Course Overview

This course will engage graduate level students in the study of the principle theories of intelligence and their relevance to applied psychology. Class will focus instruction in the theoretical, ethical, and practical application of intellectual assessment in clinical settings using standardized instruments, such as the WAIS-IV and WISC-V. Most of the focus will be on administering, scoring, analyzing, and reporting psychological test results of cognitive ability. Students will also review the current development and use of other instruments which assess cognitive function. This course provides students with initial competence; it is not as a stand-alone course to provide the qualifications necessary to independently perform cognitive assessments. Students wishing to gain such proficiency must also complete an integrated sequence of graduate-level courses, including supervised practica designed for professional-level competence. This course will expose students to samples of written test reports. Finally, students will also be introduced to the Cross-Battery Assessment approach (XBA), which provides psychologists with the means to make systematic, valid, and up-to-date interpretations of intelligence batteries augmented with other tests.

Student Learning Objectives

1) Become competent in the administration and scoring of intellectual test with a focus on the WISC-V and WAIS-V.
2) Learn to effectively communicate test findings verbally and in writing.
3) Understand the reasons for the development and use of psychological tests of cognitive ability and how these tests are based on the principles and theory of intelligence as well as the statistical support for the validity and reliability of these tests.
4) Learn and understand the application of ethical principles and multicultural considerations of psychological testing from the American Psychological Association (APA). These must be downloaded from apa.org website (free of charge).

Students must plan to devote a considerable amount of time to master course material. Students must read test manuals (in addition to required texts) and study and use test materials. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions and complete numerous scoring and test administrations. In addition to attending regularly scheduled classes, students will meet approximately weekly with the instructor or Teaching Assistant to review test administration, scoring, and report writing for their cases. This course requires a high level of social and ethical responsibility.

Required Texts:


Blackboard

We will use Blackboard for posting important class documents including information about tests, supplemental readings, specific instructions for the various writing assignments, announcements, etc. In addition, homework and project assignments will be posted on and submitted to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly to ensure completion of all required coursework. If you do not know your login information, please contact the IT Help Desk, (361) 825-2692. If there are issues within your Blackboard course, please contact me first, as typically the instructor is the only one who can make changes/fix issues within a course. If you are having technical difficulties, please contact the IT Help Desk or your ISP.

Course Evaluation
**Intellectual Assessment**  
PSYC 5343 - 001----TAMUCC, Spring 2020

**Readings**  
You are required to read assigned sections/chapters/articles **before** the class during which we will discuss them. You may also be assigned additional readings throughout the semester. Instructions on accessing assigned readings will be posted on Blackboard. These supplemental readings are designed to broaden your understanding of the subject material.

**Cognitive Assessment Statement:**  
You will prepare a one-page summary regarding your own understanding of cognitive assessment. Reflect on what you believe a cognitive assessment is defined and what purpose this type of assessment holds. You may think about your own experience with assessment, your definition of cognitive abilities, and other types of assessments. You may also address potential concerns or questions regarding cognitive assessment as it relates to psychology and clinical work. What do you believe to be the pros and cons of such an assessment? Finally, what do you hope to learn from this class?

**Group Practice and Report**  
Each student will administer the WAIS /WISC with a group of peers. As a group of 2 to 3, you are responsible for completing one complete administration of each test (alternating roles as examiner, examinee, and observer). Turn in one completed protocol (with all of your names on it) and one hand scored protocol. Each individual will turn in a short reflection about the assessment, highlighting areas of strength in the administration and areas for further improvement moving forward.

**Skills Check**  
Prior to working with any volunteers, students will complete a skills check with the instructor and demonstrate proficiency in administering the WAIS and WISC. You will be asked to individually administer a few selected subtests and will be evaluated on your proficiency with these administrations. Students may be required to complete additional administration if basic proficiency is not demonstrated.

**Scoring Assignments/Reports**  
There will be 3 scoring assignments to be completed throughout the course. Two will be scoring only and two will require a printed out report.

