

## **SYLLABUS for Neuroscience of Aging & Dementia**

### **Psych 345-001 Spring 2021**

**TIME:** MWF - 1:00-2:00pm via Zoom

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Benjamin J. Clark, PhD

**EMAIL:** [bnjclark@unm.edu](mailto:bnjclark@unm.edu)

**DESCRIPTION:** A general survey of topics in the cognitive and brain sciences of aging and dementia. Topics include the etiology of dementia subtypes, treatment, management, and the socioeconomic impact of an increasingly older population demographic.

#### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

**By the end of the course, students should be able to:**

1. Define the basic mechanisms underlying cognitive and neural aging.
2. Define and describe the behavioral and neuropathological hallmarks of dementia.
3. Define and describe the cognitive and neuropsychological assessment tools utilized by clinicians to detect and track the progression of cognitive and neural decline in dementia.
4. Define and describe the mechanisms of pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment for dementia.

#### **TEXTBOOK AND READING LIST:**

1. Genova, L. (2007). *Still Alice*. Gallery Books.  
<https://www.amazon.com/Still-Alice-Lisa-Genova/dp/1501107739>
2. Weekly Article Readings: reading list posted on UNM Learn (1-2 papers per week)

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** This schedule of activities is subject to change. Minor changes will be announced in class, major ones provided in writing.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Date</b>
What is aging, dementia, and why should we care?	Jan 20
Neuroanatomy review	Jan 22 – 25
Cognition and aging	Jan 27
Hippocampus and aging	Jan 29 – Feb 5
<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>Feb 10</b>
Cortex and aging	Feb 12 – 19
Cognitive neuroscience of aging	Feb 22 – 26
The Nun study	March 1
Longevity	March 3 – 5
<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>March 10</b>
<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>March 14 – 21</b>
Mild cognitive impairment	March 22 – 24
Alzheimer's disease	March 26 – April 5
<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>April 9</b>
Vascular, frontotemporal, lewy body, and Parkinson's dementia	April 12 – 16
Traumatic brain injury and concussions	April 19
Effects of alcohol on aging and dementia	April 21 – April 30

*Still Alice* discussion

**Exam 4**

**Optional Final Exam**

May 3

**May 7**

**Finals Week**

**EXAMS:** Four examinations will consist of multiple-choice, true-false questions, matching, and short-answer. The exams will include material covered since the previous exam. Make-up exams will be given in two situations: 1) If a student has arranged with the instructor prior to the examination date to take a make-up exam (e.g., if there is a schedule conflict), 2) If a student has an acceptable excuse for missing an exam (e.g., death in family, illness).

**OPTIONAL FINAL EXAM:** An optional final (cumulative) examination can be taken if the student wishes to replace a low grade on one of the four examinations. If your final exam grade is lower than the 4 exam grades, then only those exams will count toward your final grade.

**BOOK REPORT:** A brief report based on answers to questions related to the novel *Still Alice*. The report must be submitted (in Microsoft Word or PDF format) on UNM Learn by the end of the day on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The report is worth 20% of the final grade.

**GRADING:** The grading scale used for this course is as follows: A+ (97+), A (90-96), B+ (87-89), B (80-86), C+ (77-79), C (70-76), D+ (67-69), D (60-66), F (<59)

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Regular and punctual attendance is required. UNM Pathfinder policies apply, which in part means instructor drops based on non-attendance are possible. This policy applies regardless of the grading option you have chosen.

**ACCOMODATION:** Accessibility Services (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs office.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** It is your responsibility to be aware of the UNM student code of conduct, which is available in the Student Handbook (The Pathfinder). As a student pursuing academic credit in this course you should also be familiar with UNM's student grievance procedures which are also described in Pathfinder (<http://pathfinder.unm.edu/index.html>) especially those concerning academic dishonesty. Instances of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating) will be dealt with according to the procedures described at <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/common/policies/academic-dishonesty.html>. Please be considerate of others and refrain from talking or making excessive noise during lecture. If you have to be asked to refrain from talking more than once during the semester you will be dropped.

**CELL PHONES and TECHNOLOGY:** As a matter of courtesy, please turn off cell phones, pagers, and other communication and entertainment devices prior to the beginning of class. Notify me in advance if you are monitoring an emergency, for which cell phone ringers should be switched to vibrate.

**LIBRARY and TUTORIAL SERVICES:** UNM-Main campus provides many library services and some tutorial services for distance students. For library services, go to <http://www.unm.edu/libraries/> to link to a specific library or to contact a librarian. For tutorial services, go to <http://caps.unm.edu/online> to explore UNM's online services.

**TITLE IX STATEMENT:** In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see page 15 of <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>) requires that any report of gender discrimination that includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct and sexual violence made to a faculty member, TA, or GA must be reported to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity (<https://oeo.unm.edu>). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>