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Psychology 526 Spring 2016

Psychological Assessment II: Objective Approaches and Applications

Course Information

Time/Day: Tuesday & Thursday 8:10 - 9:30; Lab/Workshop: TBA

Location: CPC 121

Instructor Information

Instructor: Duncan G. Campbell, Ph.D. Email: duncan.campbell@umontana.edu

Office: Skaggs Bldg., Room 312

Office hours: Monday 9:00 - 10:30 am; Wednesday 10:30 - 12:00 pm

Phone: 406.243-4731

Teaching Assistant: Desiree Fox, M.A. Email: desiree.fox@umontana.edu
Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Required Readings

- **1.** Graham, J.R. (2012). *MMPI-2: Assessing Personality and Psychopathology, 5th Ed.* Oxford University Press: New York.
- **2.** Morey, L.C. (1996). *An Interpretive Guide to the Personality Assessment Inventory*. Psychological Assessment Resources, INC.
- **3.** Standards for Psychological and Educational Testing. (2014). Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.
- *** None of these texts is available in the bookstore. Please secure copies from commercial vendors.
- **4.** Additional required readings are listed in the course schedule. These supplemental readings will be available via Moodle.

Course Objectives

This course will continue your training in and experience with measurement theory, psychological testing, evaluation and assessment. The course begins with coverage of general measurement topics, including psychometric theory, ethical issues, and test characteristics. We then focus our attention on some of the most commonly-used and researched 'objective' personality inventories, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory – 2 (MMPI-2), the MMPI-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2 RF), and the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI). Following introductory material, you will gain 'hands-on' experience with MMPI-2 & PAI administration/interpretation and the written presentation of assessment results. In the interest of linking assessment activities with positive outcomes in psychotherapy, these 'hand-on' experiences will facilitate your understanding of how test data have potential to inform psychotherapeutic intervention and case formulation. You will complete 3 modified psychological evaluations of undergraduate volunteers. These 'evaluations'—culminating in written

reports—will include data from tests, observation, and an adapted 'clinical' interview. By the end of the semester, you will demonstrate basic and beginning proficiency with test administration/interpretation and the written/oral communication of assessment results. In the final few weeks of class, we will attend to a range of issues, including historical and contemporary controversies in psychological measurement, testing and assessment. Each student will identify an area relevant to personality assessment that was not covered previously, select relevant readings that examine the issue, and lead the classroom-based discussion.

<u>A note about competence</u>: Competent use of assessment tools, techniques and strategies requires considerable study, effort, and applied experience. Stated simply, no single course or learning experience will elevate your assessment skills to a level of full competence. Instead, your competency in psychological assessment will develop over time through multiple and varied experiences as graduate students, pre-doctoral interns, postdoctoral fellows, and early career psychologists.

Learning Outcomes

Over the course of the semester, students will:

- 1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of basic psychometric principles and their relevance to psychological testing and assessment.
- 2. Demonstrate beginning proficiency and emerging competence regarding the interpretation of 'objective' personality testing and the written communication of assessment results.
- 3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the impact of contextual factors on test interpretation and the related distinction between 'testing' and 'assessment'.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

We will meet twice weekly to discuss assigned readings and issues related to test interpretation. In addition to brief lecture on key points, the course will employ a seminar format. This will require active discussion and contributions from each of you. You are required to attend each class meeting with the assigned readings completed and fully prepared for discussion. Once semester schedules fall into place (≈ week 2 or 3), you will participate in biweekly 'lab'/'workshop' meetings, facilitated by the course TA, Desiree Fox, MA. Early lab meetings will orient you to CPC policies/procedures and the testing materials/facilities. In later weeks, you will use lab time to discuss interviewing skills and approach, techniques and principles of harm assessment, your mock clients' testing and interpretations, and any other issues that arise over the course of the semester. I expect you to attend each lab/workshop meeting and to respond swiftly to communications from Desiree. Please note that class and lab/workshop participation account for 15% of your final grade.

Case Presentations

Each of you is required to present one of the 'cases' you evaluate over the course of the semester. These case presentations will include summaries (\approx 30 minutes) of the interview you conducted, the testing data, and your emerging thoughts about what these sources of data mean for the person you tested. These case presentations will facilitate your understanding of how the MMPI-2/PAI function and will give you early experience with concise oral presentation of complex clinical data. Please note that these presentations compose a portion of your overall course participation grade. We will schedule these presentations early in the semester.

Quiz/Exam

In week 9 you will complete a brief test in class. The test ("Quizzam") will include a series of short answer and essay questions based on the course material to date (i.e., basics regarding testing v. assessment, psychometrics, ethical issues, test development strategies, MMPI-2 basics, etc.). Your test performance will compose 15% of your final grade. More details will be provided in class.

