Clinical Neuroscience of Aging

Course Syllabus: Summer

Course Number: GMS6771

Credit Hours: Three (3) credit hours

Course Format: This online course is tailored for asynchronous distance learners.

Instructor: Adam J. Woods, PhD

Course Description:
Clinical Neuroscience of Aging will be taught using a clinical science approach that examines the relationship between aging and change in cognitive and brain systems as they relate to clinical disorders. Overviews of modern clinical neuroscience methodology, clinical assessment, intervention strategies, functional neuroanatomy, and major cognitive systems will serve as a foundation for student’s understanding of how the human brain changes with age. Discussion of major research articles and issues critical to the clinical neuroscience of aging will be used to develop “critical thinking” skills.

Prerequisites:
This post-graduate course is designed to meet the needs of those BA and BS graduates that wish to obtain a better understanding of the clinical implications of brain aging as it applies to medical, professional, and research fields. This course will provide information essential for students that seek to further their general knowledge of aging in the brain and serve as a foundation for students that wish to pursue admission to a research PhD program.

Contacts:
If you have questions about the course or its content contact the Course Director, Dr. Adam J. Woods, Assistant Professor, Department of Aging & Geriatric Research or

Course Goals:
The goals of the course are three-fold: (1) to provide a foundation of the fundamental concepts and terminology of the clinical neuroscience of aging; (2) to understand how cognitive and brain function change with age; and (3) promote critical thinking about the clinical consequences of brain aging.

Learning Outcomes:
Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
1. demonstrate an understanding of modern clinical neuroscience methods and terminology;
2. describe the function of major neuroanatomical structures and how they change during aging;
3. describe the major components used in a clinical neuroscience assessment;
4. identify common clinical manifestations of aging-related disorders;
5. demonstrate critical thinking skills to evaluate how age-related changes in brain structure and function contribute to cognitive and physical aspects of aging-
related disorders.

Learning Resources:
1. Online videos will provide topic-related content knowledge.
2. Topic articles will be placed on the course website. The information in these articles is coordinated with online video materials and serves as the required text for the course.
3. Weekly discussion boards will stimulate critical thinking about issues relevant for the clinical neuroscience of aging.
4. Weekly assignments will consolidate knowledge of materials.

Grading:
Each student’s final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:
- Weekly Module Projects: 37.5%
- Weekly Discussions/Online forums: 37.5%
- Final project: 25%

Grading Scale (Correct out of a possible 100 points)
A = 93-100%
A- = 90-92%
B+ = 87-89%
B = 83-86%
B- = 80-82%
C+ = 77-79%
C = 73-76%
C- = 70-72%
D+ = 67-69%
D = 63-66%
D- = 59-62%
E < 59%

I = An incomplete grade will be given if a student fails to complete the course as scheduled.

Grading Policy:
There are no make-up examinations unless otherwise granted by the course coordinator prior to an examination date. If personal circumstances prevent the taking of an examination, it is the student responsibility to contact the course coordinator. Failure to take an examination without prior permission will be recorded as a 0.

Assignments:
The course is divided into 3 modules.
Each module consists of selected topics with specific reading assignments. For each module students will: (1) review the learning objectives and corresponding lecture notes; (2) read the assigned topic papers; (3) watch the assigned topic videos, (4) participate in online discussions of course material; and (5) complete weekly assignments. In addition, (6) you will complete a final paper (10 page paper) - details in next section.

Final Paper:
For the final paper, you will select a person from your professional or personal experience that suffers from a brain-related disorder of aging and prepare a 10-page case study report describing the case, how the brain and cognition are altered by the disorder, how the person’s life is altered by the disorder, and treatment strategies for the disorder. Minimum Length: 10 pages, Margins and spacing: 1-inch, double-spaced. Full grading rubric and project expectations can be found on the online course website.
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**Attendance:**
Attendance is not mandatory. A student’s overall success, however, is based upon following the course schedule for learning the assigned materials, completing the recommended exercises, and participating in online telephone sessions and discussion board. Students are strongly encouraged to develop self-discipline to complete all text readings and online exercises, including the practice examinations.

**Academic Integrity:**
Please review the University’s complete policy regarding academic dishonesty, found online in the student handbook:
Students are expected to abide by the University’s Academic Honesty Policy, and to adhere to the following pledge:

“We, the member of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.”

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

According to the UF Student Guide, Academic dishonesty includes the following:

- **Cheating** - copying another’s work for academic gain.
- **Plagiarism** - representing another’s work as your own.
- **Bribery** - offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving goods or services of value for academic gain.
- **Misrepresentation** - altering facts (e.g., signing an absent classmate’s name to an attendance sheet).
- **Conspiracy** - planning with others to commit academic dishonesty.
- **Fabrication** - making up information to avoid punishment or other difficulty.

**Copyright Information:**
Please also review the use of copyrighted materials, which can be found on the Health Science Center Library’s web page:
http://www.library.health.ufl.edu/services/copyright.htm

**Accommodation Policy:**
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students’ office, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261. The DSO will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor.

**Student Support Services**
As a student in a distance learning course or program you have access to the same student support services that on campus students have. For course content questions contact your instructor.
For any technical issues you encounter with your course please contact the UF
computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357. For Help Desk hours visit: http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/.
For a list of additional student support services links and information please visit: http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-services

**Special Accommodations**
Students requesting disability-related academic accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center. http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/
The Disability Resource Center will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**Complaints**
Should you have any complaints with your experience in this course please visit http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaints to submit a complaint.