Psychological Assessment II (PSYC 811) Spring 2013 9:00-11:40, Wednesdays at Clinic

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Lab: Wednesdays 2:00 - 3:50 pm, Center for Psychological Services

This is the second semester of a two-semester sequence on psychological assessment. The goal of the course is to give students a foundation in theories, strategies, techniques, and issues in psychological assessment, focusing on empirical support and practical clinical utility. At the conclusion of the course, it is expected that each student will, when presented with a client with a specific area of concern, be able to: (1) conduct a semi-structured clinical interview, (2) choose the appropriate assessment instruments/techniques needed to provide information regarding the specific area of concern/difficulty; (3) provide an accurate, clear and effective interpretation of the results of the assessment; (4) use this information to develop specific recommendations, tailored to the needs of the individual client that address the reason for referral, and (5) provide accurate and helpful feedback to the client in person and in a written report.

The topics in the second semester of the sequence will include: (1) a review of the basics of clinical interviewing and report writing, (2) how to select, critically evaluate, and use empirically based assessments; (3) utility of the multi-method assessment approach for research and practice; (4) cognitive behavioral case formulation; (5) reliable administration of diagnostic interviews including the SCID-I, SCID-II, and KID-SCID; (6) administration and write-up of empirically based personality inventories including the PAI and MMPI-2; and (7) exposure to projective personality assessment instruments.

Course Structure and Requirements:

Interviews/Assessments:
- 2 intellectual assessments of clients referred from the CAP program
- 3 clinical interviews (these will be completed as part of the assessments below)
- 2 BAI, BDI-II
- 1 Mental Status Exam (MSE) & ASEBA
- 1 MMPI-2
- 1 PAI
- 1 SCID-I

Written Assignments/Reports:
- 2 WISC-IV reports of children for the CAP program
- Report 1 Volunteer: MSE, BAI, BDI-II, MMPI-2 (with clinical interview)
- Report 2 Volunteer: PAI, BAI, BDI-II, & ASEBA (with clinical interview)
- Report 3 Volunteer: SCID-I (with clinical interview)

You will need a total of three volunteers. All clinical interviews and SCID interviews should be audiotaped and turned in for review.
Prior to administering any testing instrument to a volunteer, you will: practice administering the instrument in class and lab; thoroughly read the essentials books or relevant articles; and practice administering the clinical interview and SCID-I & II outside of lab/class (with a classmate).

You will recruit adult volunteers through the GMU subject pool. You must act with the volunteers in the same manner as actual clients. Thus, you cannot assess a volunteer with whom you have any type of outside relationship (i.e., a student in one of your classes; a co-worker; a relative; etc.). Failure to conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times (i.e., arriving late to appointments; failing to contact volunteer if appointment must be changed or cancelled; unprofessional dress or conduct) could result in a failing grade for the course.

In-class Presentations: There is a 15-minute presentation/discussion of each of your volunteers. Presentation should include information regarding the interview, your behavioral observations, test results, and your thoughts about integration and interpretation of all of this data.

Grading. I will base your final grade on your percentage as defined below.

A+ = 97% or more  A = 93 – 96%  A- = 90 - 92%  B+ = 87 - 89%  B = 83 - 86%
C = 75 - 85%  F = below 75%

Grade for Lecture: (75% of total grade)
5 Integrated Reports (2 CAP cases, 3 volunteers)
Class Participation (includes case presentations)

Grade for Lab: (25% of total grade)
Timely and thorough completion of all test protocols and recordings
Completion of professional interviews
Lab test administration practicals
Protocol scoring accuracy and effort; learning from corrections
Test administration and scoring quizzes

Labs
Your Lab Instructors will provide feedback on your interviewing, administration and scoring, report writing, and general professional interaction skills. You will turn in your protocols and videotaped interviews to your Lab Instructors for review and feedback. They will grade your work and you will re-submit unsatisfactory work until it is satisfactory. **You will make copies of lab materials at your own expense.**

Honor code: The Honor Code of George Mason University deals specifically with cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing. Students should be familiar with the code and connected policies, set out at [http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies](http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies). This course will be conducted in accordance with those policies. **All students will abide by the American Psychological Association 2002 Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.**
**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All accommodations must be arranged through that office, and must be initiated immediately, prior to any anticipated need.

**Jan 23: Clinical Assessment Basics: Mental Status Exam and Diagnosis**


**Lab Activity:** Mental Status Exam, Risk Assessment

**Jan 30: Multi-Method Assessment**


**Lab Activity:** Introduction to commonly used symptom assessments
(BDI-II, BAI, ASEBA, CBCL, BASC)

**Feb 6: MMPI-2**


**Lab Activity:** Scoring and Interpretation of MMPI-2 Part 1 (schedule MMPI volunteer)

**Feb 13: PAI**


**Lab Activity:** Scoring and interpretation of MMPI-2 Part 2, PAI Part 1
(Schedule PAI volunteer)
Feb 20: Projective Assessment


Lab Activity: Scoring and interpretation of PAI, Part 2, Projectives

Feb 27: Assessment of Mood * Volunteer 1 Report due *
DSM-IV-TR Mood Disorders Section / SCID Mood Modules / KID-SCID Mood Modules


Lab Activity: Introduction to SCID and SCID Mood Disorders

March 6: Assessment of Adult Anxiety * Volunteer 2 report due *
DSM-IV-TR Anxiety Disorders Section / SCID Anxiety Disorder Modules


Lab Activity: SCID Anxiety Disorders

March 13: Spring Break

March 20: Assessment of Adult PTSD and OCD (cont.)

DSM-IV-TR Anxiety Disorders Section / SCID Anxiety Disorder Modules


Lab Activity: SCID Anxiety Disorders

March 27: Assessment of Substance Abuse

DSM-IV-TR Substance Use Disorders Section / SCID & KID-SCID Alcohol and Substance Use Disorder Modules


Lab Activity: SCID Substance Use

April 3: Assessment of Eating Disorders

DSM-IV-TR Eating Disorders Section / SCID & KID-SCID Eating Disorder Modules


**Lab Activity:** SCID Eating Disorders (Schedule SCID volunteer)

**April 10:** Personality Assessment

SCID-II Cluster A Modules / SCID-II Cluster B Modules / SCID-II Cluster C Modules


**Lab Activity:** SCID-II

**April 17:** Assessment of Youth Anxiety & Externalizing Behavior

DSM-IV-TR Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD), Conduct Disorder (CD) Sections / KID-SCID Anxiety, ADHD, ODD, CD Modules


**Lab Activity:** SCID-II
April 24: Couple and Family Assessment


* Volunteer Report 3 due *

**Lab Activity:** Other Assessment Instruments

May 1: Cultural Issues


**Lab Activity:** Other Assessment Instruments