PSYCHOLOGY 712R: NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT – ADULT
Fall 2015 – Section 004
Mondays 8am to 10:50am
Room 255 TLRB

Instructor: Michael J. Larson, Ph.D.  Office: 244 TLRB
Email: michael_larson@byu.edu  Phone: (801) 422-6125
Office Hours: Mondays from 3pm to 3:50pm or by apt.

Required Texts:

Suggested Text:

Course Objectives:
1. Help students become informed regarding adult neuropsychological assessment.
2. Provide students with the foundation of core skills needed to administer, score, interpret, and write neuropsychological assessments and evaluations.
3. Assist interested students in preparing themselves for internship by furnishing them with a solid and professional foundation in the theory and practice of neuropsychological testing.

Learning Outcomes:
1. **Understand the major adult neuropsychological disorders**
   Students will become informed about the major adult neuropsychological diagnoses. Measurement: A series of exams, including a final exam.

2. **Describe how the major disorders are assessed**
   Students will be able to describe how each adult neuropsychological disorder is assessed, including the use of appropriate neuropsychological measures. Measurement: A series of oral and written exams wherein students provide rule-ins, rule-outs, and differential diagnoses. The final exam will also include a case wherein students will complete a neuropsychological report. Students will also complete a neuropsychological assessment during the course of the semester.

Course Format:
Class will typically include 1.5-to-2 hours of lecture and 1-to-1.5 hours of “hands on”/interactive time where we will go over test administration, test interpretation, and putting all aspects of the evaluation together in clinical “fact finding” sessions.
Course Requirements:

Attendance: Attendance is required as we will deal with clinical issues and examples not covered in the text. It is important that you are present to correctly learn the administration, scoring, and interpretation of a number of neuropsychological tests.

Class Preparation: It is my expectation that you will read the material, as listed in the course schedule, prior to class. This is so you might better understand course topics, more efficiently learn and retain course material, and so we might have more productive class discussions. It is my hope this course will provide you with a useful academic and practical foundation for the neuropsychological assessments you will conduct as graduate students, interns, post-docs, and in your professional lives. If you must miss class, please inform Dr. Larson in advance and obtain notes from your classmates. It is my expectation that you will complete your assessment during the semester prior to the deadline. Readings will include information from the books noted above, along with selected journal articles and book chapters that I may provide as supplementary material.

Exams: There will be a midterm and final examination in this course that will be administered in class as indicated in the course schedule. Exams will cover readings, class discussion, assignments, and other areas as determined by the instructor. Exam format will be discussed prior to each test and may include multiple choice, matching, short answer, essay, and case studies. Part of the final exam will be writing the “results” and “summary/interpretations” and “recommendations” sections of a neuropsychological report from the data on a summary sheet. There will be no test make-ups except under extreme conditions that require approval from Dr. Larson. Cheating of any kind will result in a lowered grade and other University sanctions. I encourage you to work together on assignments and readings and ask you to contact me if need additional help. My door is open to discuss testing concerns both before and after exams. The midterm is worth 125 points; the final is worth 175 points.

Neuropathology Presentation (Due: 09/21/2015): Each student is to select a neuropathological disorder that is of particular interest to you (see below for choices) and provide a 25 to 30 minute presentation. You are to summarize the principal symptoms of the disorder, the etiology and course, the prevalence, the expected neuropsychological findings, differential diagnoses, confounds, and treatment as part of the presentation. You are also expected to have a bibliography in APA Format with at least 5 sources that you used for your presentation. You can use PowerPoint, Latek, or Prezi for your presentation (whatever suits your style). Each presentation should include the presentation and a handout summary. The quality of the oral class presentation, handout, and bibliography will be assessed for your grade (see assignment rubric). The assignment is worth 50 points. The choices are listed below:

- Anton’s Syndrome (cortical blindness with denial of any difficulties)
- Wilson’s Disease (copper accumulation disorder)
- Whipple’s Disease (fat metabolism disorder)
- Crutzfeld-Jacob’s Disease (prion degenerative disease)
- Lupus (autoimmune disorder)
- Fibromyalgia (underdetermined etiology, overlap with depression/anxiety)
- William’s Syndrome (genetic disorder—elastin deficiency for cartilage, arteries, etc.)
- Capgras Syndrome (seeing a familiar person as an imposter)
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS; Lou Gehrig’s Disease)
- Wernicke-Korsakoff Syndrome (alcohol-related memory deficiency)
- CADASIL (hereditary strokes that lead to dementia)
- Fatal Familial Insomnia (very rare prion disease)
- Additional topics of interest can be approved by Dr. Larson
Norms Book (Due: 11/30/2015): You will assemble the important norms, descriptors, administration instructions, and information for the measures most commonly used in a neuropsychological evaluation. This is a help which will assist you in more effectively using your time and is to be a resource for your current and future assessments in this course, on internship, postdoc, and in your professional career. I don’t care if you do this on dropbox or electronically. My goal is to have you compile a useful library that you can show me by the end of the semester. The norms book is worth 50 points.

Neuropsychological Practicum Assessment (Due: 12/07/2015): Your assessments must be completed by 04/14/14, including the write up. If you need an extension come talk to me and we will work something out. Each student must complete one full neuropsychological evaluation. You can choose to assess a client at the clinic (assuming it is a neuropsych case and you have supervisor permission); however, given the time constraints of this semester, you are free to use a volunteer for this evaluation. I am planning to supervise you on the evaluation not as part of your practicum as well. I would prefer you didn’t test another student if possible. All parties involved should be aware of the possible delay in receiving feedback following testing. The evaluation must include a brief interview, test administration, scoring, interpretation, and full report write-up. I will work with you on the report. The interpretations and write-up for the report will constitute the majority of your grade for this project. The Neuropsychological Practicum assignment is worth 100 points.

