**Psychological Assessment II Lab (PSYC 811-202)**

Mondays 8:30 – 10:00 am online

Teaching Assistant: Claire Niehaus [cniehaus@gmu.edu](mailto:cniehaus@gmu.edu) (703) 993-1370

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00 – 1:00 pm, online

This is the lab section for the second 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 topics in the second semester will include: (1) reliable interpretation of personality measures including the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) and the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI); (2) clinical interviewing and report writing; (3) how to select, critically evaluate, and use empirical tests; (4) uses of the multi-method assessment approach for research and practice; (5) cognitive behavioral case formulation; (6) reliable administration of diagnostic interviews including the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM disorders (SCID), Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview For Children And Adolescents (MINI-KID), and Achenbach System of Empirically Based Assessment (ASEBA); (7) brief assessments for anxiety (DASS-21), depression (PHQ-9), and substance use (AUDIT and DAST); and (8) assessments of achievement and cognitive abilities with the Woodcock-Johnson test batteries.

The schedule of class topics is:

| **Lab Date** | **Topics Covered** | **Assignments Due** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| January 25 | Introduction to SCID, SCID mood modules, DASS-21, PHQ-9 |  |
| February 1 | SCID anxiety, OCD, and PTSD modules |  |
| February 8 | SCID substance use, eating disorder modules; AUDIT and DAST administration |  |
| February 15 | SCID Proficiencies on Mood, Anxiety, OCD, and PTSD |  |
| February 22 | MMPI and PAI Administration, Scoring, and Interpretation |  |
| March 1 | D-KEFS Administration and practice | **\*\*Turn in MMPI, SCID, DASS-21, PHQ-9 report to TA\*\*** |
| March 8 | WJ-Ach and Nelson Denny Administration and practice |  |
| March 15 | SCID II |  |
| March 22 | Projectives Administration |  |
| March 29 | Introduction to MINI-KID; ADHD, ODD, and CD modules |  |
| April 5 | Finish MINI-KID; review ASEBA |  |
| April 12 | Supervision on Assessment cases |  |
| April 19 | Supervision on Assessment cases | **\*\*Turn in WISC-V report for CAP to TA\*\*** |
| April 26 | Supervision on Assessment cases | **\*\*Turn in comprehensive report to TA\*\*** |

*Interviews/Assessments/Reports:*

* 1 WISC-V assessment report for the Cognitive Assessment Program
* 1 adult clinical interview with a college student volunteer; MMPI-2; Depression, Anxiety, and Stress Scales (DASS-21); PHQ-9; and SCID
* 1 comprehensive assessment report with a clinic client, clinical interview, and appropriate tests (e.g., WAIS-IV, PAI, Conners’ ADHD Rating Scales, BRIEF, DASS-21, PHQ-9, ASEBA, Nelson Denny Reading Test, Woodcock-Johnson-IV)

Protocols for practice administrations should be completed and turned in with videotaped interviews to the 811 mailbox **within 72 hours of administration**. Email TA when you place materials in the 811 mailbox. **De-identify, password-protect, and submit reports via email for grading.**

**Lab Grading Criteria**

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

**50 points - SCID**

**= 50 points – Total Proficiency Score**

**2. Test Administration and Protocols**

**50 points – SCID**

**50 points – MMPI-2**

**50 points – WAIS-IV**

**50 points – PAI**

**50 points – WJ-Achievement**

**= 250 points – Total Test Administration/Protocol Score**

**3. Report Writing**

**50 points – MMPI-2/SCID**

**50 points – WAIS-IV/PAI/WJ-Achievement**

**= 100 points – Total Report Writing Score**

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

**500 points – Total Lab Grade**

**Grade for lab counts for 25% of total grade for PSYC 811**

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 TAs 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 TAs for review and feedback. They will grade your work and you will re-submit unsatisfactory work until it is satisfactory.

\*\***You will be charged a lab fee at the end of the semester for the cost of protocols and copies incurred.**

Prior to administering a testing instrument to a volunteer, you will read the manual; practice administering the instrument in lab and outside of class with a classmate; and earn 90% or above on the SCID lab proficiency.

**Volunteers:** You will recruit adult volunteers through the GMU research participant pool. 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).

**Honor Code:** Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work. Information about Honor Code policies is available at <https://oai.gmu.edu/mason-honor-code/>. All students must follow 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.

**Required Books:** There are no required books for this course.

**Use of Technology**: Students will access course materials through Blackboard.

**Class Cancellation Policy:** Students will receive emails when classes are cancelled and information when we will make up classes.

**Official Communications via GMU e-mail:** Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices form 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 accounts, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

**Last day to add:** February 1. **Last day to drop:** February 12 (100% tuition refund)