Assessment and Assessment Reports

You will complete four psychological evaluation tasks over the course of the semester. You will serve as the examiner and examinee for assessment # 1. Assessment #s 2-4 will employ Psychology Department Subject Pool student volunteers as examinees. Later assessment tasks will account for increasing percentages of your final grade (please see 'grading' below for specifics); in total, these tasks account for 55% of the overall course points. Assessment reports are due during class on the days noted on the syllabus. Late submissions (i.e., those turned in after the designated class period) will incur an initial 10% penalty. An additional 10% will be deducted for each day the reports are late. Weekends will be treated as a single day.

*The department has moved subject pool recruitment and sign-ups to an online system, SONA. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with this system and the procedures for ensuring that all volunteers receive appropriate 'credit' for participation.

Assessment #1

Your first assessment requires you to complete the MMPI-2, while 'role-playing' a person with a particular disorder or a person with whom you are familiar. After scoring the test, you will submit a 1-2 page 'reaction paper' that describes your experiences with the test and characterizes your reflections or reactions to it. This assignment will introduce you to the MMPI-2 stimuli and give you a sense of how it feels to take it. You will also gain initial experience with the scoring program and the range/diversity of generated scores. You will be required to bring the testing results to class, as we will use them to facilitate what the various MMPI-2 scales measure and how they work. PLEASE NOTE: this a *role-playing exercise*; do not take the test as yourself.

Assessments #2-4

Assessments 2 & 3 will include a modified clinical interview and the MMPI-2. For the 4th assessment, you will administer the PAI and an objective measure of depressive symptomatology (e.g., BDI-2, PHQ-9). For all assessments, you will use SONA to recruit departmental participant pool volunteers. The clinical interview should resemble an intake assessment, with necessary adjustments made given the nature of the interaction. As in any 'clinical' encounter, the interview will give you an opportunity to engage another person in the informed consent process, establish rapport, and apply your clinical interviewing skills. For your protection and the protection of the undergraduate volunteers, your interviews will be recorded AND observed live by a classmate.

You will submit written assessment reports that integrate interview and test findings for your 2nd, 3rd, and 4th assessments. As noted above, your assessment tasks are 'worth' increasing proportions of your final grade (i.e., 5%, 10%, 20%, 20%). Given the sensitive nature of the testing data and accompanying reports, you are required to work on these products in the CPC. *Neither the testing data nor the reports (drafts or final versions) can be carried outside of the CPC.*

Assessment Grading

Grading of clinical reports will depend on a number of criteria, including writing style, grammar, clarity of communication, interpretive reasoning, data integration, and formatting. You are required to write these assessment reports as if they were professional products intended for client records. As a result, typos and other issues related to writing mechanics matter. I make extensive notes on all submitted reports. Often, these notes highlight grammatical problems and issues of writing style. Submitted reports that include errors/issues for which I have previously provided clear commentary will be returned ungraded to the student for revision and resubmission. This will effectively mean that the report is late, and it will be graded accordingly. All reports will use an alias to identify the test subject and will be blinded (e.g., no other information should be included that could serve to identify the participant). We will discuss issues related to report writing and grading in more detail during class and lab/workshop.

Presentation/Discussion Leader

Each of you will make a presentation and facilitate the discussion for a full class period during the final weeks of the semester. You will select the presentation topic and readings for these class periods; the topics should address a contemporary issue of relevant interest in the area of 'objective' personality assessment. Toward the beginning of the semester, you will select your area of interest and run it by me for my approval. You will then select 2-3 readings to present the topic and support your plan for the class period. This assignment will account for 15% of your final grade.

Course Expectations, Guidelines and Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty is antithetical to the mission of the University of Montana; all students must practice academic honesty. Misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. Academic misconduct –including plagiarism- will result in an "F" for the course and might result in dismissal from your academic program and the university. Please let me know if you have any questions about what might constitute plagiarism. Please also familiarize yourself with the Student Conduct Code.

Class Attendance and Punctuality

I expect you to attend every scheduled class period *and* lab/workshop meeting and to be on time. Class absences are acceptable for the following reasons: 1) your own illness; 2) illness or health care needs of a family member; 3) travel for an academically-relevant event (e.g., conference attendance). Please let me know as soon as you can if you know in advance of a scheduled absence. If you must miss class because of your own illness or a family health care obligation, please let me know before class or as soon as possible. If you choose to use a laptop or iPad to take notes, please restrict your use of these devices to course-related activities during our class meetings.

Absences

Students who miss class FOR ANY REASON will write a brief (\approx 1 page, single-spaced) reaction paper summarizing your reflections on the assigned readings. The paper must be submitted as soon as possible after the missed class period. Be advised: Failure to complete the paper or within two days after return will result in a 2-point deduction of your class participation grade.

Policy on Incomplete Grades

An Incomplete will be assigned only in cases when student hardship precludes completion of the course requirements within the bounds of the semester. It is the student's responsibility to discuss with me the possibility of an Incomplete prior to the end of the semester. Any student taking an Incomplete is required to finish the course requirements as soon as possible after the semester's close. The student must communicate his/her plan for course completion to me as soon as he/she is able to do so. Per University policy, Incompletes revert automatically to 'F's after 12 months.