**Basic Test Administration**  
Students will administer and score 3 individual cognitive skill tests (2 WAIS and 2 WISC). Students will locate volunteer examinees of ages appropriate for the test being administered (*important information about Students’ examinee’s is provided under Additional Information below) and submit their scored protocols. You will choose two of the three completed administrations to write a written report of results with interpretation and recommendations. Protocols and reports will be evaluated primarily based on the mechanics of administration and scoring, though they are also expected to learn skills in writing reports and interpreting test results. Students will focus more on administration and scoring at the beginning of the course and later shift their focus to the report. It is expected that students will demonstrate growth in their administration, scoring, and report writing throughout the semester. The Basic Test Administration grading rubric will be provided in class.

**Recorded Observation**  
Students will video record one of their test administrations in its entirety. Students will watch their own videos and complete a self-evaluation of their test administration. A supervisor will also complete a similar evaluation and provide feedback to the student. The observation will be graded as Pass or Fail based on whether the student completes the requirements, not based on performance during test administration. Its purpose is to provide detailed feedback to the student.

**Peer Review-Skills Check**  
Students will peer review a classmate’s assessment video that provide constructive and corrective feedback regarding administrations and scoring criteria using the observation checklist as a guide.
Scoring Assignments/Reports
Throughout the course, each student will have four scoring assignments and write two brief psychological reports/sections of reports. More information and examples will be shared in class. Reports must be typed, 12 point, double spaced, and submitted via Blackboard in Word or PDF format. Students may be required to submit additional reports if basic proficiency is not demonstrated.

Group Presentation- Assessment
Student will choose one assessment not covered in class. They will work in groups of 2-3 to create a presentation on an assessment tool and demonstrate the basics to the class. Examples might include: multicultural issues in assessment, controversies in assessment, or the use of a specific instrument (provide a brief overview of its intended use as well as its technical features). Presentation should be 10-15 minutes.

Presentations-Special Topic
Each student will create one short presentation on a topic that is related to the field of assessment. Examples might include: multicultural issues in assessment, controversies in assessment, or the use of a specific instrument (provide a brief overview of its intended use as well as its technical features). I encourage you to pursue a topic that is of interest to you. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of a topic, just ask. The presentation must also include discussion questions or activities designed to further the class’s understanding of the material. The presentation should be 10-15 minutes in length.

Grading Criteria
Final course grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned during the semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cognitive Assessment Statement</th>
<th>15 points</th>
<th>15 pts possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One (1) Peer Review Observation Examiner Checklist and Reflection: Groups of 3</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>25 pts possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Administration forms with Examiner Checklist, Reflection, and Question; and Report (1 WAIS-IV; 1 WISC-V)</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>50 pts possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two (2) Competency Administration with Instructor WAIS-IV, 1 WISC-V</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>50 pts possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two (2) scoring assignments (1 WAIS-IV, 1 WISC-V)</td>
<td>25 points each</td>
<td>50 pts possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>One (1) scoring assignments with report</td>
<td>50 points each</td>
<td>50 pts possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three (3) Basic test administrations and scoring (1 WAIS-IV, 1 WISC-V; Your choice for the last)</td>
<td>50 points each</td>
<td>150 pts possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>One test administration with psychological reports and recommendation</td>
<td>100 points each</td>
<td>100 pts possible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Tool Group Presentation</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>25 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Topic Presentation</td>
<td>25 points</td>
<td>25 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reflection-Cognitive Assessment Statement</td>
<td>10 points</td>
<td>10 points</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>/550 pts.</td>
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VERY IMPORTANT – Late Work/Missed Exams
All assignments must be completed and submitted by the scheduled due date specified on the syllabus or by the instructor. Points will be deducted for assignments not turned in on time (-10% per day late). Incompletes will be awarded only under rare and unusual circumstances and with prior instructor approval.
Class Attendance and Participation:
Class attendance is mandatory; however, students are allowed one excused absence for the semester (students are still responsible for all materials covered/assignments due that day and late penalties will apply). Students who become ill or plan to miss class should let the instructor know ahead of time, if possible. Students who are absent are expected to obtain material and information from the missed class, will need to meet with the instructor, and may be asked to complete additional assignments to make up for missed class time. More than one absence may result in a failing or incomplete grade. Additional work may be requested as a way to make up attendance.

