NEUROPSYCHOLOGY (PSYCH 2D03E)

Syllabus For Fall 2004/05

Note: for the most up-to-date version of this syllabus, please consult the course web page at http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/2d03/

Instructor

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Course Assistance - graduate TA's:

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Tutuorial session leaders

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Schedule

Lectures: Tuesday Evenings, 19:00-20:45, in ITB/AB102
Small-group sessions:
T01 21:00-22:00 ITB/AB102
T02 21:00-22:00 PC/154
T03 21:00-22:00 PC/151

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are: 1) to introduce students to a broad range of topics within the field of Neuropsychology, giving the student an appreciation for the methodology used to study brain function in normal and brain-damaged populations, and the perceptual and cognitive deficits associated with neuropsychological disorders; 2) to
develop the student's skills in critical evaluation of the scientific literature, writing and oral communication, through the use of problem-based exercises in small group sessions. Please note that this is NOT a clinically oriented course.

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm test</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group essay outline</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises for workshop #1/</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercises for workshop #2</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Evaluation Marks</td>
<td>5%</td>
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**Group work**

Students will work in groups of up to four for all of their tutorial assignments and presentations. Essays will be done individually. Presentations will be given a group mark. The marking scheme for essays and presentations will be posted on the course web page in early Sept/04.

**Essays**

The essay will be on a topic that fits in to one of the 10 major topic areas covered in the course. Students may choose their own topic, subject to approval by the instructor, or select one of the suggested topics listed on the web page. The format of the essays will be discussed during the first three tutorials. Essays must be submitted both in hardcopy at the tutorial and electronically to www.turnitin.com -- further details on submitting to turnitin.com will appear on the course web page in early Sept/04. There will be a penalty of 10% per day for late essays. Essays more than 9 days late will not be accepted.

**Presentations**

The presentation will cover one of the assigned 10 readings from the webpage. The format of the presentation will be discussed during the first three tutorials.

**Tests and exams**

The one-hour midterm test will take place on October 26 during the class time, in a room
TBA, and will cover material from the first 6 weeks of lectures. The two-hour final exam will take place during the final exam period (to be scheduled by the registrar) and will cover material from the entire 13 weeks of lectures plus material from the readings. Both the midterm and final will consist entirely of multiple-choice questions. To prepare for the midterm test and final exam, students are encouraged to try writing practice tests for the relevant book chapters (the required readings listed below) on the Worth Publisher's website. Web tests can be accessed at the following (off-campus) URL: 
http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/kolbfundamentals/.

**Tutorial assignments**

Assigned work for a given tutorial must be submitted during that tutorial. In the second and third tutorials, students will work in small groups on exercises related to essay writing and giving oral presentations. In the remaining 9 tutorial sessions, groups will give presentations (one group per tutorial, except in session 12 when two groups will present); each student (except those who are presenting that day) is expected to read the article being presented in advance of the tutorial, and prepare a question for discussion at the end of the presentation. The essay outline is due during the tutorial session on October 19. The essay is due during the tutorial session in on either November 16, 23 or 30 depending on when you did your presentation.

**Missed Presentations and Missed Tutorials**

If a student must miss a presentation or a tutorial due to illness, then as per McMaster's Policy For Absence from School Due to Illness or Compassionate Reasons "... you must bring appropriate documentation to the Office of the Associate Dean of Science (Studies) within one week of the original date of the missed work, and fill out the "Information For Missed Term Work Form". For further details see 

In the case of a missed presentation for valid medical reasons, the remaining members in the student's group will be responsible for giving the complete presentation, including the missing student's part, and the missing student will be assigned a mark based on the group's performance.

In the case of a missed tutorial for valid, documented medical reasons (see above), the student will be permitted to submit, at a later date, the work normally completed during that tutorial. In no other cases will missed tutorial assignments be accepted late.

**Required readings:**

2. **Ten readings from the recent literature** (see below; available on the Psych2D03 webpage at http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/2d03
Lecture topics, readings, and links to lecture outlines (to be added to the course web page at least 48 hours prior to each lecture):

Week 1 (Sept 14): Introduction to Neuropsychology, and the organization of the nervous system.
Links to lecture outlines: to be added.
Recommended background reading: Chapters 1&2, Kolb&Whishaw
Required reading: Chapter 3, Kolb & Whishaw

Week 2 (Sept 21): How neurons communicate, effects of drugs on the brain, and functional brain imaging.
Links to lecture outlines: to be added.
Recommended background reading: Chapters 4, 5 & 6, Kolb&Whishaw
Required reading: Chapter 7, Kolb & Whishaw

Week 3 (Sept 28): Sensory-motor and cortical organization.
Links to lecture outlines: to be added.
Recommended background reading: Chapters 8 & 9, Kolb&Whishaw
Required reading: Chapter 10, Kolb & Whishaw

Week 4 (Oct 5th): The occipital lobes.
Links to lecture outlines: to be added.
Required reading: Chapter 13, Kolb & Whishaw

Week 5 (Oct 12): The parietal lobes.
Links to lecture outlines: to be added.
Required reading: Chapter 14, Kolb & Whishaw

Week 6 (Oct 19): The temporal lobes. (Essay outlines due)
Links to lecture outlines: to be added. Required reading: Chapter 15, Kolb & Whishaw

Week 7 (Oct 26): The frontal lobes. (Midterm)
Links to lecture outlines: to be added.
Required reading: Chapter 16, Kolb & Whishaw
Reading for tutorial #7: to be determined
Week 8 (Nov 2): Memory.
Links to lecture outlines: to be added.
Required reading: Chapter 18, Kolb & Whishaw
Reading for tutorial #8: to be determined

Week 9 (Nov 9) Plasticity
Required reading: Chapters 23 and 25.
Reading for tutorial #9: to be determined

Week 10 (Nov 16): Spatial behaviour.
Links to lecture outlines: to be added.
Required reading: Chapter 21, Kolb & Whishaw
Reading for tutorial #11: to be determined

Week 11 (Nov 23): Neurological disorders.
Links to lecture outlines: to be added. Required reading: Chapter 26, Kolb & Whishaw
Readings to be determined

Week 12 (Nov 30): Psychiatric disorders.
Links to lecture outlines: to be added.
Required reading: Chapter 27, Kolb & Whishaw
Readings to be determined

Calculator requirement:
Calculators will not be required during tests.

Calendar Description

Academic integrity:
Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm.
The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:
1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course, we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Syllabus last revised: September 10, 2004. For the most up-to-date version of this syllabus, please see http://www.science.mcmaster.ca/psychology/2d03/