

**Western University
Faculty of Health Sciences – Rehabilitation Sciences
RS4605A Rehabilitation Psychology – Fall Term 2016**

Instructor: Dr. Natascha Wesch
Email: nwesch@uwo.ca
Office Hours: By Appointment Only – Please email professor directly
Lecture Hours: Wednesdays @ 6:30-9:30 PM in HSB 35 (0.5 credits)

Prerequisites Checking

Unless you have either the requisites for this course (i.e., RESTRICTED TO STUDENTS IN REHABILITATION SCIENCE MODULES. OPEN TO YRS 3 & 4 BHSC AND YRS 3 & 4 KINESIOLOGY) or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. Please refer to the current Western Academic Calendar at www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca for course requisites and pre-requisites.

Course Information

The course will cover a range of applications of psychology in rehabilitation. Since the physical consequences of illness or injury are stabilized after acute medical treatment, psychology plays a unique role in the rehabilitation phase, where further progress may be determined by motivation and general psychological adjustments to recovery. These include the rehabilitation of traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, and sport injury. Also, topics such as pain management, cognitive retraining, and psychological adjustment to disability will be explored.

Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the field of rehabilitation psychology and the mind-body connection in the context of health rehabilitation.
2. To explore the rehabilitation psychology framework that includes cognitive and behavioural components, application, and research.
3. To develop a strong platform for understanding the application of theory to practice.

Students are expected to attend all lectures, read the assigned materials prior to class, participate in class discussions based on the assigned readings, and complete the assigned papers and presentations.

Course Materials

Various research articles and readings are used for this course. All readings are available online through the University of Western Ontario library system, and posted on the course OWL site. Readings not available online will be made available from the instructor.

Course Topics

The following topics, among others, will be covered in the course. However, please note that the exact content/topics and schedule are subject to change.

- Psychological Adjustment to Disability
- Athletic Injury
- Pain Management
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Special Populations

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated in the following ways:

Opinion/Reflection Paper (15%)

- This is a two-part assignment. In Part 1, students will write an opinion essay and describe their personal views and attitudes on disability, and how these views and attitudes may shape their practice approach in their future career. In Part 2, at the end of the term students will write a follow-up reflection essay describing if and how their personal views and attitudes on disability have changed throughout the term, and to provide their opinion regarding the use and application of psychology in their future practice and/or career.
- **Part 1 Due on OWL: October 5 @ 6pm / Part 2 Due on OWL: December 7 @ 6pm**

Case Study Assignment (25%)

- The assignment requires the student to submit online a typed comparison of two separate 'real-life' case studies. The focus of the assignment is to compare the differences between each individual's psychological adjustment and adaptation to injury/disability through the rehabilitation process referencing theoretical concepts discussed in lecture.
- **Assignment Due on OWL: October 26 @ 6pm**

Group Presentation (20%)

- Student groups will prepare and deliver a 30-minute presentation, and prepare a summary information document as part of the assignment. Students will form their own groups of 4 students and present on the particular aspects of the psychology of rehabilitation for their chosen population (must be approved by the instructor). All group members receive the same grade.
- **Presentation Dates: November 16, 23, 30 & December 7**

Final Exam (40%)

- The final exam will cover all course material including lectures, student presentations, guest speaker presentations, and assigned readings. The exam will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer questions.
- **Exam Date: TBA (during the Final Exam period)**

Class Attendance and Use of Electronic Devices

Attendance is an extremely important part of learning and it is expected that students attend all classes. Attendance is mandatory for all student presentations.

Assignments submitted after the due date will receive a grade of zero. Please refer to the course outline section for Accommodation of Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences.

Electronic devices will not be allowed during tests and examinations. For final exams, use of communication equipment (e.g., cell phones) is prohibited. The use of laptops and other electronic devices in the classroom is permitted for note-taking only. Emailing, texting, web browsing, and/or messaging in the classroom are prohibited.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Student Code of Conduct

The purpose of the Code of Student Conduct is to define the general standard of conduct expected of students registered at The University of Western Ontario, provide examples of behaviour that constitutes a breach of this standard of conduct, provide examples of sanctions that may be imposed, and set out the disciplinary procedures that the University will follow. For more information, visit <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/board/code.pdf>.

English Proficiency for the Assignment of Grades

Visit the website http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf

Accommodation for Medical Illness or Non-Medical Absences

<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html>

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Documentation is required for non-medical absences where the course work missed is more than 10% of the overall grade. Students may contact their Faculty Academic Counselling Office for what documentation is needed.

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner. Documentation for any request for accommodation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Academic Counselling Office of the student's Faculty of registration. For BHSc students, you may go to the School of Health Studies Office in HSB room 222.

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Additionally,

1. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).
2. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>
2. Student Health – <http://www.uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>