercus. Please monitor the course website regularly for important announcements and updates. Class emails will also be sent through Quercus; please make sure your listed email address is correct.

Clinical Neuropsychology is a lecture-based course intended to introduce undergraduate students to a subfield of Clinical Psychology focused on brain–behaviour relationships and their applications to neuropsychological syndromes. The course is organized around fundamental concepts in Clinical Neuropsychology, beginning with an introduction to the field and the historical context that led to the development of the specialty profession. Students will be familiarized with the use of neuropsychological tests and the standards for educational and psychological testing that govern their use. Building on these principles, the course reviews major neuroanatomical systems and discusses the core neuropathologies associated with clinical syndromes commonly encountered by Clinical Neuropsychologists. Next, the course describes disorders associated with different neuropsychological systems: memory; language and communication; executive function; voluntary movement; and visuospatial and attentional function. The course concludes with a discussion of special topics in Clinical Neuropsychology with a focus on the neuropsychological assessment of children, older adults, and people with psychiatric illness.

By the end of this course, you will have acquired the skills to do the following:

1. Describe the history of the field of Clinical Neuropsychology and the current status of specialty training in the profession in Canada;
2. Conceptually apply the *Standards for Educational & Psychological Testing, 2014 Edition*, to the neuropsychological testing practiced by Clinical Neuropsychologists;
3. Outline major neuroanatomical systems and the ways in which they may be affected in brain disorders frequently seen in Clinical Neuropsychology practice settings;
4. Synthesize knowledge about the typical functioning of neuropsychological systems (e.g., memory, language, and executive function) to explain how these often go awry in neuropsychological syndromes commonly encountered by Clinical Neuropsychologists; and
5. Explain how the principles of Clinical Neuropsychology are applied to special populations, specifically, children, older adults, and people with psychiatric illness.

Weekly Topics, Due Dates and Other Important Dates

WEEK	DATE	TOPICS
1	January 9	Review of Syllabus Introduction to the Field of Clinical Neuropsychology Standards for Educational & Psychological Testing, 2014 Edition
2	January 16	Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology
3	January 23	Disorders of Memory
4	January 30	Disorders of Language and Communication
5	February 6	Test #1
6	February 13	Executive Dysfunction
	<i>February 20</i>	<i>Reading Week (no class)</i>
7	February 27	Acquired Disorders of Voluntary Movement
8	March 5	Visuo-Spatial and Attentional Disorders
9	March 12	Test #2
10	March 19	Clinical Neuropsychological Assessment of Children
11	March 26	Neuropsychological Assessment of Older Adults
12	April 2	Neuropsychological Assessment of Adults with Psychiatric Illness Due: Assignment (submitted electronically on Quercus no later than 11:59PM EST)
	April 3	Last day for submission of term assignments

Required Readings

Students are **required** to complete the following readings on a weekly basis:

Week 1: Chapter 1 – General Introduction: What is the Relevance of Neuropsychology for Clinical Psychology Practice?

- Supplemental Reading: American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, & National Council on Measurement in Education. (2014). *Standards for educational and psychological testing*. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.
 - Students interested in reading the *Standards* in more detail can access a physical copy of the book on the course reserves. Students can access physical course reserves near the front of the library, just to the right of the main doors. Full instructions for where to find them and how to look up their location on the shelf are available on the library's course reserves page: <https://utsc.library.utoronto.ca/course-reserves-instructions>.

Week 2: Chapter 2 – Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology

Week 3: Chapter 7 – Disorders of Memory

Week 4: Chapter 8 – Disorders of Language and Communication

Week 5: None

Week 6: Chapter 9 – Executive Dysfunction

Week 7: Chapter 10 – Acquired Disorders of Voluntary Movement

Week 8: Chapter 11 – Visuo-Spatial and Attentional Disorders

Week 9: None

Week 10: Chapter 13 – Clinical Neuropsychological Assessment of Children

Week 11: Chapter 14 – Neuropsychological Assessment of Older Adults

Week 12: Chapter 4 – Psychological and Psychiatric Aspects of Brain Disorder: Nature, Assessment and Implications for Clinical Neuropsychology

Course Evaluation:

30%	Test #1
30%	Test #2
30%	Test #3 (during Final Exam Period)
10%	Assignment

Normally, students will be required to submit their course assignment to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Description of Course Evaluations:**Tests**

Test #1 will cover the topics in Weeks 1 to 4 (inclusive) and take place in class. Test #2 will cover the topics in Weeks 6 to 8 (inclusive) and take place in class. Test #3 will cover the topics in Weeks 10 to 12 (inclusive) and will take place during the Final Exam Period.

