**Psychological Assessment I (PSYC 810) Lab Fall 2020**

Mondays 1:30 – 3:00 pm, online

**Teaching Assistant:** Claire Niehaus, M.A.

**Email**: [cniehaus@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:cniehaus@masonlive.gmu.edu)

**Office Hours:** Mondays 3:00 – 4:00 pm

**Recommended Books:**

Lichtenberger, E. O., & Kaufman, A. S. (2013). *Essentials of WAIS-IV assessment*. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons.

Flanagan, D. P. & Alfonso, V. C. (2017). *Essentials of WISC-V Assessment.* New York: John

Wiley & Sons.

**Course Objective:** This is the lab section for the first semester of a two-semester sequence on psychological assessment. The goal of the course is to give students practice in administering, scoring, and interpreting assessment instruments and writing assessment reports. Students will gain the skills to: (1) conduct a semi-structured clinical interview; (2) choose appropriate assessment techniques to learn about clients’ concerns and difficulties; (3) provide accurate, clear and effective interpretation of assessment results; (4) develop recommendations tailored to the needs of clients, and (5) provide helpful feedback to clients in person and through written reports. The schedule of class topics is:

| **Lab Date** | **Topics Covered/Assignments Due** | **Readings** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| August 24 | Introduction & WAIS-IV Administration | Essentials of WAIS-IV Ch. 2; |
| August 31 | Practice WAIS-IV Administration and Scoring | Essentials of WAIS-IV Ch. 3; WAIS-IV Manual |
| September 7 | Labor Day Holiday – No Lab |  |
| September 14 | **\*WAIS-IV Proficiencies\*** |  |
| September 21 | Practice WISC-V Administration and Scoring | Essentials of WISC-V Ch. 2 WISC-V Manual |
| September 28 | Practice WISC-V Administration and Scoring | Essentials of WISC-V Ch. 3 |
| October 5 | **\*WISC-V Proficiencies\*** |  |
| October 12 | Fall Break – No Lab |  |
| October 13 | WAIS-IV report writing  **\*First WAIS-IV report due to TA\*** |  |
| October 19 | Practice suicide and violence risk assessment |  |
| October 26 | ADHD Assessment: Conners, Brown, CPT  **\*First WAIS report due to Professor\*** |  |
| November 2 | Executive Functioning Assessment: BRIEF and Beery VMI  **\*Second WAIS report due to TA\*** |  |
| November 9 | Memory Assessment: MMSE, WMS, and WRAM-L |  |
| November 16 | Practice Client Feedback Sessions  **\*Second WAIS report due to Professor\*** |  |
| November 23 | WISC-V report writing  **\*WISC report due to TA\*** |  |
| November 30 | Ethics; wrap-up  **\*WISC report due to Professor on 12.7\*** |  |

Schedule volunteers only after passing your proficiency for the WAIS-IV and WISC-V. Your adult assessment volunteers will be the same as your Motivational Interviewing course volunteers. You are responsible for recruiting children for your child assessment administrations (more information about this to follow).

*Volunteers:*

* Adult volunteers (2): Clinical Interview, WAIS
* Child volunteer (1): Parent & Child Clinical Interviews, WISC-V

*Written Assignments/Reports:*

* 2 WAIS interpretative reports (with clinical interview)
* 1 WISC interpretive report (with parent interview)

Protocols for practice administrations should be completed and turned in with videotaped interviews on USB drives to the 810 mailbox **within 72 hours of administration**. Email TA when you place materials in the 810 mailbox. **De-identify, password-protect, and submit reports via email for grading.**

