TEXTBOOK/READINGS:


COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of psychological assessment. The primary objectives are to provide advanced instruction and training in: 1.) methodological concepts of applied psychometric theory and test construction; 2.) administration, scoring, and interpretation of selected assessment instruments commonly used by psychologists; and 3.) integration and communication of test findings in the interest of clinical decisions and treatment planning.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: (3 units; pre-requisite: graduate standing in psychology)

Examinations. There will be two non-cumulative exams; the first will be given October 11 and the second during the final exam period at a date to be announced later. Exams will be comprised of objective format items, short essays, and problem solutions. Exam content will be derived from lectures and readings.

Interpretive Writing Assignments. Students will be given test data from which to formulate three brief interpretive reports (WAIS-III, MMPI-2, PAI, and Unstructured) and one final integrative report using several sources of data. These are not collaborative tasks.

Test Review Paper. Students will select an appropriate psychological test and critique it using published research literature (minimum of 5 references) on issues of development, norms, reliability, and validity. Further instructions related to this assignment are appended to this document.
GRADING:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>October 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Interpretive Assignments</td>
<td>10% total</td>
<td>Oct 4, Nov 8, Nov 15, Dec 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Test Review Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>November 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrative Report</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Due at Final Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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COURSE CALENDAR:

1. Aug 30  Professional and Ethical Issues  Ch. 1  APA Ethics Code
2. Sep 6   Scales, Norms, and Reliability  Chs. 2, 3, 5, 6
3. Sep 13  Test Validity  Chs. 8, 9  Cronbach & Meehl
4. Sep 20  Intellectual Assessment
5. Sep 27  WAIS-III Interpretation  Lichtenberger & Kaufman
6. Oct 4   Neuropsychological Testing  Lezak

Oct 11  Midterm Exam
   [Autumn Recess]
7. Oct 25  Test Construction  Chs. 7, 10, 11, 13
9. Nov 8   PAI  Morey
           Morey & Hopwood
10. Nov 15 Unstructured and Narrative Techniques  Dana
11. Nov 29 Rorschach  Groth-Marnat
12. Dec 6  Data Integration and Report Writing  Korchin
13. Dec 13 Diagnoses and Decisions

Dec 15-19 (TBA)  Final Exam
Guidelines for Test Review Paper

DUE: Thursday, November 29
PAGE LENGTH: 6 pages, not including tables or references (please do not exceed) APA Style (6th edition) format and referencing

You might use the Mental Measurements Yearbook (MMY) to “shop” for a test or scale or to get references on a test, but don’t use the MMY as a reference source for your paper; obtain and cite at least 5 primary sources (journal articles or test manuals) from the literature. Tests with some research done by person(s) other than the original developer are preferable for objective analysis. I strongly recommend that you check your test choice with me before getting started. You may also want to start collecting literature early since our library holdings are limited and interlibrary loan may take up to 4 weeks.

Your paper should address points 1-5 below, although not all subpoints will necessarily apply:

1. Conceptual rationale and theoretical basis
   Choice of construct(s)
   Choice of method (structured test, performance task, etc.) and scaling procedures
   Population of interest
   Intended purpose of test

2. Development process
   Generation and selection of items and/or procedures
   Describe normative sample(s) and how they were recruited
   Revisions, refinements, improvements

3. Reliability
   Test-retest
   Internal consistency
   Parallel forms
   Rater agreement

4. Validity
   Criterion-based (describe criteria)
   Experimental, developmental, or intervention-based changes
   Construct-oriented approaches; convergent/discriminant procedures/data

5. Conclusion (**most important part – at least one page**)  
   Is it a good test? For what purposes should one use it?
   What improvements can be made?
   What research still needs to be done? (This question applies to all tests)

Cite supportive data/statistics; large numbers of correlation coefficients, etc. should be presented in tables for easy reference.