Module Code: PSY3266
Module Level: 3
Lecturer / Convenor[s]: Dr Catherine Haslam
Credit Value: 30
ECTS Value: 15
Pre-Requisites: PSY1120, PSY1121 and PSY2021; or equivalent subject-specific study.
Co-Requisites: None
Module Duration: Term 1
Total Student Study Time: 300 hours: 20 hours of seminar meetings plus 280 hours of private study for preparation and revision. Students are expected to engage in 10 hours private study in preparation for each seminar meeting.
Aims: This seminar builds on Level 1 and Level 2 modules in neuroscience, human cognition and related areas. The aim of the series is to explore the theoretical foundations of neuropsychological assessment and its application to assessment of cognitive disorder in various neurological conditions. Key areas to be covered will include (a) principles of neuropsychological assessment (b) assessment of cognitive disorders (memory, attention, executive function, language and perception) (c) presentation of cognitive disorder in clinical conditions (acquired brain injury, dementia) and (d) neuro-rehabilitation. For those students interested in pursuing a career in either academic or applied neuropsychology the seminar will assist in developing the necessary skills for postgraduate study. In particular, students will learn to evaluate instruments used in neuropsychological assessment, to identify vulnerable cognitive processes in various neurological conditions and to evaluate interventions applied in neuro-rehabilitation. They will also learn about the role of the applied neuropsychologist in clinical practice. All this will be achieved through directed reading, lectures, video, case material, discussion, student presentations and written assignments.
Intended Learning Outcomes:

Module Specific Skills: On successful completion of the module students will have demonstrated the following skills at Level 3:

1. The ability to describe the main theoretical approaches, research methods, empirical findings and empirically-validated treatments relevant to applied neuropsychology;
2. The ability to critically evaluate in a scientific way, systems of assessment, formulation, intervention and evaluation used in applied neuropsychology;
3. The ability to solve, at an academic level, some of the problems faced by neuropsychologists in clinical practice;
4. The ability to acquire the knowledge base required to evaluate different explanations for cognitive disorder in some neurological conditions.
5. The ability to acquire knowledge of the key principles of neurorehabilitation when applied to the treatment of particular cognitive disorders.
6. The ability to acquire knowledge of the key empirical findings relevant to the aetiology, maintenance and treatment of cognitive disorders within a psychological framework.

**Discipline Specific Skills:**
On successful completion of the module students will have knowledge of, and limited practice with, the different approaches used in neuropsychology that they can transfer to their understanding and management of a broad range of problems confronted in the discipline. In addition, students will have demonstrated the following skills at Level 3: the ability to acquire detailed, systematic and comprehensive knowledge within the discipline, with in-depth specialisation at the forefront of the discipline in certain areas, and the ability to demonstrate advanced critical understanding of this knowledge and of the limits and provisional nature of this knowledge; at an advanced level the ability to review and critically evaluate published work and to identify the strengths and weaknesses of this work, and at an advanced level to be able to structure this literature to present logical, coherent and sustained arguments to support conclusions; at an advanced level the ability to address systematically complex problems which may be framed within unpredictable contexts, to think critically, creatively, and independently, and to fully appreciate the complexities of the issues; at an advanced level the ability understand and apply essential principles in designing novel research, and to critically evaluate and analyse empirical evidence, and to assess the reliability of empirical evidence using a range of defined techniques; at an advanced level the ability to demonstrate an awareness of the wider ethical issues relating to the subject and its application.
Personal and Key Skills: On successful completion of the module students will have demonstrated the following skills at Level 3: independent study, group work, analysis and presentation of material through group work. The seminar is designed to help third year psychology undergraduates reflect on the suitability of a career as an academic or applied neuropsychologist. This seminar will enable students to develop their skills in assimilating a wide array of information for problem solving in a clinical context.

In addition, participants will have also demonstrated the following skills at Level 3: the ability to interact effectively and supportively within a learning group; the ability to manage their own learning using the full range of resources of the discipline and with minimum guidance; confidence in their own criteria of self evaluation and the ability to challenge received opinion and to reflect on their actions, and to seek and make use of feedback; the ability to select and manage information, and to undertake competently study tasks with minimum guidance; the ability to take responsibility for their own work and to be able to criticise it; the ability to engage effectively in debate in a professional manner and to produce detailed and coherent written work; confidence and flexibility in identifying complex problems and in the application of appropriate knowledge and methods for their solution; the ability to act autonomously with minimal supervision or direction, within agreed guidelines; the ability to manage time effectively to meet deadlines.

Teaching/Learning Methods: Ten seminar meetings plus an optional revision meeting, with each seminar meeting lasting two hours; private study for seminar preparation, essay preparation and revision. The seminars will include: small group work, directed reading, discussion and use of video and illustration through case material.

Assignments: All students are required to give a group presentation linked to particular seminar sessions over the course. Presentations will be given by groups of 4 to 5 students, 1 presentation per group (20 minutes maximum, formatively assessed). This presentation is expected to develop and demonstrate subject specific skills and core academic skills as well as group working and presentational skills.

Assessment: Three hour examination (60%); one 3000 word essay (40%)

Syllabus Plan: Seminar 1: Principles of neuropsychological practice

Seminar 2: Assessment of general (intellectual) ability
Seminar 3: Assessment of attention

Seminar 4: Assessment of memory

Seminar 5: Assessment of executive function

Seminar 6: Assessment of language and communication

Seminar 7: Assessment of perceptual disorders

Seminar 8: Application of principles to pathological conditions I: acquired brain injury

Seminar 9: Application of principles to pathological conditions II: dementia

Seminar 10: Neuro-rehabilitation

Seminar 11: Revision session

Reading:
Core Texts:

LAST DATE OF REVIEW: September 2011