Introduction to Psychological Assessment
PSYCH 571
Fall 2014

Instructor: Jessie Goicoechea, Ph.D.      Office: 223 Rockwell Hall
Room: Conference Room Psychology Dept.      Office Hours: Tuesdays 10a-12p
Class Time: Tuesdays 12:05-2:45      Phone: 412-396-1785
Email: goicoecheaj@duq.edu

Course Description:
This course introduces students to a human-science approach to psychological assessment. Students will learn and develop that approach through interviewing, administering and interpreting standardized tests, working collaboratively with each other, volunteers, and clients, and through writing descriptive reports that include individualized findings and suggestions. Throughout, the focus is on describing and exploring how a person takes up his or her situation, and on how he or she moves through situations, shaping and being shaped by them. Although the course includes readings and lectures, students will learn primarily through demonstrations, role-play exercises, clinical practice, discussion, and written assignments. This course has been designed in connection with the Introduction to Therapy course to enhance your understanding of the fundamental connections between assessment and psychotherapy. Students will learn how to approach assessment with a therapeutic presence, and how to ground a therapeutic approach in individualized assessment.

Course Objectives:
At the conclusion of the course, students will be expected to 1) have acquired basic knowledge of the scientific, theoretical, and contextual bases of test construction and interviewing; 2) administer, score, and interpret the following instruments with basic proficiency: WISC-IV, WAIS-IV, sentence completion forms, human figure drawings, Bender-Gestalt, TAT, NEO-FFI & NOE-PI3, and PAI; 3) select and implement assessment methods appropriate to the presenting concern/referral question/practice site, in ways that are responsive to individual and cultural differences, and with regard for evidence-based criteria (e.g. psychometric properties, available norms, etc.); 4) thematically integrate, with client input, findings from several instruments, including interviews; 5) write individualized assessment reports that are descriptive of the client’s life-world and that include collaboratively developed findings and suggestions; and 6) define, with examples and in relation to the tests covered in class, various psychometric concepts. Issues related to (7) ethics and assessment, and (8) cultural diversity and assessment will be addressed throughout the semester. Also, (9) students will gain knowledge of empirical support for collaborative, therapeutic assessment. Final grades will be based on successful completion of all assignments and active participation in class.

Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEEK 1</td>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>12:05-2:45</td>
<td>Course introduction</td>
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What is assessment? What is understanding?

What do I want to know and why?

Video with Dr. Adams

**WEEK 2**

9/2 12:05-2:45 Methods: Observations, Interviews, Ch. 1, Fischer Reflection due Sept. 1st (5%)

Techniques/Tests. Ch. 1, Peebles-

van den Berg

Kleiger

History of Testing, Classical Test Theory, Wasserman &

Bracken

Item Response Theory, & Psychometric Characteristics of Test Procedures

**WEEK 3**

9/9 12:05-2:45 Intelligence Testing: Groth-Marnat; Ch. 5

starting today, administer a pp. 119 – 138

Psychometric properties & administration WISC-IV Technical

WAIS & WISC by 9/23

#2 Report

**WEEK 4**

9/16 12:05-2:45 Intelligence Testing: Scoring & interpretation Groth-Marnat, Ch. 5

Reports pp. 138-166 Sample WISC-IV

Video review (2)
WEEK 5
9/23  12:05-2:45  Intelligence Testing: Critique & Expansion  Handler; Gladwell; Mayer, Salovey, & Cuso
                  Attunement to Process & Comportment;  Chs. 2 & 3, Fischer
WISC & WAIS due (5%)  Cultivating reflection and collaboration:

WEEK 6
09/30  12:05-2:45  Empathic Access and
                  Graphic Techniques: DAP, HTP, KFD  Handler &
Riethmiller  Begin Peer Assessment  Ch. 4 & 5, Fischer
                  Peer description due (2.5%)

WEEK 7
10/7   12:05-2:45  Attending to Language and Narrative:
                  Sentence Completion Tools  Chs. 6, 8, & 9, Fischer
                  Video review of peer assessments (2)

WEEK 8
10/14  12:05-2:45  Thematic Apperception Test (TAT)  Cramer, Chs. 3 & 4
                  Begin Undergrad Assessment  Groth-Marnat, Ch. 11
                  Peer assessment report due

WEEK 9
10/21  12:05-2:45  NEO  Costa & McCrae
                  2nd undergrad session by 10/25
                  Video review of undergrad
                  assessment (3)  Fowler
                  NEO assignment due (2.5%)
WEEK 10
10/28  12:05-2:45  Intake Interviewing
       Clinic Manual
       Alpha House Assessments
       Storr

Undergraduate Assessment Assignment due

Casserly

Ethical Issues in Psychological Assessment
Assessing Diverse Groups
from Ch. 2

Koocher & Rey-

Ch. 10, Fischer
Groth-Marnat, excerpt

WEEK 11
11/4   12:05-2:45  PAI
       Practice intake interview (2.5%)
       Risk Assessment

       Clinic Intakes begin

Take the PAI yourself & hand score by

       November 11th (2.5%)

WEEK 12
11/11  12:05-2:45  PAI
       Morey (Essentials)

       Alpha House Assessments due
       Intake video review (2)

WEEK 13
11/18  12:05-1:20  DSM
       TBA

11/20  3:05 – 4:20  Intake video review (3)

WEEK 14
11/25  NO CLASS; Thanksgiving break (Clinic open M-W)

WEEK 15
A DRAFT OF THE INTAKE TESTING AND COLLABORATIVE ASSESSMENT REPORT IS DUE WITHIN 2 WEEKS OF THE CLINIC INTAKE TESTING SESSION.
You will also be required to show a 10 minute video clip of this collaborative assessment session.

Readings:
Two required books:
(originally published 1985)

Required handouts posted on Blackboard:


**Other required readings may be provided to you along the way.**

**GRADING**

The Clinic Assessment Report, the final draft of which is due on 12/5, is worth 25% of the final grade.

The Alpha House Assessment Report, due 11/14, is worth 25% of the final grade.

The undergraduate assessment assignment, due on 10/29, is worth 15% of the final grade.

The peer assessment report, due on 10/15, is worth 10% of the final grade.

The other assignments together are worth 25% of the final grade, as indicated above.

**PLEASE NOTE**

As outlined in the University Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct, academic dishonesty (plagiarism, etc.) will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary actions.

Students with concerns, questions, or problems regarding the course material are encouraged to contact me by phone, email, or during my office hours.

Students with documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations if needed. If you need accommodations, please contact the Office of Freshman Development and Special Student Services in 309 Duquesne Union (412-396-6657) as soon as possible. Accommodations will not be granted retrospectively.