

# Syllabus Neuropsychology

## 310 section 01 – Spring 2020

### Version 01-20-2020 (v.1)

## Who

Instructor: Estelle Mayhew

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TA : Patrick Barnwell

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## Email procedures

### *Politesse*

- Please remember to SIGN (that means first and last name) your emails.
- I have a lot of students, and I am afraid I don't know who you are, even if you have emailed before. Therefore you also need to indicate in EVERY email WHICH CLASS you are in. ***If you forget to indicate your name, or your class, I am unlikely to reply to your email. (this applies all the way to the end of the semester).***

### *Questions via email*

- If it's a minor issue, ask me before/after class.
- If you ask an administrative question for which the answer is in the syllabus or in the announcements on Sakai, I will reply with "check syllabus and announcements on Sakai". So if you have checked those places and still have an administrative question, start with something like "I read the syllabus and the announcements carefully, and I could not find the answer to the following question".
- On other issues, I will try to get back to you within 3 days. Any emails sent at unearthly hours may not get read before class period, keep it in mind.

## When/where

Class location: Lucy Stone Auditorium

Class time: Tuesdays & Fridays 12:00-1:20 pm

Office hours instructor: Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment

Office location instructor: Room 229, Tillett Hall Livingston Campus

Office hours TA: Tuesdays 10:30-11:30 am.

Office location TA: Tillett Hall 325

## Office hours and exams

### *To arrange office hours "by appointment"*

- If you can't make my standard office hours we can meet "by appointment". What this means is that we need to coordinate our schedules. The fastest way to do that is to send me the slots of time that you can reasonably make it to my office (Tillett 229, Livingston campus), and I will look at those and pick some times that also work with my schedule (which varies from week to week).

- Example of timeslots (i.e. your availability is bound to be different): Mondays 10-12 and 3-4, Tuesdays 9-12, Wednesdays after 4, Thursdays before 2, Fridays no availability.

Sending me just one time slot is almost never going to work, so be comprehensive the first time and save us some email back and forth.

### ***Looking at your exam***

(A) *To see your exam -- go to the TA's office hours*

- The TA is in charge of copying and grading the exams.
- The TA will have the physical exams.
- If you wish to see your exam (and this is a **very** good idea) then you must visit the TA during her office hours.
- If you then wish to discuss the exam with me, Patrick can send it to me and we can go over it together. **Bring your review question sheets** (the answers you prepared to the review questions) when we discuss the exam, so we can see how your preparation for the exam can be tweaked.

(B) *What to look for in your exam*

- Look at the questions you got wrong.
- Then try to figure out **why you got them wrong!** Did you not know the answer at all? Did you not know which of two answers was correct? Did you read the question too quickly and misunderstand what was being asked? Did you overthink? Were all your mistakes on one topic, a class you missed? What type of questions did you get wrong? Fact questions, concept questions, application questions?
- Once you see what types of mistakes you made, consider how to change your studying so that you don't make this type of mistake again (or fewer of them in any case).

## **What is this course about?**

The goal of this course is to make you familiar with the basics of neuropsychology, that is, the study of the relationship between the brain and nervous system structures, and behavior.

We will first therefore look at the various nervous system structures, and what behaviors they are involved with. We will then be studying what can go wrong with those nervous system structures, and what the resulting behavioral disorders are. Along the way, we will also be learning about the methods in which knowledge is gained about the brain and the related behaviors.

## **Reading**

### **Required book**

Cognitive Neuroscience, 4th ed. (2018), Banich & Compton, Cambridge University Press. This is a relatively cheap textbook, so get it please.

There will be copies of this book on reserve in the Carr library on Livingston campus.

**The review questions that will be posted on Sakai are your guide to what you must know for the exams.**

## Class Website

- The class has a Sakai website which you should have access to if you are enrolled in the course.
- Make sure you check that you can access our site, and keep an eye on announcements from the site.
- The class slides (which are only an outline of the material covered) will be posted on Sakai. Posting will take place before class, so you can take notes on the printouts, but there may be empty slides with material to be filled in in class.
- **Recent research on methods of notetaking and memory suggests that handwritten notetaking is significantly more likely to result in remembering the material than notetaking on the computer. So for this class I recommend taking notes on printouts.**
- Assignments will be posted Sakai under "tests and quizzes". Count on about three assignments before each exam.
- Most importantly review questions will be posted on Sakai. They basically spell out what you should know for each exam. If you thoroughly know the answers to the review questions, you will do well in the course.

