Psych 542-Intro to Psychological Assessment (Fall Semester 2010)

Tuesday and Thursday: 9:30 AM—10:50 AM   LAGOMAR W289

Instructor:

ARTHUR H. KONAR, Ph.D., DABPS

Licensed Psychologist # 846, Iowa          Clinical Associates of Ames
Health Service Provider # 360, Iowa       113 Colorado Ave.
Diplomate in Clinical Neuropsychology     Ames, Iowa  50014
Senior Lecturer- Iowa State U.            (515) 292-2703
(akonar@iastate.edu)

Office: Lago W271, 294-7462 (do not leave message)
OFFICE HOURS: 10:50 AM- 12:15 PM, Tuesday and Thursday

Course Description: This class is designed to introduce the student to the major approaches and techniques and issues for individual psychological assessment. It is the first class in a three course assessment sequence in the doctoral counseling psychology program. Though, other graduate students interested in psychological assessment are welcome to attend. Psych 440, Psychological Measurement I, or an equivalent upper level undergraduate course in psychological tests and measurements is a nonnegotiable prerequisite for this course. This issue will be discussed in the first class.

As is illustrated in the text book the class will begin with both a review of and exploring new issues in the Principles of Psychological testing. These issues will include basic statistics, correlation and regression, reliability, validity, writing and evaluating test items and test administration. It is hoped that this section will both assist the student in better understanding various psychological assessment procedures and in the construction of your own graduate research projects.

Then, the majority of the course is a survey on psychological assessment in counseling, clinical health, forensic, and business settings. The attempt is to familiarize students with testing in various areas. As a psychologist in the future you will likely find yourself dealing with testing in many of these areas. In addition, these are all areas that will be required knowledge for your licensure exam in the near future.

Finally, the class will conclude with various pertinent issues in psychological assessment such as test bias, testing and the law, ethics and the future of psychological testing.
Class Requirements: This is a small class with a lot going on during the class periods. There will be instructor and student presentations and the introduction of various test instruments and procedures that you can’t simply lift from the text. This class will meet for 30 biweekly class periods. Thus, class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed one unexcused absence for the semester. Yet, if the has perfect attendance then she/he will be awarded 20 extra bonus points.

If, after the one allowable unexcused absence, the student is ill has an unavoidable professional obligation, or has an immediate crisis he/she will be asked to clear the absence with the instructor before the class. If the student misses two classes then he/she may be asked to quit the course under the instructor’s discretion. The course will consist of lectures, demonstrations, discussions and projects designed to augment, supplement and integrate the reading assignments described in this syllabus. The tests will be an integration of the reading, class demonstrations and lecture material.

This class is divided up into two tests and a presentation/final project that will be equally divided in regards to the final grade. The first test is worth 50 points and will cover the material from Chapters 1-7. It will be on September 16. The second test covers the chapters 8-18 and is worth 150 points. It will be on the week of November 16-18. Test 2 will have take home essay questions that the student will get on Nov. 16th and will email the responses by class time on November 18. Then on November 18, the student will take the multiple choice in-class exam. Students will certainly be ready for Thanksgiving Break! Class material covered after Thanksgiving break will not be directly tested.

The other half of your grade will be in providing a 40-45 minute power point presentation (100 points) in one of the classes below. Your presentation will be at the beginning of the class and will be augmented with class discussion and instructor presentation. Then, after your presentation we will meet to discuss and get feedback on your lecture. From there you will revise your presentation as necessary and supplement it with a five page paper (100 points). This final product will give you a presentation that you can either take on the road and or move into further research or professional expertise.

Class Dates:

August 24: Introductions, Review of Syllabus. Getting to know the student’s experience, knowledge base and interests.
Assignment: Read Chapters 1-2 in Kaplan

August 26: Norms and Basic Statistics for Testing.
Assignment: Read Chapter 3 in Kaplan

August 31: Correlation and Regression
Assignment Chapter 4 in Kaplan

September 2: Reliability
Assignment Chapter 5 in Kaplan

September 7: Validity
Assignment: Chapter 6 in Kaplan

September 9: Writing and Evaluating Test Items
Assignment: Chapter 7 in Kaplan

September 14: Test Administration Assignment:
Assignment: —Study for Test # 1

September 16: Multiple Choice Test # 1 on Psychological Testing Principles
Assignment: --Come on! -you just had a test

September 21: The Diagnostic Interview
Assignment: Chapter 8 in Kaplan

September 23: Interviewing Techniques
Assignment Chapters 9-10 in Kaplan

September 28: Intelligence Testing with Children
Assignment Chapters 9-10 in Kaplan

September 30: Intelligence Testing with Adults
Assignment Chapter 11 in Kaplan

October 5: Individualized Achievement Testing
Assignment: Chapter 12 in Kaplan
October 7: Group Ability Testing  
Assignment: Chapter 13 in Kaplan

October 12: The MMPI, the MPQ and the NEO  
Assignment: Kaplan, Chapter 13

October 14: The MMPI, the MPQ and the NEO  
Assignment: Kaplan, Chapter 14

October 19: The Rorschach and Projective Testing  
Assignment: Work on presentation and paper

October 21: The Personality Assessment System  
Assignment: Kaplan, Chapter 15

October 26: Computerized Testing and Use of the Internet  
Assignment: Kaplan Chapter 16

October 28: Vocational Assessment with focus on the Strong Vocational Interest Blank  
Assignment: Kaplan Chapter 17

November 2: Introduction to Neuropsychological Assessment  
Assignment: Work on presentation and paper

November 4: Introduction to Neuropsychological Assessment  
Assignment: Kaplan Chapter 18

November 9: Testing in Business and Industry, Issues of Personnel Selection  
Assignment: Kaplan Chapter 18

November 11: Testing in Business and Industry, Business Consultation: The MBTI  
Assignment: Study for Test #2, Work on presentation and paper

November 16: review for Test #2
Assignment: Take home essay questions

November 18: Email in essay and take in-class Test # 2
Assignment: Chapter 19 in Kaplan

November 30: Test Bias
Assignment: Chapter 20 in Kaplan

December 7: Major Lawsuits that have Affected Psychological Testing
Assignment: Chapter 21 in Kaplan

December 9: Ethics and the Future of Psychological testing
Assignment: Complete Final project

December 11: Complete and Email in Final Project, Discussion of project: Course Evaluations

The relative weights for class grades are as follows:

50 points Exam # 1
150 points Exam # 2
100 points Class Presentation
100 points revised and completed presentation
+ 20 possible extra points (perfect attendance)

Total possible points = 300 (+20)

**GRADING SCALE:**
A 100-92%; A- 91-90%; B+ 89-88%; B 87-82%; B- 81-80%
C+ 79-78%; C, 77-72%; C- 71-70%; D+ 69-68%; D 67-62%; D- 61-60; F <59

**TEXT:**

**Psychological Testing: Principles, Applications, and Issues**
Robert M. Kaplan, Dennis P. Saccuzzo
7th Edition