Goals and objectives

This course includes topics on assessment and treatment of psychological and neurocognitive impairments due to illness, physical injury, and developmental disorders. Students become familiar with rehabilitation and therapeutic strategies for working with people with disabilities. Competencies will be developed by discussions of assigned readings, seminar presentations, lectures and demonstration by the instructor, pilot research project, small-group activities in class, and at-home assignments.

Selected chapters from the following texts:


*Shay, J. (2002). *Odysseus in America: Combat Trauma and the Trials of Homecoming* Scribner. (pbk). on reserve 2 hr loan


*Resources for seminar presentations and pilot research:*


Raskin, S. A (Ed) (2011) *Neuroplasticity and Rehabilitation* Guilford. EBook available at York library


**COURSE EVALUATION CRITERIA**

1. **Class Participation and reading assignments 10%**

Class Participation is evaluated based on participation in discussion, asking questions during seminars and preparedness as demonstrated by familiarity with the specified topic through the assigned readings.

Attendance in class is expected unless excused by the instructor for acceptable reasons (illness, etc.). Students will sign in/out on an attendance sheet at the end of each class noting the time of arrival. Reasonable accommodation will be provided for individuals with disabilities so that they may fully participate in
class. Please let the office assisting students with disabilities know your needs in advance. Laptop computers may be used in class for taking notes.

Students will prepare for discussion points/impressions in form of questions, reactions, in writing, for each class, based on the assigned readings. These should be reactions to the material, i.e., insights, experiences, or opinions related to the topics. Students will discuss during class the assigned reading(s) or moderate a discussion related to another student’s class presentation. The ‘impression’ notes to be submitted before each class. Late submissions (after class, next day etc.) are not allowed without justification (not being in classes because of illness, etc).

Reading assignments: Begin with your name, date. i) TYPED SUMMARY: Prepare a five or six sentence summary of "Name of Article". Your summary should give a person who has never read the article a sense of what it includes. Try to be as concise, precise and "objective" as possible at this stage. ii) LIST OF THE MAIN POINTS: Choose and record two or three salient points from the reading. These should not be summaries of the reading, but should identify key ideas. You may use quotations. iii) REFLECTIONS: Think about and respond to each point that you have chosen. REFLECTIONS should go deeper than "I like this idea" or "The author writes well and presents his ideas clearly" or "This is confusing and badly presented or awesome etc." REFLECTIONS should reflect thoughtful views on the implications of what the author is saying. iv) A PERSISTING QUESTION: When you have completed steps 1-3, write down one persisting question that remains with you. Give one reason why this question continues to be significant.

2. Organization and conduct of one seminar 20%

Seminar topics are listed in the Syllabus for each class. Two or 3 students will present in each class during the first semester. Each student’s presentation will be approximately 30-40-min long (not less) followed by class discussion.

As seminar leaders, students will review the assigned reading outlined in the Syllabus, supplementing it with latest research on the topic. Canadian content regarding prevalence rates, treatment options and outcome should be included in the presentation. The emphasis should be on rehabilitation outcome and not on treatment process.

Seminar leaders will conduct discussions emerging from questions about the assigned readings. A set of core references, in the textbooks and reserved material will give focus and direction for the majority of seminar topics.
Seminar leaders provide the course director, one week in advance, the outline of their presentation, the literature to be reviewed, proposed handouts etc).

There is computer in class for Power Point. No more than 20 slides, with maximum of 10 lines of text on a single slide, are allowed for each student presentation. The presenter will elaborate/explain the points depicted on the slides instead of reading notes or from the slides. Students are responsible for setting up the visual aids. Power Point presentation will be submitted on the day of presentation. A 30-minute long (+/- few minutes) clip from a movie/documentary may be used for illustration. The presenters must prepare, i.e., connect the film-segment prior to their in-class presentation.

Classroom etiquettes will be discussed during the first lecture.

3. **Review paper as part of a proposed pilot research project 15%**

Papers must be 6-7 pages long (excluding references and title page), in APA style format, with at least 10 journal articles reviewed and referenced. The Review Paper should be on an area of rehabilitation that is different from what the student covered in his/her seminar presentation. Submit to Moodle on due date.