## Tentative Class Schedule (i.e. this can CHANGE)

| Week | Dates            | Topic   |
|------|------------------|---|
| 1    | Tue, January 21  | Course Rules/ What is neuropsychology/Outline               |
|      | Fri, January 24  | History & theoretical issues in neuropsychology/Terminology |
| 2    | Tue, January 28  | Brain cells/Embryology & development                        |
|      | Fri, January 31  | Neuroanatomy, Parts, Support                                |
| 3    | Tue, February 4  | Neuroanatomy, spinal cord, cranial nerves                   |
|      | Fri, February 7  | Neuroanatomy, intro brain                                   |
| 4    | Tue, February 11 | General brain damage (trauma, vascular disorders, tumors)   |
|      | Fri, February 14 | General brain damage continued                              |
| 5    | Tue, February 18 | Methodology, imaging  |
|      | Fri, February 21 | Methodology, electrophysiology                              |
| 6    | Tue, February 25 | EXAM 1  |
|      | Fri, February 28 | Sleep   |
| 7    | Tue, March 3     | Sleep/epilepsy/Sensory systems                              |
|      | Fri, March 6     | Occipital lobes   |
| 8    | Tue, March 10    | Occipital lobes/Temporal lobes                              |

|                                     |               |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
|                                     | Fri, March 13 | Temporal lobes                   |
| SPRING BREAK YEEHAH!                |               |                                  |
| 9                                   | Tue, March 24 | Temporal lobes                   |
|                                     | Fri, March 27 | Parietal lobes/ Attention        |
| 10                                  | Tue, March 31 | Parietal lobes spatial cognition |
|                                     | Fri, April 3  | Frontal lobes anatomy/function   |
| 11                                  | Tue, April 7  | EXAM 2                           |
|                                     | Fri, April 10 | Frontal lobes motor function     |
| 12                                  | Tue, April 14 | Motor function disorders         |
|                                     | Fri, April 17 | Executive function               |
| 13                                  | Tue, April 21 | Hemispheric specialization       |
|                                     | Fri, April 24 | Plasticity                       |
| 14                                  | Tue, April 28 | Language disorders               |
|                                     | Fri, May 1    | Aging & Dementias                |
| Study like your life depends on it! |               |                                  |
| 16                                  | Thu, May 7    | FINAL EXAM 12-1:30 PM            |

## What makes the grade?

### (1) Exams

- There will be three non-cumulative exams. Two exams during the semester and a final exam. Material covered in each exam is indicated below. The two exams during the semester will be held in our normal location. The final exam will be held *in our normal location*, unless you get email/Sakai notification to the contrary (which for this class virtually never happens). See further down in the syllabus for absence policy for exams.

Exam 1:           Material covered in class wks. 1-5   30% of grade

Exam 2:           Material covered in class wks. 6-10   30% of grade

Exam 3:           Material covered in class wks. 11-14   30% of grade

- Exam characteristics:
  - 50 Multiple choice questions
  - Covers lecture, see review questions

#### *Arriving late for exams*

- If you arrive more than 30 minutes after the start of the exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam that day. See the rules for makeups and documentation of excuses below.

#### *Exam conflicts*

- *If* you have a conflict for the final exam, which is defined as follows by SAS:
  - More than two (2) final exams on one calendar day
  - More than two (2) final exams scheduled in consecutive periods (ex: A student has exams scheduled for 4:00-7:00 pm and 8:00-11:00 pm on one day and 8:00-11:00 am on the following day.)
  - Two final exams scheduled for the same exam period.
- *Then* you are allowed to ask for a makeup on the basis of conflict.

- In order to obtain it, you need to go to <http://finalexams.rutgers.edu> and log in (it's at the top of the page). *Print out* your final exam schedule and only then come to me. You should actually be able to do this on the first day that your schedule is finalized. The day before the exam conflict is TOO LATE to come asking for a makeup! When I have looked over your schedule, and told you that you qualify, I will ask you to send me an email saying we talked this over, and I will email you the time and place of the makeup.

## (2) Assignments

- Assignments make up the remaining 10%. They are completed on Sakai, and they will have a deadline, after which you CANNOT submit the assignment. Assignments will be Multiple choice practice/review questions, they are open notes. There will be about 3 assignments per “exam period”.
- Do not underestimate your need at the end of the semester for the points from the assignments! You are responsible for keeping an eye on due dates; flaking out does not work as an excuse for missed deadlines with your boss in the real world either.
- SAVE the assignment, both right before you submit it, and in cases where you 'are going to get back to it at some point'. Sakai messes up quite regularly, integrate that fact into your plans for doing assignments.

