PSYC 370—Spring 2013
Mini Course Final Report

Name: 
Date: 4/22/2013
Grade: 22/25

Title of Mini Course: Brain Pathology & Associated Clinical Disorders
Instructor: Alex Roth

1. What was the main topic covered in Week 1 of the course? How did it relate to the mini-course readings for that week? (100 words, 5 points)

The main topic that was covered in the first week was Dementia. Before taking this course I thought that dementia was all just one disease within itself, but I ended up learning that there are different types that take place in different parts of the brain. The article that we read was based off of the different types: Cortical, Subcortical, and Cortico-subcortical, and how they are diagnosed. During this particular mini course, we went over what types of tests are run on patients with dementia in order to find out what type they might have.

2. What was the main topic covered in Week 2 of the course? How did it relate to the mini-course readings for that week? (100 words, 5 points)

The main topic of this week’s mini course was Alzheimer’s Disease. There were many things from the power points that were interrelated with the readings for this week. For the main part the article discussed what Alzheimers was and how we diagnose it. There were many studies done in the article and it showed different tests that we can do to figure out whether someone has the disease or not. The lecture went over these concepts a second time which I found to be very helpful because some of the charts, from the studies, were a little confusing for me.

3. What was the main topic covered in Week 3 of the course? How did it relate to the mini-course readings for that week? (100 words, 5 points)

The final week of the mini course was all about multiple sclerosis. The course was very closely related to the article because we talked a lot about the demyelination and remyelination processes. This disease comes about when the myelin sheaths around the axons of the brain are damaged and this leads to the demyelination and scarring. There are three types of this disease and we were shown that in both the article and on the slides during the course. I think this was really helpful because I was really able to get a better understanding of what happens to the brain in each type.
4. How did this Mini-Course expand on your understanding of the relationships between brain and behavior, as discussed in the main course (Tuesday/Thursday) lectures? (200 words, 10 points)

I really enjoyed the mini course and it definitely expanded my knowledge on the relationship between brain and behavior. There are so many different little tweaks that could happen in our brains that can cause serious issues and diseases to take place. After learning about Alzheimer’s, MS, and Dementia I would say that I have a much better understanding of how the brain works than I did before taking this course. Reading the articles before class and then having the information given, again, during the lecture really made things stick.

* SEND AS AN ATTACHMENT TO YOUR TA, YANA at yanay@ku.edu BY 4/22/2013 *
1. What was the main topic covered in Week 1 of the course? How did it relate to the mini-course readings for that week? (100 words, 5 points)

Week 1 covered forms of dementia that are not Alzheimer's Disease or Multiple Sclerosis. The material covered that multiple forms of dementia require multiple forms of analysis. Whether or not the dementia is cortical or subcortical influences how the structural damage can be imaged, if at all. Brain imaging techniques can offer a useful clue in differentially diagnosing dementia, but it is not enough by itself – behavior and neurocognitive signs must be assessed also.

2. What was the main topic covered in Week 2 of the course? How did it relate to the mini-course readings for that week? (100 words, 5 points)

Week 2 covered Alzheimer's Disease. Even as the most salient form of dementia in the public mind, much information about it is still lost in the public. Because of its tremendous damage – whether economic or emotional – to not only patients themselves but also their caretakers and peers, its diagnosis and treatment are hotly researched. The new neurocognitive testing method suggested in the paper could augment the current diagnostic armamentarium, as it also accounts for spatiotemporal memory.

3. What was the main topic covered in Week 3 of the course? How did it relate to the mini-course readings for that week? (100 words, 5 points)

Week 3 covered Multiple Sclerosis. The involvement of glial cells in this type of dementia was attended to. Particularly, the myelination of neurons plays a critical role in the course of the disease. The study mentioned in the reading suggested an alternative paradigm for understanding Multiple Sclerosis, emphasizing the role of remyelination.

4. How did this Mini-Course expand on your understanding of the relationships between brain and behavior, as discussed in the main course (Tuesday/Thursday) lectures? (200 words, 10 points)

Seeing as how the main lectures are concerned with more overarching concepts in biological psychology, it may not be intuitively understood how errors in the physiological process can lead to pathology. Examining the topic of dementia directly helped with comprehending the real-life impact of brain dysfunction. In the reverse direction, the background material I had learned from the main lecture helped put the context for comprehending the information from the mini-course. Because I know what is supposed to happen, I can understand what might happen if some things
do not work the way they usually do.

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Comment [4]: 7/10 no reference to specific material from the class; no integration of class material with mini-course material, short on word count