Examples of topics:
- Interventions for children with FAS or Autism or other intellectual disability
- Refugee mental health; access and barriers to rehabilitation
- Family caregivers of people with dementia, or TBI, or mental illness
- New approaches for rehabilitation of opiate addiction
- Cognitive prosthetics, brain-computer interface the state of the art
- Computers in rehabilitation
- Neurofeedback and biofeedback
- Other topics specific to student’s interest are allowed if related to course objectives

4. **Test (Second Semester) 30%. Topic and format will be announced prior to the exam. Exam questions will be provided in advance and thus students can prepare for the test.**

5. **Mindfulness Meditation practice log and reflections on mindfulness principles 10%**
The Mindful Way Workbook (includes an CD and downloads of guided meditations)

Read: Part I. Pages 3-37
Read: Part II Week 1 and complete the meditation exercise at least twice a week. Read Week 2 and complete the 10-minute mindfulness of breathing meditation at least twice a week. Read Week 3 and complete Daily Practice at least twice a week. Read Week 4 and complete the Daily Practice at least twice a week. Read Week 5 and complete the Daily Practice at least twice a week. The exercises contained in chapters will guide you in writing your reflections.

5. Pilot research proposal (Second Semester) 15%

Extending their Review paper (Part 1) with ‘rationale’ for their proposed research and a Method section, students will prepare a proposal for a pilot research project. The project should not be a replication of a published research, or a project that the student is involved with in another class. DATA COLLECTION IS NOT INVOLVED. Students will present their literature review and proposed research in class for discussion (of design and methods data analysis). At the day of their presentation they will hand in the Method section (3-4 pgs) of the Pilot project and upload it on Moodle.
COURSE SYLLABUS

September 10
Seminar 1
Overview of the course
Developmental Disability
Eugenics: a Canadian perspective
Suggested: http://www.un.org/disabilities
Film: CBC Eugenics (Instructor) “The Sterilization of Leilani Muir”

September 17
Seminar 2
Developmental Disability
(3) Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and executive dysfunction.
http://fasdjustice.on.ca
Film: FAS and the Justice System (Instructor)

September 24
Seminar 3
Neuroplasticity
Read: Doidge, N. The Brain that Changes Itself Chapter 1, 2, 3
Film: Norman Doidge with David Suzuki (York Library)

Students sign up for seminar presentations

October 1
Seminar 4
Dementia; neuropathology, symptoms, epidemiology.
Read: Raskin, S. A. Neuroplasticity and Rehabilitation. Chapter 5. Cognitive Reserve
Rising Tide
http://www.alzheimer.ca/english/rising_tide/rising_tide.htm

October 8
Seminar 5
Stroke and CI-Therapy
Read: The Brain that Changes Itself Chapter 5
Handbook of Rehabilitation Psychology Chapter 22

October 15
Seminar 6
Cognitive rehabilitation; assessment and APT demonstrations
Read: N. Doidge The stages of Neuroplastic Healing Chapter 3 in The Brain’s Way of Healing
*Student presentations

October 22  
*Seminar 7  
Psychiatric Casualties in War: Complex PTSD, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghan War Veterans  
(Seminar leaders may also review: Vietnam Wives Chapters 1, 2, 5)

October 29 Fall Reading Days

November 5  
Seminar 8*  
(1) Group and Milieu Therapy for Vietnam Veterans with Complex PTSD.  
(2) Virtual Reality therapy for War Veterans.  
(3) Mindfulness training in Marines  
Read: Shay and Munroe: Chapter 17, 18, 19.  
Journal of Personal and Interpersonal Loss, 1:393-409.  

Instructor

November 12  
Seminar 9  
The mindful way. MUST READ: The Mindful Way Workbook Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4 In class Mediation exercise and discussion of principles of Mindfulness

November 19  
*Seminar 10  
Applications of Mindfulness Based Cognitive Therapy: Mindfulness meditation and neuroplasticity.  
November 26
*Seminar 11  Chronic pain: The mind-body connection.
(1) Phantom limb pain and its treatment
(2) Compared to other approaches, how effective MBCT for chronic pain?
Read: The Dark side of plasticity: The Brain that Changes Itself Chapter 7.