## (3) Extra Credit

- There will be extra credit in the form of clicker questions during class. The total possible extra credit is 5 course points (i.e. half a letter grade).
- For each day there are clicker questions – by no means all classes – you earn a percentage grade.
- At end of semester all percentage grades are averaged and the proportion multiplied by 5.
- Clicker questions start counting with the questions on February 4th. Clicker questions on days before then are to make sure your clicker works, so do bring it, and do check that the signal from your clicker is received.
- The spreadsheets showing responses received during a class will be posted within 4 days of the class. It is your responsibility to check if your clicker answers were received by my signal receiver. If your clicker signal was not received, I will grant you the benefit of the doubt for ONE class, and give you 'presence points' - basically you get the points that you would have gotten if you were there and answered all questions wrong.
- If you notice DURING class that your clicker malfunctioned, you MUST come to me with the clicker right away after class, and I'll write you up in the grand blue book of clicker issues and give you 'presence points' for that class at the end of the semester. You cannot get clicker malfunction 'presence points' more than twice in a row.
- **THERE IS NO OTHER EXTRA CREDIT, please don't email me after the semester is over for further extra credit opportunities.**

## How to do well in the course

- Come to class, and arrive in time.

- Announcements are at the beginning of class, and they are frequently important! Make sure you arrive in time.
- Pay attention in class (i.e. what is getting explained/emphasized). Get enough sleep before class, or your body will be present but not your brain.
- Taking notes on laptops has been shown to lead to less retention of the material than taking handwritten notes. I strongly suggest you print the slides before class, and take notes on the paper.
- Recent research also shows (not surprisingly) that those who engage in nonacademic laptop use during class do more poorly in the class than those who don't (controlling for intelligence, motivation and interest in course material). Navigating to class-related sites during class time did not result in better academic performance.
- Given how distracting laptop use can be for colleagues in the class, those with laptops have to sit in the last 10 rows of the lefthand (from stage) bank of seats. Laptops **MUST** be **CLOSED** during the showing of videos.
- **Prepare the answers to the review questions, start early. These questions are your guide to what you should know. So KNOW the answers, be able to explain them to your roommate!**
- Buy/borrow/dig up your old Turning point clicker and use it in class so you get the extra credit. **CHECK THAT THE SIGNAL IS RECEIVED.**

## Grading Scale for letter grades end semester

|    |               |
|----|---------------|
| A  | 90% or higher |
| B+ | 85% - 89%     |
| B  | 80% - 84%     |
| C+ | 75% - 79%     |
| C  | 70% - 74%     |
| D  | 60% - 69%     |
| F  | below 60%     |

## Course Ground Rules

### (a) In class

- I really only want you in class if you are going to be paying some attention, so be so kind as to turn off your cell phone. If you urgently need to have a conversation, or watch YouTube you are free to do so, but go elsewhere. Other people want to learn the material, even if you are currently not so inclined. If you are having a conversation disturbing others, I will ask you to leave.
- I have rules for behavior during exams. These rules will be up on the screen during exams. Failure to comply with these rules will have consequences for your grades, with severity of consequences depending on the rule violated.

### (b) Academic dishonesty

You are required to abide by the Rutgers policy on academic integrity; please familiarize yourself with this policy, you can view it at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml> Read the section on level three violations and the sanctions that follow!

## (c) Absences from class

It is your responsibility to arrange to obtain information (other than the downloadable class slides, and those are outlines) if you miss one or more classes. Please do not ask or send email to the professor or teaching assistant. If you can, arrange in advance for someone in the class that you know to take good notes for you.

## (d) Missing an exam

- There will be non-cumulative make-up exams.
- ONLY for those who present a doctor's note or a Dean of Students' note within a week of the missed exam to the instructor can take this without penalty, see below for makeup policy for those who do not have a valid excuse.

You will be allowed to take a make-up exam if, within one week of the exam, you present a doctor's note or letter from your dean's office to the professor.

(a) For illnesses: I need a doctor's note to verify your illness. So if you get sick, *get a doctor's note*.

(b) For car accidents: the dean will most likely ask for a police report to verify that the accident took place, so get a police report. Towing reports are no longer acceptable.

(c) For personal or family emergencies: the dean will most likely require some verification of the emergency (such as a death certificate or obituary if a relative has died). If it is a personal issue of some other nature, it will be up to the judgment of the dean to determine whether or not you should be excused from the exam (and thus be allowed to take the make-up).

Basically folks: I need some paper documentation from you.

- Those who miss the exam because they forgot, overslept, were inebriated, or whatever other reason that is not really an excuse, have to come to talk to me within one week of the exam, and will probably be allowed to take the makeup exam with a penalty: 8% off the top of the exam grade. In the end that is better than a zero for the exam.

## Letters of recommendation

- For me to consider writing you a letter of recommendation, you need to get an "A" in the course (and all the courses you have taken with me). In my letters I report your rank in the class, so you need to strive for a HIGH A. Do not ask me for a letter until and unless you have actually achieved the A.
- Those applying to medical school need to be in the top 5-6% in this class for me to write a letter, as anything below that is just not all that helpful in your application to medical school.

**Note: Your decision to remain enrolled in the course after the first class session is your implicit agreement to abide by everything stated above.**