



Syllabus

**Neuropsychology
PSYC 424**

**Units: 4
Spring 2021, Tue-Thu, 10:00-11:50 AM**

**Location: Online and GFS 116
Course Instructor/ Director: Antoine Bechara**

**Office Hours: By appointment
Contact Info: bechara@usc.edu**

Teaching Assistant: NA

**IT Help: NA
Hours of Service: NA
Contact Info: NA**

Course Description

The course consists of three major sections: Overview of Neuroanatomy, Neurological Illnesses, and Neuropsychological Syndromes. These sections are delivered in the form of lectures, and clinical cases on patients with neurological lesions or diseases. The course material is interrelated throughout these forms of teaching, giving students multiple ways of learning the material.

Learning Objectives

The objectives of the course are: (1) to introduce basic concepts about the organization, structure, and function of the human central nervous system; (2) to enable students to apply these fundamental principles toward understanding nervous system function and dysfunction and toward clinical problem-solving in relation to neurological and neuropsychological disorders; (3) to provide the necessary background for correlation with related courses, for advanced study of the nervous system, and for monitoring new developments in the basic and clinical neurosciences.

Prerequisite(s): Undergraduates in junior or senior year are allowed to enroll (no specific pre-requisites).

Co-Requisite (s): none

Concurrent Enrollment: none

Recommended Preparation: PSYC 100

Course Notes

Slides used in lectures, and in class presentations, will be posted on Blackboard and accessible to registered students.

Attendance and Student Responsibilities

Students are held responsible for all material covered in class. Students are also responsible for all announcements or schedule changes that are made in class, whether or not they are in attendance. Attendance at examination is mandatory, except for illness. For other serious matters, students must receive permission in advance from the Instructor to be excused from attending an examination at the scheduled time.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

NA

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

No specific textbook is required for the course. Course syllabus, lecture materials, and clinical cases will be posted on Blackboard as the course progresses. All materials for midterm tests and final exam come from class and Blackboard.

Recommended for Readings: However, for additional knowledge and enrichment of neuropsychology background, additional readings are recommended from the following textbook:

John Stirling and Rebecca Elliott: *Introducing Neuropsychology*, 2nd Edition, Psychology Focus, 2008.

Description and Assessment of Assignments

The course will include (1) two midterm tests covering lectures, (2) two group presentations covering clinical cases, and (3) a final examination. All materials for these tests and presentations will be from the class slides and posted on Blackboard.

1. Mid-term tests: These will have short answers format. All test/exam questions will be based on materials presented and discussed in class and not on any outside materials.
2. A final exam: This will have short answers format. Questions will be based on materials presented and discussed in class and not on any outside materials.
3. Group presentations: Each group of students should prepare the assigned clinical case, prepare slides, and make a class presentation of the clinical case. Evaluation is based on content, and on engaging the rest of the class in a discussion, including the frequency and quality of comments. High quality contributions will reflect both a depth and breadth of knowledge gained from readings of the clinical cases and lecture slides presented in class and on Blackboard. Presentations of the clinical cases should be clearly stated and effectively communicated, and they also should be insightful and relevant to the issues under discussion.

Grading Breakdown

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

Group Presentation 1	20%
Midterm 1	20%
Group Presentation 2	20%
Midterm 2	20%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20%</u>
Final Grade	100%

Assignment Submission Policy

NA

Additional Policies

NA

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings	Deliverable/ Due Dates
Overview of	Neuroanatomy:		
Week 1		Suggested from S and E:	
Jan 19	1a. Course Introduction	Chapters 1, 2, and 5	Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.
Jan 21	1b. CNS Blood Supply, Spinal Cord		
Week 2			
Jan 26	2a. Brainstem	Chapter 5	Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.
Jan 28	2b. Cranial Nerves		
Week 3			
Feb 2	3a. Cerebellum; Basal Ganglia	Chapter 5	Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.
Feb 4	3b. Thalamus; hypothalamus		
	Assign Clinical Case for Group Presentation 1	Case posted on Blackboard	Group presentation due Feb 11
Week 4			
Feb 9	4a. Cerebral Cortex	Chapter 5	
Feb 11	4b. Group Presentation 1 Clinical Case: Case Based Learning		
		Case posted on Blackboard	Each group will present and discuss the assigned clinical case in class.
Neurological	Illnesses:		
Week 5			
Feb 16	5a. Neurological exam: motor and sensory, cerebellar, basal ganglia, and cranial nerves	Chapters 2, 4, and 5	Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.
Feb 18	5b. Neurological exam: mental status and coma		
Week 6			
Feb 23	6a. Stroke	Slides posted on Blackboard	Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.
Feb 25	6b. Dementia		

<p>Week 7</p> <p>March 2</p> <p>March 4</p>	<p>7a. Mid-term test 1</p> <p>7b. Trauma, tumors, infections, epilepsy</p> <p>Assign Clinical Case for Group Presentation 2</p>	<p>Slides posted on Blackboard</p> <p>Case posted on Blackboard</p>	<p>Come prepared to discuss clinical cases in class.</p> <p>Group presentation due March 11</p>
<p>Week 8</p> <p>March 9</p> <p>March 11</p>	<p>8a. Parkinson's and basal ganglia disorders</p> <p>8b. Group Presentation 2 Clinical Case: Case Based Learning</p>	<p>Slides posted on Blackboard</p> <p>Case posted on Blackboard</p>	<p>Come prepared to discuss clinical cases in class.</p> <p>Each group will present and discuss the assigned clinical case in class.</p>
<p>Neuro-</p> <p>Week 9</p> <p>March 16</p> <p>March 18</p>	<p>Psychological Syndromes:</p> <p>9a. Memory 1</p> <p>9b. Memory 2</p>	<p>Chapter 7</p>	<p>Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.</p>
<p>Week 10</p> <p>March 23</p> <p>March 25</p>	<p>10a. Wellness Day</p> <p>10b. Frontal lobe syndromes 1</p>	<p>Chapter 11</p>	<p>Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.</p>
<p>Week 11</p> <p>March 30</p> <p>April 1</p>	<p>11a. Frontal lobe syndromes 2</p> <p>11b. Emotion 1</p>	<p>Chapter 11</p> <p>Chapter 10</p>	<p>Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.</p>
<p>Week 12</p> <p>April 6</p> <p>April 8</p>	<p>12a. Emotion 2</p> <p>12b. Mid-term test 2</p>	<p>Chapter 10</p>	<p>Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.</p>

Week 13			
April 13	13a. Neglect	Chapter 9	Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.
April 15	13b. Aphasia	Chapter 6	
Week 14			
April 20	14a. Disconnection syndromes	Chapter 3	Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.
April 22	14b. Wellness Day		
Week 15			
April 27	15a. Agnosia	Chapter 8	Come prepared for all slides and handouts posted on Blackboard for this week.
April 29	15b. Apraxia		
FINAL Date			Date: For the date and time of the final for this class, consult the USC <i>Schedule of Classes</i> at www.usc.edu/soc .

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards* <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the *Office of Equity and Diversity* <http://equity.usc.edu/> or to the *Department of Public Safety* <http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>. This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. *The Center for Women and Men* <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/> provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems

A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the *American Language Institute*

<http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali>, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. *The Office of Disability Services and Programs* http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, *USC Emergency Information* <http://emergency.usc.edu> will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.