December 3
*Seminar 12  Mindfulness meditation and Forensic Rehabilitation Westmorland Institution Vipassana course. Are these programs effective in preventing recidivism?
Readings are assigned by students (seminar leaders)
Film: The Dhamma Brothers: East meets West in the Deep South (Instructor)

WINTER 2016
January 7
Seminar 13
Due date: Mindfulness Meditation practice logs and reflections on mindfulness principles
Class discussion: Meditation practices
Consultation and discussion of Review Paper and Pilot Research Project.

Student Seminar Presentations Continue

January 14
*Seminar 14  Trauma and Healing: Residential School Survivors
Multigenerational Trauma. Childhood sexual abuse and youth suicide epidemic among Canadian first nations.
Rehabilitation approaches

Film: Circle of Healing Video No2101, 1989 50 min
Instructor

January 21
Due date of review paper

*Seminar 15  Addiction to gambling, computer games and social networking
Readings are assigned by students (seminar leaders) after approved by instructor.
EXAM QUESTIONS ARE DISTRIBUTED

Instructor
January 28
Seminar 16 Post-Concussion Syndrome in Contact Sports. Psychosocial Rehabilitation and TBI; barriers to community and vocational reintegration. Readings are assigned by students (seminar leaders) after approved by instructor.

Instructor
February 4,
Seminar 17 PTSD and memory. Exposure therapy for PTSD

February 9 TBA
Seminar 18
Winter reading week February 13-19

February 25
Exam in class
Seminar 19

March 3
*Presentations of pilot projects (see schedule) begin
Seminar 20

Important Session Dates:

Co-Curricular Days: October 29-November 2
Winter Term Reading week: February 13-19
Due Date: January 7 Mediation Logs
Due dates: January 21 Review Paper
Exam: February 25
Last Day to drop the course February
Due date: Pilot Research Project Method Section: on the day of oral presentation

Visit the website on Academic Integrity for Students:
http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm
Grade Conversion Table

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Missed assignments and presentations

1. The student must contact the course director or the course director’s secretary in person or by telephone or email within 48 hours of the missed assignment. You must clearly state the following:
   - your name (it helps to spell your last name)
   - your student number
   - course and section
   - phone number at which you can be reached

2. If the student cannot contact the secretary or the course director during this 48 hour period, subsequent documentation accounting for the delay must be provided.

Appropriate documentation verifying the circumstances for the missed assignment/presentation must be provided at the time specified by the instructor. Failure to provide appropriate documentation will result in a grade of F on the missed assignment.

What is appropriate documentation?

a) medical circumstances - tests/exams missed due to medical circumstances must be supported by an attending physician’s statement or a statement by a psychologist or counselor. The physician’s statement must include the following

i) full name, mailing address, telephone number of the physician
ii) state the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered), and
iii) an indication of whether the illness and medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student’s ability to study and perform over the period in question.

NOTE: the physician’s office may be contacted to verify that the physician completed the forms.
b) non-medical circumstances – assignment/presentation missed due to non-medical circumstances must be supported by appropriate documentation, i.e., death certificates, obituary notice, automobile accident reports, airline/bus ticket/receipt for emergency travel (with date of booking on ticket), etc. Airline/train/bus ticket/receipts for emergency travel must indicate destination, departure, and return dates. Having to work at the time of a test is not considered a valid excuse for missing the test.

4) The manner in which the missed assignment/presentation (which has been legitimately documented) is handled will be at the discretion of the course director. In the case of a make-up presentation the student must be prepared to present at a date set by the instructor (this may be as early as a week following the missed presentation). STUDENT must check with the course director for the date and time of the make-up. A conflict in another course during the time of the make-up is not an acceptable reason for missing the make-up (unless there is an examination in the other course at that time). The student should be aware that if they miss the assignment before the official drop date, they may not have the requisite feedback on their course work to determine if they need to drop the course or not. As a result, it is in their best interest to complete assignments/presentations at the time they are scheduled by the course director.
NOTE: only extremely unusual circumstances would warrant a second chance at a make-up.
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