Course Name: **Personality Assessment**  
Instructor: Olga V. Berkout Ph.D.  
Course Number: PSYC 5344.001  
Office: BH 316  
Semester: Fall 2017  
Class Time: M 4:20-6:50 pm  
Telephone: (361)-825-5994  
Office: BH 205  
Room: BH 205  
Office Hours: TR 9-10am; 12:30-2pm  
e-mail: Olga.Berkout@tamucc.edu  
W by appointment

**SYLLABUS**

**TEXT (Required)**


**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.

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.

**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.

EXAMINATIONS
The objectives of this course will be met and assessed through a variety of methods including lectures, assignments, classroom discussion, classroom presentation, written exams, and interpretative reports. 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) examinations, each worth 100 points and each covering material derived from the required textbooks listed above.

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.

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.

DETERMINATION OF GRADES
Course grades will be based on the total number of points earned by the end of the semester. There are 1000 possible points. To receive an "A" for the course, you will need
to earn 900 or more points (90% or more of the max possible points), a "B" requires 800 points (80-89%), etc.

**Sources of points:**
1. Exams x3 300
2. Participation 100
3. Class Presentation 200
4. Psychological Test Interpretation/Reports 400

**DISABILITY SERVICES**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guarantees all students with disabilities a learning environment with reasonable disability accommodations. If you believe you have a disability, which requires accommodations, please contact the Disability Services Office at 361-825-5816.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**
As soon as you are ready to declare a major within the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), you are required to meet with an Academic Advisor. Please call 361-825-3466 for additional information regarding academic advising. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203.

**ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITY**
The current University Catalog and Student Handbook discuss plagiarism and academic dishonesty. Any student violating these codes will be held responsible.

**GRADE APPEAL PROCESS**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 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.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.
OFFICE HOURS  
TR 9-10am; 12:30-2pm  
W by appointment

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

08/28/17 -  
Course Introduction –  
GGM – Chapters 1-2: Introduction & Context of Clinical Assessment

09/04  
Labor Day Holiday

09/11  
GGM – Chapters 3-4: The Assessment Interview & Behavioral Assessment

09/18  
Test 1 - GGM  
RG – Chapters 1-2: Evolution of MMPI, MMPI-2, and MMPI-RF; Administration and scoring

09/25  
RG – Chapters 3-6: Validity Scales and Indexes; Clinical Scales; MMPI-2 Code Types; & Content Scales and Critical Items

10/02  
RG – Chapters 7, 8, 10: Supplementary Scales; MMPI-2-RF; & Interpreting the MMPI-2 and MMPI-2 RF Profile

10/09  
Student Presentations  
LM – Chapters 1-3 – PAI Overview, Administration & Scoring

10/16  
Test 2 – MMPI-2/RF (RG)  
Student Presentations

10/23  
LM – Chapters 4-6: PAI Intro to Interpretation; Assessing Profile Validity; & Individual PAI Scales

10/30  
Student Presentations  
MMPI-2 Interpretive Protocol #1 DUE  
LM – Chapters 7-9: Two-Point Code Types; Strengths and Weaknesses; & Clinical Applications

11/06  
Student Presentations  
MMPI-2 Interpretive Protocol #2 DUE (50 pts)  
GGM – Chapter 15 – Psychological Reports  
GGM – Chapter 14 – Psychological Assessment and Treatment Planning

11/13  
Student Presentations
PAI Interpretive Protocol #1 DUE

11/20  MMPI-2 Interpretive Report DUE
       PAI Interpretive Protocol #2 DUE
       GGM – Chapter 13 – Brief Instruments for Treatment Planning, Monitoring and Outcome Assessment

11/27  RG – Chapters 11-12: Effects of Demographic Variables; Adolescents and Elderly

12/04  PAI Interpretive Report DUE
       GGM – Chapter 8 – Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory
       GGM – Chapter 9 – California Psychological Inventory

** Final Exam  (Test #3 on PAI) will be given per the designated final exam schedule developed by the University.