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/RF) and Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI), though attention will also be given to other popular inventories such as MCMI-III, NEO, and CPI.

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, ethical use of testing, 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 other popular measures such as MCMI-III and the NEO.

IV. EXAMINATIONS
The objectives of this course will be met and assessed through a variety of methods including lectures, reading assignments, written assignments, classroom discussion, classroom presentation, written exams, interpretative reports, 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 three (3) formal written examinations, each worth 50 points and each covering material derived from the required textbooks listed above.

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). This also applies to any situations for which you cannot provide an acceptable excuse as outlined above.

Cell phones: 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 will not be permitted.

VI. PERSONALITY TEST ADMINISTRATION AND ANALYSIS
Each student will administer a number of personality measures. There will be exercises in the following areas:
1. Administration method and technique, 5 points each, 4 assignments (20 pts)
2. Scoring protocols, 5 points each, 4 assignments (20 pts)
3. Interpretation of test results, 50 points each, 4 protocols (200 pts)
4. Written Integrative Interpretative reports, 100 points each, 2 reports (200 pts)

VII. DETERMINATION OF GRADES
Course grades will be based on the total number of points earned by the end of the semester. There are 680 possible points. To receive an "A" for the course, you will need to earn 612 or more points (90% or more of the max possible points), a "B" requires 544-611 points (80-89%), a "C" requires 476-543 points (70-79%), etc.

Sources of points:
1. Written exams x3 150
2. Participation 20
3. Class Presentation 40
4. Final/Project Paper 30
5. Psych Test Admin & Interpretations (section VI above) 440

VIII. NOTICE TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office, located in Corpus Christi Hall #116, at 825-5816. If you need disability accommodations for this directed independent study, please see the instructor as soon as possible.

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 the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, 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 APPEAL PROCESS
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the
grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

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

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE
Reading Assignment codes:  RG – Roger Greene
                           GGM – Gary Groth-Marnat
                           LM – Leslie Morey

08/31/15 - Course Introduction –
GGM – Chapters 1-2: Introduction & Context of Clinical Assessment

09/07  NO CLASS – LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

09/14  GGM – Chapters 3-4: The Assessment Interview & Behavioral Assessment

09/21  Test 1 - GGM
RG – Chapters 1-2: Evolution of MMPI, MMPI-2, and MMPI-RF;
      Administration and scoring

09/28  RG – Chapters 3-6: Validity Scales and Indexes; Clinical Scales; MMPI-2
      Code Types; & Content Scales and Critical Items

10/05  RG – Chapters 7, 8, 10: Supplementary Scales; MMPI-2-RF; &
       Interpreting the MMPI-2 and MMPI-2 RF Profile

10/12  Student Presentations
       LM – Chapters 1-3 – PAI Overview, Administration & Scoring

10/19  Test 2 – MMPI-2/RF (RG)
Student Presentations
       LM – Chapters 4-6: PAI Intro to Interpretation; Assessing Profile Validity;
       & Individual PAI Scales

10/26  Student Presentations
       MMPI-2 Interpretive Protocol #1 DUE (50 pts)
       LM – Chapters 7-9: Two-Point Code Types; Strengths and Weaknesses; &
       Clinical Applications

11/02  Student Presentations
       MMPI-2 Interpretive Protocol #2 DUE (50 pts)
       GGM – Chapter 15 – Psychological Reports
GGM – Chapter 14 – Psychological Assessment and Treatment Planning

11/09  
*Student Presentations*

**PAI Interpretive Protocol #1 DUE** (50 pts)

11/16  
**MMPI-2 Interpretive Report DUE** (100 pts)

**PAI Interpretive Protocol #2 DUE** (50 pts)

GGM – Chapter 13 – Brief Instruments for Treatment Planning, Monitoring and Outcome Assessment

11/23

RG – Chapters 11-12: Effects of Demographic Variables; Adolescents and Elderly

11/30  
**Test 3 - PAI (LM)**

**PAI Interpretive Report DUE** (100 pts)

GGM – Chapter 8 – Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory

GGM – Chapter 9 – California Psychological Inventory

+ **Final/Project Papers Due** (30 pts)