Correspondence
Email is the best way to get in touch with me. Be sure to include your course & section number in the email subject line. Expect a response email within 24 hours, except on the weekends. I am always ready and willing to make myself available to help you succeed in this course. While most questions can probably be answered via email, you may also schedule meetings during office hours to discuss more complicated concerns, including grade discussion. Be sure to identify and remedy any concerns as early as you can during the semester. The more time we have to address concerns, the more likely it is that we will be able to resolve it in a way that allows you to be successful. If you wait until the end of the semester, there that can be done to hope you succeed at that point. More than one point. Emails will be sent to your islander account, be sure to check this regularly. If you haven't already, you are encouraged to sync your islander email with your phone so that you don't miss any important messages.

Academic Integrity/Plagiarism
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero for the assignment or exam, an increased level of testing security, and/or referral for an academic integrity issue.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 10th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Statement of Civility
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

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
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

Dropping a Class
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. April 10th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

Grade Appeals
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. 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. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNED READINGS</th>
<th>ITEMS DUE</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/21</td>
<td>Course Overview &amp; Expectations What is Intelligence? Background/Contemporary issues in Assessment</td>
<td>• APA Code of Ethics in Psychological Testing</td>
<td>• Review Syllabus</td>
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<td>• Cognitive Assessment Statement due 1/18 at 11:59 via BB</td>
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<tr>
<td>01/28</td>
<td>Ethical Practice &amp; Assessment Examiner Characteristics History &amp;Theory of Assessment</td>
<td>• Litchtenberger &amp; Kaufman • Ch 1,2</td>
<td>• Bring WAIS to Class • Assign Groups &amp; Sign up for Presentation Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/04</td>
<td>Psychometric Foundations of Assessment WAIS-IV – Understanding the Subtests</td>
<td>• Litchtenberger &amp; Kaufman • Ch 3</td>
<td>• Peer Reviewed Competency</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/11</td>
<td>WAIS-IV – Interpretations &amp; Recommendations</td>
<td>• Litchtenberger &amp; Kaufman • Ch 5</td>
<td>• Group WAIS form due (with Examiner Training Checklist, Reflections, Questions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>02/18</td>
<td>Finish WAIS-IV Introduction to Report Writing</td>
<td>• Litchtenberger &amp; Kaufman • Ch 4</td>
<td>• WAIS-IV Competency Administration with Instructor (times vary)</td>
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<td>• WAIS administration questions</td>
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<td>02/25</td>
<td>Finish WAIS-IV Report Writing Clinical Applications: Special Populations, Low Incidence Populations, Intellectual Extremes</td>
<td>• Litchtenberger &amp; Kaufman • Ch 6,7</td>
<td>• HW due – WAIS scoring assignment with report</td>
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<td>03/03</td>
<td>Strengths &amp; Weaknesses of the WAIS-IV Address Questions/Concerns in Assessment</td>
<td>• Litchtenberger &amp; Kaufman • Ch 8,9</td>
<td>• HW due – WAIS administration with scoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/17</td>
<td>WISC-V Overview: Theory &amp; Foundations Assessment of Children</td>
<td>• Flanagan &amp; Alfonso • Ch 1,2</td>
<td>• HW due – (1) WAIS administration with scoring &amp;</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>03/24</td>
<td>WISC-V: Understanding the Subtests</td>
<td>• Flanagan &amp; Alfonso Ch 3,4</td>
<td>(1) WAIS administration with report</td>
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<tr>
<td>03/31</td>
<td>WISC-V Administration &amp; Scoring</td>
<td>• Flanagan &amp; Alfonso Ch 5</td>
<td>WISC Group Adminsitration W/ Report</td>
<td>Peer -Reviewed Competency</td>
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<td>04/07</td>
<td>WISC-V Interpretation and Recommendations</td>
<td>• Flanagan &amp; Alfonso Ch 6,7</td>
<td>HW due – WISC scoring assignment WISC-V Competency Administration with /Instructor (times vary)</td>
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<td><strong>Last Day to Drop a Course 04/07</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>04/14</td>
<td>Continue Interpretation of the WISC-V Report Writing: Technical Aspects &amp; Recommendations</td>
<td>• TBA</td>
<td>HW due – WISC scoring assignment w/report</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/28</td>
<td>Clinical Applications: Practice Effects, Learning Disability Assessment</td>
<td>• Flanagan &amp; Alfonso Ch 7,8</td>
<td>HW due – WISC administration and scoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/05</td>
<td>Assessment Tool Presentations</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>HW due – 3rd test administration with report</td>
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<tr>
<td>05/08</td>
<td>Check-in test kits and extra protocols</td>
<td>•</td>
<td>Final Report and Reflection</td>
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Course Guidelines:

1. Off-site testing requires that you have demonstrated necessary progress expected of a graduate level student. As such, prior to administering assessments to any volunteers, students must successfully complete a graded test administration with either the professor or Teaching Assistant (TA).