The tests are largely non-cumulative; however, topics discussed at different points in the course may be relevant to the content of all of the tests (e.g., principles of neuroanatomy and neuropathology) and may appear on any of the tests.

Each test includes 60 multiple choice items. For each item, students must choose the one best answer among four options. There is only one correct answer for each item.

Assignment

Beginning in Week 3, and for each lecture thereafter until Week 8, students will receive pieces of information about a hypothetical clinical case. Generally, the information provided to students will correspond to the topic of that week (e.g., memory test scores during Week 3, language and communication test scores during Week 4, etc.). Students are required to prepare a one-page summary that describes the demographic characteristics, prominent symptoms and neuropsychological functioning of the hypothetical case, and conclude by describing how the person's symptoms and neuropsychological functioning could be consistent with any one of the clinical syndromes reviewed during the course.

A sample one-page summary will be provided on Quercus mid-way through the course.

Course Policies

Grading: Any complaint about grading on any course evaluation (test, assignment) must be made in writing to Dr. Ruocco within one week of receiving the graded material and should detail the point of contention.

Late Submission of Term Work: Students who submit term work after the due date and without appropriate documentation (as described below) will have 10% of the total value of the work deducted for each day late.

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must submit their request for accommodations **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

Students must submit **BOTH** of the following:

- (1.) A completed **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and
- (2.) **Appropriate documentation** to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate documentation:

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with an **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form (uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room. Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required.
- Note: If an end date of "ongoing" is specified, the medical note will be assumed to cover a period of two weeks. If no end date / an "unknown" end date is specified, the note will be assumed to cover a period of three business days (starting from illness start date.)

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- Meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form).

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes "extensions of up to 7 days" and you need 3 days), submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) and

attach a copy of your letter. **Specify how many days extension you are requesting** on the request form.

- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed term tests or assignments in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with:

- In the case of a **death of a family member or friend**, please provide a copy of a death certificate.
- For U of T varsity-level or professional **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.
- For **religious accommodations**, please email (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work.
- For circumstances **outside of these guidelines**, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) on or before the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and ask what documentation would be appropriate

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings/personal/work commitments.

Procedure:

Submit your (1.) [request form](#) and (2.) [medical/self-declaration](#)/other documents in person **WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed term test or assignment.

Submit to: Keely Hicks, Room SW420B, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM. (Slide forms under door if out of office.)

After submitting your documentation, within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any).

You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form. If your original medical note / documentation included the date of the make-up midterm, then only the Request form is required. If the date of the make-up midterm fell outside of the dates indicated on your original medical note/other documentation, then a new medical note/other appropriate documentation must also be submitted.

Importance of Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents in-person within the three business day window, **you must email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) within the three business day window** to explain when you will be able to bring your documents in person. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances. Attach scans of your documentation, and be prepared to bring your documents to Keely in-person as soon as you are well. Late documents may not be accepted.

NOTE: Assignments due at end of term

Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office (<https://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

NOTE: Final Exams

This policy applies only to missed assignments and term tests. Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

Accessibility: Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utoronto.ca.

Video and Auditory Recording: For reasons of privacy as well as protection of copyright, unauthorized video or audio recording in classrooms is prohibited. This is outlined in the Provost's guidelines on Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology. Note, however, that these guidelines include the provision that students may obtain consent to record lectures and, "in the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must not be unreasonably withheld."

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>).

Grade Scales and Meaning of Grades

NUMERICAL MARKS	LETTER GRADE	GRADE POINT VALUE
90 - 100%	A+	4.0
85 - 89%	A	4.0
80 - 84%	A-	3.7
77 - 79%	B+	3.3
73 - 76%	B	3.0
70 - 72%	B-	2.7
67 - 69%	C+	2.3
63 - 66%	C	2.0
60 - 62%	C-	1.7
57 - 59%	D+	1.3
53 - 56%	D	1.0
50 - 52%	D-	0.7
0 - 49%	F	0.0

Please note that assignment of an “A” grade in this course signifies that your work suggests that you are prepared for post-graduate work.