

**CLINICAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGY (PSYC31H3S)**

**COURSE SYLLABUS – FALL 2020**

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

**Contact Email Address:** [anthony.ruocco@utoronto.ca](mailto:anthony.ruocco@utoronto.ca)

**Technical Difficulties with Quercus:** Please contact the [UTSC Student Helpdesk](#).

**Course Delivery Method:** This course is delivered entirely using online, remote methods. There is no scheduled class time: all lectures are delivered using pre-recorded PowerPoint presentations as part of the [Office 365](#) software suite. To view announcements and to access all course materials, including recorded lectures, please use the course's Quercus website. Please regularly monitor the course's Quercus website for important announcements and updates.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Statement:** Course videos and materials belong to your instructor, the University, and/or other sources depending on the specific facts of each situation, and are protected by copyright. In this course, you are permitted to download session videos and materials for your own academic use, but you should not copy, share, or use them for any other purpose without the explicit permission of the instructor.

**Office Hours:** Mondays from 2:00–3:00 PM on [Microsoft Teams](#). Appointments are booked in 15-minute sessions. To book your appointment, please visit the bookings page on [Microsoft Bookings](#). You must book using your University of Toronto email address. Note that the system does not permit you to book an appointment less than 24 hours before the intended meeting day and time. When you book your appointment, you will receive a confirmation email that contains a link to join the meeting using Microsoft Teams.

**Teaching Assistants:**

Cody Cane ([cody.cane@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:cody.cane@mail.utoronto.ca))

Jacob Koudys ([jacob.koudys@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:jacob.koudys@mail.utoronto.ca))

If you have a question about the course, including readings and test preparation, please first contact a teaching assistant. As needed, teaching assistants will consult with the course instructor to address questions raised by students.

**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.

**Course Description:** *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.

**Course Evaluation:**

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

**Weekly Topics, Due Dates and Other Important Dates**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>
<b>1</b>	September 8	Review of Syllabus Introduction to the Field of Clinical Neuropsychology Standards for Educational & Psychological Testing, 2014 Edition
<b>2</b>	September 14	Neuroanatomy and Neuropathology
<b>3</b>	September 21	Disorders of Memory
<b>4</b>	September 28	Disorders of Language and Communication
<b>5</b>	<i>Wednesday, October 7</i>	<i>Test #1: 24-hour time window to write the 2-hour test begins at 9:00 AM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on Wednesday, October 7, and ends at 8:59 AM EST on Thursday, October 8</i>
	October 10-16	Reading Week
<b>6</b>	October 19	Executive Dysfunction
<b>7</b>	October 26	Acquired Disorders of Voluntary Movement
<b>8</b>	November 2	Visuo-Spatial and Attentional Disorders
<b>9</b>	<i>Wednesday, November 11</i>	<i>Test #2: 24-hour time window to write the 2-hour test begins at 9:00 AM EST on Wednesday, November 11, and ends at 8:59 AM EST on Thursday, November 12</i>
<b>10</b>	November 16	Clinical Neuropsychological Assessment of Children
<b>11</b>	November 23	Neuropsychological Assessment of Older Adults
<b>12</b>	November 30	Neuropsychological Assessment of Adults with Psychiatric Illness <i>Due on Wednesday, December 2: Assignment (submitted electronically on Quercus no later than 11:59PM EST)</i>
	December 7	Last day to submit term assignments

*Note: Links to view the recorded PowerPoint lecture slides can be found on Quercus*

**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?

**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

### **Descriptions of Course Evaluation Components:**

#### **Tests**

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

If required documentation is provided and an accommodation is granted (see relevant policies below), students are allowed one make-up test. There will be no additional make-up tests. If a student misses the make-up test and an accommodation is granted, the marks for that test will be redistributed across the other tests.

Tests are open-book: students are permitted to use the course textbook and lecture notes. Tests must be completed individually (i.e., without the assistance of another person). The time limit on each test is 2 hours (except for students with relevant accommodations). Students will be able to complete each test within a 24-hour time-window. The exception is Test #3, which will take

place during the Final Exam Period and the time window will be 3 hours. Students are strongly encouraged to submit the test before the end time of the window. ***Regardless of when students begin to write the test, the test will automatically end at the end time of the window.*** Students are permitted to skip and return to previous questions.