2. Students must recruit test subjects as described below.

3. Ages and numbers of examinees to be tested are as follows:
   - WISC-V  \(\rightarrow\) Three examinees total. At least one should be a male and one a female child. At least one child must be between the ages of 6-12 and one must be 9-16 years of age.
   - WAIS-IV  \(\rightarrow\) Three examinees total. At least one must be male and one must be female. At least one must be between the ages of 18-30 and another between the ages of 31-60.
   - Achievement Test  \(\rightarrow\) One examinee total. This person can be any gender and age.

4. All examinees must be volunteers. Children must assent to participate and their parents must give informed consent. The informed consent must be recorded and a signed permission form must be given to the parent or, in the case of an adult, to the person volunteering. The original consent form must be retained in the testing protocol.
   - Before testing children, the student must obtain permission of their parents and go through the informed consent form with them, answering any questions they have or referring them to the instructor for information. The parent (or adult examinee) must sign the permission form that allows you to record the informed consent.

5. No person except for you, the instructor, and the TA is to know the score of any examinee. If any information is given to the parent or examinee, it must be given by the course instructor who is licensed by the State to do so.
   - Parents must be told beforehand that test results cannot be disclosed to them. General comments, such as “She’s doing well”, etc should not be made. Tell the parent (or adult examinee) that as a student you are learning how to administer the test and are not sure how reliable the results will be.
   - In recruiting examinees, students can emphasize that the test session will be interesting, challenging, and a learning experience; parents often appreciate the fact that the test will be a pleasant and positive learning experience for their child.

6. Students are never to make recommendations for psychological or medical treatment to the examinee or parents on the basis of the testing/evaluation. (Students may, of course, make recommendations in your written report given to course instructor only). If a student has difficulty coping with a parent or examinee who is pressing for advice, consult the course instructor.

7. Violation of #3, 4, or 5 in this section will lead to the student’s immediate dismissal from the course.

8. Students may not pay the examinee’s mileage or provide any other financial incentive to participate.

9. Lab attendance is required. The TA leading lab is an extension of the course instructor, with the same expectations of courtesy and respect given to this individual.

10. Assessment results are confidential. You are expected to treat the results as such. Do not discuss the examinee or any of the test results outside of class or lab.
**Reports or Other Guidelines:**

1. Follow the outline provided for report writing.
2. Always turn in, attached together, the (a) Record Booklet, (b) Consent Form, and (c) psychological report to instructor or TA.
3. All reports must be turned in at the beginning of class on the date due.
4. Dates for submitting reports are on the course schedule below.
5. Keep reports and test materials in a safe, secure, and private place. Any student heard divulging confidential examinee material will be dismissed from the course immediately.
6. Turn in all test materials listed in #3 above before the end of the semester.
7. Test materials that you have signed out are due in the Psychology Department office on the dates announced in class. You will receive an Incomplete grade until you are cleared by the assistant responsible for test kits.
8. You are responsible for maintaining all components of your assigned kits. Should any portions be lost or damaged, you will be responsible for the cost of replacement of the item(s).
9. Students are encouraged to purchase their own stopwatch needed during testing. If unable to purchase your own, the Psychology Department has a limited number that can be loaned on a first-come basis.
10. Record all examinee responses neatly. If the Response Booklet is illegible, copy the examinee’s responses onto a second response booklet. Scoring cannot be checked unless the Record Booklet is readable.

**Presentations:**

1. To help build and reinforce professional competence, as well as prepare you for oral examinations, you will complete a presentations in this course.
2. The presentation will provide you the opportunity to present some aspect of assessment to classmates. This requires you to not only read and report course information, but you are also expected to synthesize the assigned chapter with prior learning in this and other psychology courses. Additional requirements and a grading rubric will be provided in class.