Course Name: Personality Assessment
Course Number: PSYC 5344.002
Office: BH 315
Meeting Times: M 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM
Fax: (361) 825-6098

Instructor: Sam S. Hill, III, Psy.D.
Semester: Spring - 2012
Room: BH-112
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SYLLABUS

I. TEXT (Required)


Optional Text Reading (will be on reserve in library):


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), Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory – III (MCMI-III), and the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI), and the (NEO)

The MMPI will be the primary instrument 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. 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 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 MCMII-III, PAI, 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, MCMII-III, PAI and the NEO.

V. ATTENDANCE

Class attendance is mandatory, you are expected to attend class at the hours scheduled. Your absence from class will surely affect your grade. If you miss a class, even if it is an excused absence, you will be held responsible for all that transpired during that class, including schedule changes, material covered, and exams given.

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%).

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 Corpus Christi Hall Room 216.

IX. **ACADEMIC ADVISING**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor and your faculty advisor often. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203, and can be reached at 825-3466.

X. **ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY**

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

Monday    6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Tuesday    11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, .
Thursday   11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, and 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

*Other times by appointment*

XIII. ASSIGNED READING