

Syllabus Neuropsychology

310 section H2 – Summer 2019

Version 07-04-2019 (v.2)

Who

Instructor: Estelle Mayhew

Instructor email: emayhew@psych.rutgers.edu

Email procedures

Politesse

- Please remember to SIGN (that means first and last name) your emails.

Questions via email

- If it's a minor issue, ask me before/after class.
- 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: Tillett Hall 230

Class time: Mo/Tue/We/Thu 10:30-12:20 pm

Office hours instructor: Mo/We 12:40- 1:10 pm

Office location instructor: Room 229, Tillett Hall Livingston Campus CONTRARY TO RATIONAL EXPECTATION my office is NOT next to the classroom.

Office hours and exams

Looking at your exam

(A) *To see your exam -- come to office hours*

- If you wish to see your exam (and this is a **very** good idea) then you must visit me during office hours.
- **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!** You cannot fix a problem if you don't know what the problem is. 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 will have 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 under "Resources". 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
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1	Mon, July 8	Course Rules/ What is neuropsychology/Terminology
	Tue, July 9	History & theoretical issues in neuropsychology/Brain cells
	Wed, July 10	Brain cells/Embryology & development
	Thu, July 11	Neuroanatomy, Parts, Support
2	Mon, July 15	Neuroanatomy, spinal cord, cranial nerves
	Tue, July 16	General brain damage (trauma, vascular disorders, tumors)
	Wed, July 17	General brain damage continued
	Thu, July 18	Methodology, imaging, electrophysiology
3	Mon, July 22	EXAM 1/Epilepsy
	Tue, July 23	Sleep
	Wed, July 24	Sensory systems/Occipital lobes
	Thu, July 25	Occipital lobes/Temporal lobes
4	Mon, July 29	Temporal lobes
	Tue, July 30	Temporal lobes/ Parietal lobes
	Wed, July 31	Parietal lobes/ Attention
	Thu, August 1	Parietal lobes/ Frontal lobes
5	Mon, August 5	EXAM 2/ Motor function
	Tue, August 6	Motor function disorders
	Wed, August 7	Executive function
	Thu, August 8	Hemispheric specialization/ Plasticity
6	Mon, August 12	Plasticity/ Language disorders
	Tue, August 13	Language disorders/ Aging & dementias
	Wed, August 14	FINAL EXAM - during classtime

What makes the grade?

(1) Exams

- There will be three non-cumulative exams. See further down in the syllabus for absence policy for exams.
 - Exam 1: 31% of grade
 - Exam 2: 31% of grade
 - Exam 3: 28% of grade
- Exam characteristics:
 - 50 Multiple choice questions
 - Covers lecture and book, see review questions

(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 session 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 probably messes up quite as often, integrate that fact into your plans for doing assignments.

(3) Extra Credit

- There will be extra credit in the form of multiple choice questions during class. The total possible extra credit is 5 course points (i.e. half a letter grade).
- For each day there are MC questions – by no means all classes – you earn a percentage grade.
- At end of summer session percentage grades are averaged and the proportion multiplied by 5.
- **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 classtime 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 lefthand (from podium facing class) bank of seats. Laptops **MUST** be CLOSED during the showing of videos.
- The In-class points are just that, **in class**. If you are not in class, for whatever reason, you cannot get these points. It is the only extra credit available.

- **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!**

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 has (bad) 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. 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.