

Texas A & M University - Texarkana
Psy. 560 - Clinical Assessment
Spring 2015

Instructor: Tommie Hughes, Ph.D.

Office: UC 219

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Office Hours: Monday 1:00 – 1:30 & 4:00 – 6:00, Tuesday 3:00 - 4:00, Wednesday 1:00 – 1:30,
5:00 – 6:00 & by Appointment

Class Meets in UC251 at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday.

Prerequisite: Psychological Statistics

Required Texts:

Cohen, R. & Swerdlik, M. (2013). *Psychological Testing and Assessment (8th Edition)*. Boston, Ma.: McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9780078035302

Graham, J.R. (2011). *MMPI-2: Assessing Personality and Psychopathology (5th Edition)*. ISBN-13: 978-0195378924

Additional Reading on Reserve:

Fitzpatrick, J.L. & Sanders, J.R. (2010). *Program Evaluation: Alternative Approaches and Practical Guidelines (4th Edition)* ISBN-13: 9780205579358

Butcher, J.N., (Ed.). (2002). *Clinical personality assessment: Practical approaches, Second Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press. (Chapters 3, 7, 13, 24, 26& 29).

Course Description:

Provides students with historical perspective concerning the nature and meaning of assessment. Addresses basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized methods of clinical assessment for a variety of clinical settings. Addresses statistical concepts and psychometric concepts of reliability and validity. The student will learn how the Mental Status Exam, the Biopsychosocial Interview and MMPI-2 are used in clinical settings and how to perform these assessments complete to report writing. The student will learn how to evaluate testing instruments. Issues of diversity and ethical strategies for selecting, administering and interpreting assessment and evaluation instruments is addressed)

Student Learner Outcomes:

1. Students will have a broad overview of the nature and use of psychological tests, historical development, and ethical issues inherent to psychological testing.
2. Students will understand the theoretical foundations of test design, methodology, validity, reliability, norm-referenced and criterion referenced assessment, standardization, and the use of norms in interpretation of tests.
3. Students will understand concepts of statistics including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions and correlations.
4. Students will be able to recognize and describe the commonly used ability, intellectual and personality tests and the appropriate uses of these tests.

5. Students will have the skills necessary to evaluate a clinical test and determine if appropriate procedures were used in development and presentation of the test for use in a particular population.
6. Students will demonstrate knowledge of a variety of counselor program evaluation models and how they are used in practice.
7. Students will understand and have entry level ability to conduct a mental status exam, biopsychosocial interview, administer, score and interpret the MMPI-2 and incorporate these in to a written clinical report.
8. Students will be familiar with social and cultural factors related to clinical assessment.
9. Students will be able to understand and recognize the ethical issues related to selection, administration, interpretation and reporting of clinical assessment instruments and techniques.
10. Students will have knowledge of procedures for assessing and managing suicide risk through assessment and planning.

Course Evaluation

A letter grade will be earned based on the following criteria:

1. Examinations - Students will have three opportunities to demonstrate mastery of course material by performance on exams. A Mid-Term and Final exam will be worth a maximum of 100 points each and there will be a 50 point take home exam on ethical use of testing. **Permission to take examinations at times other than those listed must be discussed before the exam.**
2. Instrument Appraisals - Students will choose two tests and conduct an appraisal of each test using the *Guidelines for Instrument Appraisal*. One appraisal is to be presented to the class. There is to be no duplication among students for the appraisal chosen for presentation. A portion of the grade is based on your comments of the student presentations. Refer to Course Schedule for due date. Each appraisal is worth a maximum of 25 points.
3. Counselor Program Evaluation Online Assignment – Students will explore how program evaluations are conducted in a written assignment (50 points).
4. Interpretation of **two (2)** MMPI-2 profiles. The profiles will be given to the student to score and interpret. The interpretations will be reported in a **brief personality report** format. The format will be provided to the student. The reports must be typed and are due on the dates specified on the course outline. All materials used in fully scoring and preparing the interpretations are to be turned in together in a large envelope. Points are assigned for correct scoring, interpretation and report writing with organization, clarity and writing style taken into consideration. Refer to Course Schedule for due date (25 points each).
5. Personality Assessment Reports – The student will complete two comprehensive personality assessments with each to include the MMPI-2, clinical interview, and mental status exam. The student will administer the tests and conduct a mental status exam and interview with volunteers. The report is to integrate information from the tests and MSE and interview and include any diagnostic impressions and recommendation of any indication for intervention. An Informed Consent must be obtained before the onset of the assessment. An alias should be used on all documents except the consent form. Format will be provided. Refer to Course Schedule for due date (100 points).