**Lab Grading Criteria:**

**1. Proficiencies (Pass/Fail – 90% passing grade)**

50 points - WAIS-IV

50 points - WISC-V

100 points – Total Proficiency Score

**2. Test Administration and Protocols**

50 points - WAIS-IV #1

50 points - WAIS-IV #2

50 points - WISC-V #1

150 points – Total Test Administration/Protocol Score

**3. Report Writing**

50 points - WAIS-IV #1

50 points - WAIS-IV #2

50 points - WISC-V #1

150 points – Total Report Writing Score

**4. Interviewing, class participation, ethical and professional conduct, implementing feedback – 100 points**

**500 points – Total Lab Grade**

Lab grades will be based on class participation, test proficiencies, timely and accurate completion of test administrations, protocol scoring, report writing, completion of interviews in a professional manner, and implementing feedback. Lab TA will provide feedback on your interviewing, administration and scoring, report writing, and general professional interaction skills. You will turn in protocols and videotaped interviews to TA for review and feedback. They will grade your work and you will re-submit unsatisfactory work until it is satisfactory.

**\*\*Grade for lab counts for 25% of total grade for PSYC 810\*\***

**Grading**. A+ = 97 – 100%; A = 93 – 96%; A- = 90 – 92%; B+ = 87 – 89%; B = 83 – 86%;

C = 75 – 85%; F = below 75%.

**Volunteers:** Prior to administering a testing instrument to a volunteer, you will read the manual and Essentials book; practice administering the instrument in lab and outside of class with a classmate; and earn 90% or above on the WAIS-IV and WISC-V lab proficiencies.

You will recruit adult volunteers through the GMU research participant pool and child volunteers from the community. At all times, you must behave with the volunteers in the same manner that you would with actual clients. Thus, you cannot assess volunteers with whom you have any type of outside relationship (i.e., a student in one of your labs or classes; a co-worker; a relative; etc.). You are to conduct yourself in a professional manner at all times (e.g., arrive on time to appointments; contact volunteer if appointment must be changed or cancelled; and dress and conduct yourself professionally).

**University Policies and Resources:**

1. Student Responsibilities About Communication: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communication from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
2. [Honor Code and Academic Honesty](http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/): You are expected to be familiar with and abide by George Mason University’s Honor Code. The Code requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. It is your responsibility to see me if you have questions about these policies. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.
3. Students must follow the university policy for [Responsible Use of Computing](http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/) and registration in [Administrative information](http://summer.gmu.edu/registration/).
4. Student services: The University provides range of services to help you succeed academically and you should make use of these if you think they could benefit you. I also invite you to speak to me (the earlier the better).
5. [The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)](http://caps.gmu.edu/) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students’ personal experience and academic performance. Counseling Center: Student Union I, Room 364, 703-993-2380.
6. Accommodations: Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the [George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS)](http://ods.gmu.edu/) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester.
7. [The George Mason University Writing Center](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/) staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. University Writing Center: Robinson Hall Room A114, 703-993-1200. The writing center includes assistance for students for whom English is a second language.
8. [Library](http://library.gmu.edu/for/online): Most University Libraries resources are available to you from home. They have a variety of online services.
9. Students must follow the university policy stating that all sound emitting devices shall be turned off during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.
10. [Diversity](http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/): George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth.
11. [Religious Holidays](http://ulife.gmu.edu/calendar/religious-holiday-calendar/): It is the obligation of students, within the first two weeks of the semester, to provide professors with the dates of major religious holidays on which they will be absent or unable to turn in work due to religious observances.
12. [Student Privacy](http://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/): All students at Mason control access to their educational records and must give consent before that information is disclosed to any third party, including parents.
13. Class Cancellation Policy: If class is cancelled, I will notify you by email/blackboard and describe how we will make up the time.
14. Mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a professor, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center at 703.380.1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services at 703.993.2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703.993.8730 or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

**Class Cancellation Policy:** Students are encouraged to sign up for the Mason Alert service to remain up-to-date on university closings. Any class cancellations beyond those necessitated by university-wide closings will be announced via e-mail at least 12 hours prior to the next scheduled class. Make-up classes will be scheduled according to announced university policy, or on an ad hoc basis (if needed).

**Add/Drop Deadlines:**

Last Day to Add Course: August 31

Last Day to Drop Course: Sept. 8 (no penalty); Self withdrawal Sept. 16-28 (100% liability)

\*\***You will pay a lab fee at the end of the semester for the costs of protocols and copies.\*\***