

Syllabus
PSYC 6143
Personality Assessment
Fall, 2020

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Texts:

Required:

Groth-Marnat, G. (2016). *Handbook of psychological assessment* (6th ed). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Graham, J. R. (2011). MMPI-2: Assessing personality and psychopathology (5th ed). New York: Oxford University Press.

Course Description: This course deals with the administration, scoring, interpretation, integration and synthesis of personality assessment approaches and instruments. We will be covering a variety of techniques and instruments, each of which is widely used in psychological practice. Mastery of these approaches and instruments is extremely important in your development as a psychologist.

This is a mastery course; as such, there are no exams or term papers. The emphasis will be on your developing at least minimal competence in all content areas. Minimal competence includes writing skills in addition to scoring, interpretation, etc. Over the course of this semester, you will be writing eight reports (tentatively). Some of these will consist of interpretations of single instruments, while others will require integration and synthesis of multiple instruments. You will be required to achieve a grade of at least “OK” on each report; if you fail to achieve an “OK” grade, you will be required to rewrite the report until you do so. As a result, you will be guaranteed an “A” in the course, assuming you turn in all reports on time. Late reports will not be accepted.

Fall, 2020 Information: Welcome to the brave, new world. As you undoubtedly know, this is scheduled to be an in-person class; however, while you will be in-class, I will not. I have a couple of issues that put me in the at-risk category, so I will be teaching this class from home. The way it is supposed to work is that I will connect to Zoom, through D2L, and someone will log into that meeting on the computer in the podium. That screen will then be broadcast to the screen at the front of the class and, voila!, there I am. At the beginning of the semester, the ability to be interactive will be somewhat limited because

the good video camera and microphones will not have been installed yet, but that should happen soon; until then, we'll limp along and do the best we can.

Folks, this pandemic is not a hoax, and not a laughing matter. It is killing a lot of people; let's try not to join that group. Wearing masks and maintaining social distancing is mandated by the State of Texas and Midwestern State University, and will be required for all students in this classroom. If you cannot wear a mask or keep your distance, you will not be allowed in the classroom. The main thing is to treat everyone with respect.

Tentative Reading and Report Schedule

Week 1 (8/25) Overview/Introduction to Personality Assessment
G-M: Chapters 1 & 2

Week 2 (9/1) Report Writing
G-M: Chapter 15
(9/7) Clinical Interviews, Behavioral Assessment, Mental Status Exams
G-M: Chapters 3 & 4

Week 3 (9/8) Introduction to the MMPI-2
G-M: Chapter 7
Graham, Chapters 1, 2 & 9

Week 4 (9/15) Interpretive Strategies
Graham: Chapters 3, 4 & 5
Report 1 due: Interview, Mental Status Exam

Week 5 (9/22) Advanced Interpretation
Graham: Chapters 6, 7, 8 & 11

Week 6 (9/29) MMPI-A; Interpretive Exercises
Graham: Chapter 15
Report 2 due: MMPI-2

Week 7 (10/6) MMPI-2-RF
Graham: Chapter 14
Report 3 due: MMPI-2

Week 8 (10/13) Interpretive Exercises
No assigned readings

Week 9 (10/20) PAI, MCMI-III, NEO-PI-R

G-M: Chapter 8; other readings on reserve
Report 4 due: MMPI-A

Week 10 (10/27) Interpretive Exercises
No assigned readings
Report 5: MMPI-RF-2 (maybe)

Week 11 (11/3) Rorschach, Thematic Apperception Test, Projective Drawings
G-M: Chapters 10 & 11
Report 6: PAI

Week 12 (11/10) Interpretive Exercises
No assigned readings
Report 7: PAI & Projective Drawings (or TAT)

Week 13 (11/17) Interpretive Exercises
No assigned readings
Report 8 due (Integrated): Full battery - Clinical Interview and MSE, MMPI-2,
MMPI-2-RF, MMPI-A or PAI and projective drawings

Week 14 (11/24) – No classes – Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 15 (12/1)
No assigned readings
12/1: Get back Report 8
12/8: Final re-writes due for all reports

Please note that this schedule is tentative, and is subject to change, as circumstances dictate.

Over this semester, you will be required to test at least one adolescent (ages 13 - 18), but you may test up to two. Your other subjects should be 18 or older, and should not be friends or family members. I strongly suggest that each of you develop a pool of subjects which you then share with your peers; it is also possible that various undergraduate classes may provide either extra credit or research credit for submitting to these evaluations.

No feedback will be given to your subjects. Parental permission forms will be required for adolescent subjects. All reports must be typewritten and double spaced. Each report will be accompanied by the appropriate profile sheets and a copy of your working notes for interpretation.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend class; failure to do so will reflect on your commitment and professionalism. Beyond that, considerable time will be spent on interpretive exercises in class, and this is a crucial component of this course.

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at <https://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>.