Sample test items will be provided on Quercus at least one week prior to the first test.

### **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, relevant 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. There is no one correct answer: students should justify their conclusions based on information about the clinical syndromes learned in this course. ***You must also complete the Academic Integrity Assignment Checklist (see below) along with your assignment.***

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

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.

### ***Academic Integrity Assignment Checklist***

At the time that you submit your assignment, you are required to complete the Academic Integrity Assignment Checklist (which will be available on the course's Quercus website). The checklist asks you to confirm that the following statements are true. If you do not agree with the following statements, you will not submit your assignment and will consult the course instructor immediately.

- I have acknowledged the use of another's ideas with accurate citations.
- If I used the words of another (e.g., author, instructor, information source), I have acknowledged this with quotation marks (or appropriate indentation) and proper citation.
- When paraphrasing the work of others, I put the idea into my own words and did not just change a few words or rearrange the sentence structure

- I have checked my work against my notes to be sure I have correctly referenced all direct quotes or borrowed ideas.
- My bibliography includes only the sources used to complete this assignment.
- This is the first time I have submitted this assignment (in whole or in part) for credit.
- Any proofreading by another was limited to indicating areas of concern, which I then corrected myself.
- This is the final version of my assignment and not a draft.
- I have kept my work to myself and did not share answers/content with others, unless otherwise directed by my instructor.
- I understand the consequences of violating the University's Academic Integrity policies as outlined in the [Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters](#).

**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](#) 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/>).

**Accommodation:** The University provides academic accommodations for students with

disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the University's courses and programs.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you have a disability that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the Accessibility Services office: [AccessAbility Services on the UTSC campus](#).

**Grading Policy:** Any disagreement about grading on any course evaluation must be made in writing to Dr. Ruocco within one week of receiving the graded material and should detail the point of contention.

### **Time Zone Conflicts**

If you are physically in a different time zone and a quiz or midterm is scheduled outside of 7:00am to midnight in your local time, you may use the following form to request special arrangements. Note that the form is only for term work. [Final exam conflicts](#) are handled by the Registrar's Office.

The form must be submitted **at least ten (10) business days before the activity**.

Form: <https://uoft.me/PSY-TimeZone>

**Submit via email to:** Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, [keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)

### **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.

**Submit via email to:** Keely Hicks, Departmental Assistant, [keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)

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 **ASSIGNMENTS** or **TERM TESTS** due to **FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS** or **SELF-ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS**:

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form ([uoft.me/PSY-MTW](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW)) to Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)), and
- **Declare** your absence on **ACORN** (Profile & Settings > Absence Declaration)

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

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form ([uoft.me/PSY-MTW](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW)) to Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)), along with the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form ([uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form](http://uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form)).

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

- Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form ([uoft.me/PSY-MTW](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW)) to Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)), along with a scan/photo of the **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form ([uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form](http://uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form)) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital ER.
- Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration # 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](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing accommodations required.

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 1-7 more days), email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form ([uoft.me/PSY-MTW](http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW)) to Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)), and attach a **copy of your letter**. Specify how many days extension you are requesting in your email.
- 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](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** or **TERM TESTS** in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Email the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) form to Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)), along with:

- For the **death of a family member/friend**, provide a copy of the 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 ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto: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 ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **well in advance** of the missed work.
- For circumstances **outside of these guidelines**, please email Keely ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **on or before the date of the test / assignment deadline** to describe your circumstances and determine appropriate documentation.

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

As stated above, your documents must be submitted **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

### **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 University of Toronto 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 (e.g., 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 within the three business day window, **you must email Keely** ([keely.hicks@utoronto.ca](mailto:keely.hicks@utoronto.ca)) **within the three business day window** to explain the nature of the delay, and when you will be able to provide your documents. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under exceptional circumstances.

### **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>).

**Late Submission of Term Work:** Students who submit term work after the due date and without appropriate documentation (as described above) will have 10% of the total value of the work deducted for each day late (regardless of whether it is a business day or not).

### **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.