Psych 562- PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT—(Spring Semester 2011)

Thursday: 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM at Lagomar W289

Instructor:

ART KONAR (akonar@iastate.edu)

OFFICE HOURS: 9:30 AM- 12:30 AM Thursday  W271 Lago, 294-7462

Seminar Objectives: To provide a comprehensive survey into the area of objective personality assessment; though there will be a major focus on the MMPI-2. The MMPI-2 is the world’s most popular and researched psychology assessment tool. Psych 562 is designed to be a seminar for graduate students to gain a working knowledge of personality assessment and who want to learn and understand about different fundamentals, procedures and problem areas under the auspices of psychological assessment. This class will discuss and study in depth the history, scoring, and interpretation of the MMPI-2. We will also cover the latest issues in standardizing and restructuring of the MMPI-2.

This will be done with a combination of two texts and two approaches. The first is the traditional approach as will be read in Graham; while the second is a “Normalized” approach as is read in Duckworth and Anderson. These approaches are complimentary and offer the student of the MMPI-2 and wide array of how to get the most use and knowledge of the MMPI-2. We will also cover various other personality assessment tools and issues that will be led by our students in the last four weeks of the class.

Personality and psychological assessment can only be learned in a combination of academic and clinical experience. This seminar is further designed to offer hands-on experience with different aspects of the MMPI-2. Thus, there will be Three MMPI-2 administrations using volunteers. In addition, we will explore other types of personality assessment instruments, primarily through student presentations.

Class Requirements:

This class is designed for counseling psychology graduate students in Psychology and has Psych 360 (normal personality), Psych 440 (tests and measurements) and Stat 401 (statistics for research workers) as prerequisites. Psych 542, though not a prerequisite is highly recommended. The class/seminar necessitates significant individual supervision from the instructor. Moreover, the graduate student will be interfacing with subjects, the Counseling Services and department of corrections subjects and thus has to have supervised experience in counseling to participate in
the class. Thus, the instructor reserves the right to limit the class based on size and graduate student experience and status. Ideally, there should be 6-10 students in the seminar.

This class will only meet for 15 weekly class periods. Thus, class attendance is mandatory. There will be no allowable unexcused absences during the semester. If the student is ill or has an immediate crisis he/she will be asked to clear the absence with the instructor before the class. If the student misses one week without permission he/she may be asked to quit the course under the instructor’s discretion.

The work assignments include weekly reading that leads to a Mid-Term examination (2/24) and three MMPI-2 administrations and write-ups (3/3-3/31), and graduate student presentations on other personality assessment tools are (4/7-4/21.)

The MMPI-2s will be taken at the University Counseling Services and/or at the Ft. Des Moines/Dept. of Corrections outpatient program in Des Moines. When you do an MMPI-2 at UCS, the Psych 562 student needs to call testing services at 294-0178 and make an appointment for each MMPI-2 administration. Vouchers for the MMPI-2 will be handed out in class. I will assist you in setting up the MMPI-2’s in Des Moines.

The first MMPI-2 for everyone will be taken by a volunteer at UCS. We will attempt to generate a pool of volunteers from undergraduate psychology classes for this evaluation. For the remaining two MMPI-2’s, the Psych 562 student has two choices. You can do both evaluations with persons who are in the Des Moines correction program; or you can do one Des Moines correctional client and one additional student volunteer who takes the MMPI-2 at UCS. There will be no option for a self-administered MMPI-2 for this class.

Late work will be accepted at the instructor’s discretion. The reports need to be sent to the instructor via an email attachment with a graded/edited version returned in the same fashion. This method is confidential, should save paper and is easier and more efficient. There will not be a final examination.

This class is divided into three major sections. The first one is 7 weeks long and is the largest and involves a complete understanding in how to interpret and write up an MMPI-2 in both a clinical and normalized manner. It will take January and February and end up with the mid-term examination. Part Two is the practicum section and involves 4 weeks of in class discussion of what will be 21 total MMPI-2 cases that will be reported to the class. Part 3 is also 4 weeks long and will involve student presentations for the first three weeks and end off with an instructor presentation on forensic applications of the MMPI-2.

The in class power point presentations on other personality assessment tools will be directed by the students and will be about 40-45 minutes in length. They are to be accompanied by a 3-5 page report e-mailed to the instructor prior to the
presentation and any other handouts given to other class members at the time of the presentation. The reports need to cover the psychometrics, general make-up as well as the utility of the instrument. Please note that presentations given in Psych 542 (Fall, 2010) are taken off of the list to reduce redundancy. The following measures are an approved list:

1. Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory-III (MCMI-III)
2. California Psychological Inventory (CPI)
3. 16 PF
4. The Personality Assessment System
5. Millon Adolescent Clinical Inventory (MACI)
6. Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)
7. Multi-Dimensional Personality Questionnaire (MPQ)
8. Other MMPI-2 issues (i.e.: Ethnic and Cross-cultural Differences)
9. MMPI-A (adolescents)
10. MMPI-2 Restructured Scales
11. Other instruments approved by the instructor.

Part I:

January 13: Introductions and Contact info, Review of Syllabus & Semester.
Assignment: Read Chapters 1-3 in Graham and 1-3 in Duckworth

January 20: Clinical Assessment Interview & Clinical Scales and Code Types.
Assignment: Read Chapter 4 & 5 in Graham, Start Chapter 4 in Duckworth

January 27: Clinical Scales—Normalized Version
Assignment: Complete Chapter 4 in Duckworth, start MMPI-2 self analysis

February 3: Content and Supplementary Scales—
Assignment: Read Chapters 6 and 7 in Graham; Chapter 5 in Duckworth

February 10: Interpretation and Integration of Approaches
Assignment: Read Chapter 10 in Graham. Chapter 6 in Duckworth,

February 17: MMPI-2—The Restructured Clinical Scales
Assignment: Study for exam, handout for exam given
Begin MMPI-2 administrations—write ups

February 24: MMPI-2 In-Class Mid-Term Examination
Assignment: Continue administrations—write ups

Part II:

March 3: Interpretation of MMPI-2 profile - discuss evaluations & report First
MMPI-2 case presentations due (15-20 minute per student)
Assignment: Prepare student presentation, email report after case presentation

March 10: Interpretation of MMPI-2 profile - discuss evaluations & reports
Complete First and Begin Second MMPI-2 case presentations due
(15-20 minute per student)
Assignment: Prepare student presentation, email report after case presentation

March 24: Interpretation of MMPI-2 profile - discuss evaluations & reports
Complete Second MMPI-2 and begin third case presentations due
(15-20 minute per student)
Assignment: Prepare student presentation, email report after case presentation

March 31: Interpretation of MMPI-2 profile - discuss evaluations & reports
Complete Third MMPI-2 case presentations due
(15-20 minute per student)
Assignment: Prepare student presentation, email report after case presentation

Part III:

April 7: Student Presentations of personality assessment tools

April 14: Student Presentations of personality assessment tools
April 21: Student Presentations of personality assessment tools

April 28: Forensic Applications of the MMPI-2—Course Assessment
Assignment: Chapter 13 Graham

The relative weights for class grades are as follows:

30% Mid-Term examination
45% Class participation and completion of write-ups (3 papers due)
25% Graduate Student Presentation (paper and power point presentation)

TEXTS:

THE MMPI-2: Assessing Personality and Psychopathology 3rd EDITION
John R. Graham

Duckworth and Anderson

I look forward to an interesting and rewarding class—Art K.

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