Personality Assessment 575.001
Spring 2013

Classroom: Social Science 141
Time: Thursday, 4:30 – 7:10
Instructor: Charles W. Keenan, Ph.D.
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Office: Binnion 101 (903-886-5660)
Office Hours: Tue and Wed afternoon and by appointment

Course Objectives

The essential course objective is to provide students with a basic competency in the assessment of adolescent and adult psychopathology with the MMPI-2 and MMPI-A. Additionally we will introduce the principle objective measures for personality assessment in children (BASC-2, CPQ, Achenbach etc.) Administration, scoring, profile interpretation and integration with other essential assessment techniques (clinical interview, mental status examination, etc.) will be covered.

Each student will have the option of taking the MMPI-2 to gain a working knowledge of the nature of the test from the client’s viewpoint. Hand scoring of the validity, clinical, content and supplementary scales will be taught. The various indicators of invalid, malingering and valid profiles will be covered. Interpretation strategies (actuarial and clinical) will be covered, as well as implications for intervention in various clinical and treatment settings. Extant clinical data, including MMPI-2 and MMPI-A profiles will be used to gain a rudimentary comprehension of how personality assessment is conducted using deidentified, authentic data. Particular emphasis will be placed upon recognizing commonly encountered profiles and the psychopathology represented in each.

Integration of clinical interview/ developmental history and mental status examination with objective personality assessment data (MMPI-2, MMPI-A) will be covered in considerable detail, as this comprises the heart of applied personality assessment in the real world [not that this world is no less real].
Tests and Class Assignments:

Students will be provided four to six sets of clinical data (clinical history, clinical interview and MMPI-2 and/or MMPI-A profiles) to interpret (on their own) and write up in the form of a brief psychological report. Each report will account for 8 – 10% of the final grade. A template will be provided by the instructor to serve as a guide.

Each student is expected to provide one in-class presentation over a topic of their interest relating to personality assessment, psychopathology etc. or presentation of a particular personality or behavioral assessment instrument (20% of final grade).

A 12 – 15 page research paper, in APA style, over an approved topic will be required (20% of final grade). It is permissible to write your research paper over the topic of your class presentation. APA style is required. A minimum of six (6) references (Books, Test Manuals, Scientific Journals etc.; TAMUC Library Internet Databases).

The final will consist of short answer essay and MMPI-2 profile interpretation. (25% of final grade). Date of Final Exam TBA.

Research papers will be due one calendar week before the final.

**Students with Disabilities:**

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Halladay Student Services Building
Room 303 A/D
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu