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 will become familiar with rehabilitation and therapeutic strategies for working with people with disabilities. Competencies will be developed through lectures, assigned readings, seminar presentations and class discussion, research project 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.

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. At any lecture, students may be randomly assigned by the instructor to comment on 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).

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, strictly for taking notes.

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 30%

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

As seminar leaders, students will review the topic and the assigned reading outlined in the Syllabus, including the latest research in the area. 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, at least one week in advance, the outline of their presentation, the literature to be reviewed, proposed handouts etc).

Students will have 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 one student
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 25-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 for proposed pilot research project 15%**

Papers must be 6-7 pages long (excluding references and title page), in APA style format, with at least 12 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.

Topics: Any topic may be selected from the recommended reading. Suggested topics:

- Interventions for children with FAS
- Tourette syndrome, or CP or other ID
- Refugee mental health access and barriers to rehabilitation
- Dementia in Down Syndrome and other ID
- Family caregivers of people with dementia and/or mental illness
- New approaches for rehabilitation of opiate addiction
- Cognitive prosthetics

4. **Test (Second Semester) 30%. Topic and format will be announced prior to the exam. Exam questions will be provided in advance and 1 pg (single side, font 12, margins on 4 sides 2 inches) notes allowed during the test.**

5. **Pilot research proposal (Second Semester) 15%**

Extending their Review paper with a ‘rationale’ for 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. Students will present their literature review and proposed research in class for discussion (of design and methods). At the day of their presentation they will hand in the Method section (3-4 pgs) of the Pilot project.
COURSE SYLLABUS

Seminar 1   Overview of the course
September 12  Brief History and theories of rehabilitation
Developmental Disability
Eugenics: a Canadian perspective
Suggested: http://www.un.org/disabilities
Film: CBC Eugenics (Instructor) “The Sterilization of Leilani Muir”

Seminar 2   Developmental Disability
September 19  (3) Foetal Alcohol Syndrome.
http://fasdjustice.on.ca
Film: FAS and the Justice System (Instructor)

Seminar 3   Neuroplasticity
September 26  Read: The Brain that Changes Itself Chapter 1, 2, 3
Film: Norman Doidge with David Suzuki (York Library)

Students must sign up for seminar presentations

Seminar 4   Dementia; neuropathology, symptoms, epidemiology.
October 3  CI-Therapy.
Read: The Brain that Changes Itself Chapter 5
Handbook of Rehabilitation Psychology Chapter 22
Read: Rising Tide
http://www.alzheimer.ca/english/rising_tide/rising_tide.htm

Seminar 5   Cognitive rehabilitation
October 10  Read: Optimizing Cognitive Rehabilitation, Chapter 7
*Student presentations:*

**Seminar 6***
October 17  
Acquired Brain Injury: Post Concussion Syndrome in contact sports. Brain Injury; Psychosocial rehabilitation barriers to community and vocational reintegration  
Readings are assigned by students (seminar leaders)

**Seminar 7***
October 24  
Psychiatric Casualties in War: Complex PTSD, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghan War Veterans  
Read: Vietnam Wives Chapters 1, 2, 5

**Seminar 9***
November 7  
Therapy for Vietnam veterans with Complex PTSD. Virtual Reality therapy for War Veterans.  
Read: Shay and Munroe: Chapter 17, 18, 19.  

**Seminar 10***
November 14  
Trauma and Healing: residential school survivors. Multigenerational trauma. Childhood sexual abuse, youth suicide epidemic. Truth and Reconciliation in Canada,  
Readings are assigned by students (seminar leaders)  
Film: Circle of Healing Video No2101, 1989 50 min (students must reserve it from CAMH several weeks in advance).

**Seminar 11***
November 21  
Depression: Behavioural activation vs pharmacological treatments  
Read: De-Medicalizing Misery Chapters 13, 14, 15
Seminar 12*  Mindfulness meditation and neuroplasticity.  
November 28  Mindfulness based CBT (MBCT) for substance abuse disorders.

Seminar 13*  
December 5  Relapse prevention. How effective are these treatments?  

Seminar 14*  
January 9  Mindfulness meditation and Forensic Rehabilitation  
Readings are assigned by students (seminar leaders)  
**Film:** The Dhamma Brothers: East meets West in the Deep South (Instructor)

**Students must sign up for research project presentations**

Seminar 15*  
January 16  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.

**Due date of review paper**

Seminar 16*  
January 23  Addiction to gambling and/or computer games and social networking  
Readings are assigned by students (seminar leaders)

February 6  Presentations of pilot projects

February 13  Presentations of pilot projects

February 20  READING WEEK
February 27  Presentations of pilot projects
March 6     Exam
March 13    Presentations of pilot projects
March 20    Presentations of pilot projects
March 27    Presentations of pilot projects
April 3     Presentations of pilot projects

Important Session Dates:

Co-Curricular Days: October 30-November 3)
Winter Term Reading week: February 15-21

Due dates: Review Paper: January 16
Exam: March 6

Pilot Research Project Method Section: on the day of oral presentation
Last day to drop the course without receiving a grade: February 15
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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## SCHEDULE FOR CLASS PRESENTATION (Pilot Project)

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