I. TEXT (Required)


II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The focus of this course is the selection, administration, scoring, and interpretation of objective tests designed to evaluate personality and/or psychopathology. The emphasis of the course is on objective measures such as the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory–2 (MMPI-2), Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI), Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory–III (MCMI-III), and the NEO.

The MMPI-2 and PAI will be the primary instruments addressed throughout the course, while others will take a secondary role. The overarching goal is to provide you with a general overview of objective personality assessment while providing you with a fairly in-depth knowledge of the MMPI, one of the most widely used personality measures, and the PAI, perhaps the most popular newer inventories. Topics to be covered include: historical perspectives of objective assessment, psychometric theory and procedures, and the impact of culture and ethnicity on interpretation.

III STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Students will analyze the historical developments that led to the development of the MMPI-2 and other objective personality measures.

2. Students will develop skills in interpreting the MMPI-2, PAI, and other objective personality measures.

3. Students will critically evaluate testing data.

4. Students will be able to understand the different components of an objective personality report and will become proficient in report writing.

5. Students will evaluate and integrate clinical and testing data.
6. To gain an introductory understanding of the uses, theory, administration, and interpretation of the MCMI-III and the NEO.

IV. EXAMINATIONS

The objectives of this course, as described, will be met and assessed through a variety of methods including lectures, reading assignments, written assignments, classroom discussion, written examination, an interpretative report, and a final paper. However, given that this is a graduate level course, a premium will be placed on discussion and the course will be conducted more like a seminar than a lecture course. Consequently, it is essential that students actively participate in class and effort will comprise a portion of the final grade. Additionally, it is expected that students complete all reading assignments on time and arrive at each class prepared to actively discuss the material.

There will be no formal examinations. The student’s grade will be determined on the basis of the test administrations, scoring proficiency and report writing. Administrations will include the MMPI-2, PAI, MCMI-III, and the NEO.

V. ATTENDANCE

Readings and Assignments: All students are expected to come to class having completed all assigned readings.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Only absences approved by the instructor, in advance of class, will be permitted. Attendance will be taken every class meeting and will contribute to your overall effort grade.

It is the responsibility of the student to obtain any material missed during an absence from his/her classmates. It is always your responsibility to determine what happened in class during your absence.

Special circumstances may warrant deviating from these guidelines (including administering a “make-up” examination) and will be referred to the Vice President of Student Affairs. This also applies to any situations for which you cannot provide an acceptable excuse as outlined above.

Cell phones and pagers: Cell phones and texting are prohibited in class. They can be brought in, but are to be kept in bags or in pockets and MUST be on SILENT mode. Any student found using a cell phone will be asked to leave.

Laptop Usage: Laptops may be used to take notes. However, any student found surfing the net or engaging in activities outside of taking notes will be asked to leave and points will be deducted from their effort grade. Working on assignments for the course during class is not appropriate and will not be permitted.
VI. TEST ADMINISTRATION AND ANALYSIS

Each student will administer a number of personality measures. There will be exercises in the following areas:

- Administration method and technique, 5 points each, 4 assignments — 20 points
- Scoring sample response sets, 10 points each, 4 assignments — 40 points
- Coding sets of scores, 15 points each, 4 assignments — 60 points
- Computing the various indices, 20 points each, 4 assignments — 80 points
- Interpretation of test results, 25 points each, 4 assignments — 100 points
- Integration of results with other psychological tests. 30 points each, 4 assignments — 120 points
- Complete administration incorporating all of the above into a report. 100 points each, 2 assignments — 200 points

VII. DETERMINATION OF GRADES

Course grades will be based primarily on the total number of points earned by the end of the semester. There are 620 possible points. To receive an "A" for the course, you will need 558 points (or 90% of the possible points), a "B" requires 496 points (80%), a "C" requires 434 points (70%), etc.

At the discretion of the instructor, a student's grade may be raised but never lowered, for any of the following reasons:

1. quality of class participation,
2. improvement throughout the course
3. isolated low grade.

These exceptions to the "total points" rule will be considered only when a student's final average is within a few points of the cut-off for the next highest grade.

VIII. STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodations of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

IX. ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 101 E, and can be reached
The current University Catalog and Student Handbook discuss plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Any student violating these codes will be held responsible.

XI. GRADE APPEALS

As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

XII. OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Wednesdays 3:15 – 4:20 pm
... or by appointment

XIII. ASSIGNED READING

RG – Roger Greene
GGM – Gary Groth-Marnat

01/16/11 - NO CLASS: MLK Holiday

01/23
Course Introduction –
GGM – Chapter 1 - Introduction
Chapter 2 – Context of Clinical Assessment

01/30
GGM – Chapter 3 – The Assessment Interview
GGM – Chapter 4 – Behavioral Assessment

01/06
RG – Chapter 1 – THE EVOLUTION OF THE MMPI, MMPI-2, AND
RG – Chapter 2 - ADMINISTRATION AND SCORING
02/13  RG – Chapter 3 – VALIDITY SCALES AND INDEXES
       RG – Chapter 4 - CLINICAL SCALES

02/20  RG – Chapter 5 – MMPI-2 CODETYPES
       RG – Chapter 6 – CONTENT SCALES, CONTENT COMPONENT

02/27  RG – Chapter 7 – SUPPLEMENTARY SCALES, CRITICAL ITEMS,
       RG – Chapter 8 – MMPI-2 RESTRUCTURED FORM (MMPI-2-RF)
       RG - Chapter 10 - INTERPRETING THE MMPI-2 AND MMPI-2-RF

03/05  Handouts – Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)

03/13  NO CLASS: Spring Break

03/19  Handouts Continued – Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)

03/26  GGM – Chapter 14 – Psychological Assessment and Treatment Planning

04/02  GGM – Chapter 15 – Psychological Report

04/09  GGM – Chapter 13 – Brief Instruments for Treatment Planning,
       Monitoring and Outcome Assessment
       RG – Chapter 11 – EFFECTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES AND
       SETTINGS
       RG – Chapter 12 – ADOLESCENTS AND ELDERLY

04/16  GGM – Chapter 8 – Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory
       GGM – Chapter 9 – California Psychological Inventory

04/23  Handout: Comprehensive Report Writing
       Handout: NEO-PRI (Five Factor Theory of Personality)
       Handout: Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory
       Handout: 16 PF (16 Personality Factors)

04/30  Final Assignments Due