Grading Policy:
Your grade will be calculated on the number of points you earn from examinations, assignments, and your assessment divided by the total number of points possible. A 'B' is a good grade, while an 'A' represents an outstanding level of accomplishment even in comparison with peers who are often excellent students. Conversely, we will award grades of C, D, UW, or E only after individual consideration concerning whether the student’s performance in the course merits such a grade. The following scale will be used for determining your final grade. The instructor reserves the right to change these percentages based on the performance of the class.

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94.0-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0-93.9%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>88.0-89.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83.0-87.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>75.0-79.9%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70.0-74.9%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>125</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>175</td>
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<td>Neuropathology Presentation</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>Norms Book (or CD/Dropbox)</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neuropsychological Evaluation (including report)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>500</td>
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BYU Policies:

Academic Dishonesty: All students sign the honor code which obligates them to not engage in plagiarism or cheating; however, clear instances of cheating on exams or plagiarism on papers will be noticed and due action taken. See http://www.byu.edu/honorcode for specific examples of intentional plagiarism, inadvertent plagiarism, and fabrication and falsification.

Discrimination: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the University but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours) or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Students with Disabilities: BYU is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office at 422-2767. Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.
For the readings: SNR refers to Snyder, Nussbaum & Robins; SSS refers to Strauss, Sherman & Spreen
*Indicates an optional or reference-only reading

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Tests</th>
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</table>
| 08/31 | • Class overview and syllabus review  
• Neurocognitive Disorders in the DSM-5  
• Spinal cord dermatomes/myotomes | Review the neurocognitive disorders section of the DSM-5                | Test Set: None                                                        |
| 09/07 | • LABOR DAY NO CLASS                                                         | NO CLASS                                                                | N/A NO CLASS                                                         |
| 09/14 | • Pre-morbid Intelligence, Orientation, Attention/Concentration               | SNR Chapter 24  
Lezak Chapter 9  
*SSS pgs. 963-965 | Test Set: Barona; NAART; WTAR; GOAT; O-Log;  
WMS Spatial Span; Mini-Mental State Exam (MMSE); WMS Cognitive Status Exam |
| 09/21 | Due: Pathology Presentations  
• Neuropathology Presentations                                                  | No Readings; Presentations Due                                         | Test Set: No Tests, presentations due                                 |
| 09/28 | • Fixed versus flexible batteries  
• Halstead-Reitan Battery  
• Writing the neuropsychological report                                        | SSS pgs 86-95, 425-435  
Bigler Fixed Versus Flexible articles and Amicus Brief | Test Set: Halstead-Reitan Battery; PASAT; Trail Making Test             |
| 10/05 | • Epilepsy and Pre/Post Surgical Assessment                                   | Handbook Chapter 24  
SNR Chapter 13                                                             | Test Set: Finger tapping; Grooved Pegboard; Grip Strength; Halstead Memory Test; Wada Discussion |
| 10/12 | • Symptom validity and effort measurement  
• Stroke                                                                       | SNR Chapter 12  
*SSS pgs. 1145-1156, 1166-1176, 1179-1183  
*Lezak Chapter 20 | Test Set: Victoria Symptom Validity Test; TOMM;  
Green’s Word Memory Test; Rey 15-Item; Reliable Digit Span                 |
| 10/19 | • Traumatic brain injury neuropathology and assessment                         | Lezak pages 180 to 224  
SNR Chapter 14                                                            | Test Set: Wechsler Memory Scale-4th Edition;  
Review WCST; DKEFS                                                      |
| 10/26 | MID-TERM EXAM                                                                  | NO READINGS DUE                                                         | NO READINGS DUE                                                       |
| 11/02 | • Dementia and MCI                                                            | SNR Chapter 10  
Lezak pgs. 249 to 304  
*SSS pgs. 144-157, 237-257 | Test Set: RBANS; DRS-2                                                   |
| 11/09 | • Finish Dementia and MCI  
• Depression vs. Dementia                                                          | SNR Chapter Chapter 9                                                  | Test Set: HADS; Geriatric Depression Scale; BDI-2;  
BAI; STAI; SCL-90                                                      |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Textbook References</th>
<th>Test Set</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/16</td>
<td>• Parkinson’s, Essential Tremor, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Corticobasal Degeneration</td>
<td>Textbook Chapter 28 SNR Chapter 11</td>
<td><strong>Test Set:</strong> Hooper Visual Organization Test; Ruff 2 and 7; Symbol-Digit/Digit-Symbol Modalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/23</td>
<td>• Neuro-Oncology</td>
<td>SNR Chapter 17</td>
<td><strong>Test Set:</strong> FrSBE; BRIEF-A; ACT; Stroop; Clock drawing;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/30</td>
<td><strong>Due: Norms Book</strong></td>
<td>Textbook Chapter 38</td>
<td><strong>Test Set:</strong> No tests, but we will review the effects of Psychotropic and Antipsychotic meds on neuropsych.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/07</td>
<td><strong>Due: Neuropsychological Evaluation Reports</strong></td>
<td>Textbook Chapter 45</td>
<td>We will complete any tests we have missed and any tests you request today.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/14</td>
<td><strong>FINAL EXAM</strong></td>
<td>Final Exam (in classroom)</td>
<td>Final Exam (in classroom)</td>
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**Note:** All of the tests we are going to review are in SSS and/or Lezak. Not all of them are included in the assigned readings. If you would like to learn more you are referred to these reference texts.

**Disclaimer:** The instructor reserves the right to change schedule and syllabus at any time.