6. Final course grades will be assigned on a points accumulated basis, according to the following scale:

<u>Points Accumulated</u>	<u>Grade Earned</u>
540 - 600	A
480 - 539	B
420 - 479	C
360 - 419	D
0 - 418	F

At the end of the semester, students will be asked to evaluate the quality of the course and the instructor by means of an anonymous questionnaire.

Etiquette and Expected Participation – Students are expected to arrive on time, stay the entire class period and participate in the class activities. As a graduate class with clinical elements, attendance is particularly important. The student may bring a beverage to class, but food is not allowed. The student may bring electronic devices for use to enhance class participation, but it is not appropriate to use them for social purposes during class. Please turn off telephones or put them on vibrate. Professional level behavior is expected. Refer to the Counseling Program Statement on Professional Behavior for specific elements.

Note: Exam and assignments are scheduled/due as noted on the course schedule. Any student request for an alternate date should be discussed with the Instructor in advance or in the event of an emergency/unusual situation before the next class period. Turning in assignments at later times may result in points being deducted. The instructor reserves the option to make any changes in the syllabus that she deems necessary at any time throughout the semester. Students will be notified in class and via Ace mail. Students who miss class are responsible for obtaining information from that class. Be aware that some activities conducted in class will be difficult to make up outside of class.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and copying or undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of “F” in the course and/or disciplinary action. The student is responsible for reading and understanding the University Policy on Academic Integrity. For help identifying and avoiding plagiarism go to http://www.turnitin.com/research_site/e_home.html

Disability Accommodation:

As stated in the Texas A&M University-Texarkana Student Handbook, ""Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903-223-3062."

A&M-Texarkana Email Address:

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

University Drop Policy

To drop this course after the 12th class day, a student must complete the *Drop/Withdrawal Request Form*, located on the University website (<http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html>) or obtained in the Registrar’s Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an “approval” to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar’s office for processing in person, email (Registrar@tamut.edu), mail (P. O. Box 5518, Texarkana, TX 75505)

or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar's Office for processing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Course Schedule
Psy 560 Clinical Assessment – Spring 2015

January	21	Orientation, Chapter 1 - Psychological Testing & Assessment *Instrument Appraisal & Presentation Selection Activity Assignment: Read Chapter 2 - Historical & Cultural Issues
	28	Chapter 3 A Statistics Refresher
February	4	Chapter 4 Of Tests and Testing 1st Journal Article Summary Due
	11	Chapter 5 Reliability
	18	Chapter 6 Validity
	25	Mid-Term Exam Students Receive Take-Home Exam on Ethical Use of Testing
March	4	Models and Methods in Counselor Program Evaluation 2nd Journal Article Summary Due Receive MMPI-2 to complete
	11	Mental Status Exam and Biopsychosocial Interview Online Assignment on Models & Methods in Counselor Program Evaluation Due Receive MMPI-2 Materials for Assignment
	16 – 20	Spring Break
	25	Psychological Report Activity Development, Administration & Scoring of the MMPI-2 Take Home Exam Due
April	1	Interpretation of the MMPI-2 Instrument Appraisals Due
	8	Chapter 14 Clinical and Counseling Assessment/Report Writing
	15	Chapter 9 & 10 - Intelligence & Its Measurement/Tests of Intelligence Brief Personality Reports Due
	22	Chapter 12 & 13 - Personality Assessment and Methods
	29	Final Exam
May	6	Presentation of Instrument Appraisal Personality Assessment Reports Due

*Note - The instructor reserves option to adjust the schedule as needed.