Professional Comportment

As psychologists-in-training, your behavior must comply with the ethical and professional standards of our discipline at all times. Issues with particular relevance to assessment (e.g., informed consent, rights of examinees, confidentiality, mandated reporting, duty to warn/protect, test security, etc.) will be discussed in class. I urge you to raise additional ethical concerns for discussion when you encounter them. Please note that the CPC is a functioning mental health clinic. When you conduct your 'client' interviews you are required to follow all CPC policies/procedures and are expected to demonstrate professional behavior and dress.

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and <u>Disability Services for Students</u>. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Grading

Assignment	Percentage
Participation	15%
Quiz/Exam	15%
Assessment #1	5%
Assessment #2	10%
Assessment #3	20%
Assessment #4	20%
Discussion Leader	15%
TOTAL	100%

Grades are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade
Α
A-
B+
В
B-
С
D
F

Tentative Course Schedule & Reading List

Wk	Dates	Topic & Readings
1	T Jan 26	Course orientation
	Th Jan 28	Introduction and the history of measurement and psychological testing
		 Carlson, J.F. & Geisinger, K.F. (2009). Psychological diagnostic testing: Addressing challenges in clinical applications of testing. In R.P. Phelps (Ed). Correcting Fallacies about Educational and Psychological Testing. (pp. 67-88). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association. Horn, S.L.; Mihura, J.L.; Meyer, G.J. (2013). Psychological assessment in adult mental
		health settings. In K.F. Geisinger, B. A. Bracken, J.F. Carlson, J.C. Hansen and N.R. Kuncel (Eds.), <i>APA handbook of testing and assessment in psychology, Vol. 2: Testing and assessment in clinical and counseling psychology</i> (pp. 231-252). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
		3. Meyer, G.J. et al. (2001). Psychological testing and psychological assessment: A review of evidence and issues. <i>American Psychologist</i> , <i>56</i> , 128-165.
		4. Standards for Psychological and Educational Testing. (2014). Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.
		Chapter 10: Psychological testing and assessment (pp. 151-168).
2	T Feb 2	Psychometric foundations/classical and contemporary measurement theory 1. Weiner, I.B. & Greene, R.L. (2008). Psychometric foundations of assessment. In
		Handbook of Personality Assessment (pp. 49-73). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
		2. Standards Chapter 1: Validity (pp. 11-31) Chapter 2: Reliability/precision and errors of measurement (pp. 33-47)
	Th Feb 4	Ethics and standards 1. Weiner, I.B. & Greene, R.L. (2008). Ethical considerations in personality assessment. In Handbook of Personality Assessment. (pp. 77-95).
		2. Standards Chapter 3: Fairness in testing (pp. 49-72)
		Chapter 8: The rights and responsibilities of test takers (pp. 131-137)
		3. Weiner, I.B. (2009). Anticipating ethical and legal challenges in personality assessments. In J.N. Butcher (Ed.), <i>Oxford Handbook of Personality Assessment</i> (pp. 599-609). New York: Oxford University Press.
		4. Turner, S.M., DeMers, S.T., Fox, H.R., & Reed, G.M. (2001). APA's guidelines for test user qualifications: An executive summary. <i>American Psychologist</i> , <i>56</i> , 1099-1113
		For reference:
		1. Dattilio, F.M., Tresco, K.E., & Siegel, A. (2007). An empirical survey on psychological testing and the use of the term psychological: Turf battles or clinical necessity? **Professional Psychology: Passageth and Psychia. 28, 682, 689.
		Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 38, 682-689.2. Montana Legislature: SB 235 (Short title: Clarify law on who may indicate performance of psychological testing)

Wk	Dates	Topic & Readings
3	T Feb 9	Clinical Interviewing Overview: Understanding and using interview data
		1. Morrison, J. (1995). Mental status exam I: Behavioral aspects; Mental status exam II:
		Cognitive aspects; Signs and symptoms in areas of clinical interest. In The First
		Interview: Revised for DSM-IV. (pp. 105-164). New York: The Guilford Press.
		For reference:
		Shea, S.C. (1988). The dynamic structure of the interview. In <i>Psychiatric Interviewing:</i>
		the Art of Understanding. (pp. 55-133). Philadelphia, PA: W.B. Saunders Company.
	Th Feb 11	MMPI/MMPI-2: History, development, and overview
		*** ASSESSMENT #1: Reaction paper due ***
		1. Weiner, I.B. & Greene, R.L. (2008). Overview (Self-Report Inventories). In <i>Handbook</i>
		of Personality Assessment. (pp. 99-134). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
		2. Standards
		Chapter 6: Test administration, scoring, reporting and interpretation (pp. 111-121)
		3. Graham, J.R. (2012). MMPI-2: Assessing Personality and Psychopathology, 5th Edition.
		New York: Oxford University Press.
		Chapter 1: Development of the MMPI and MMPI-2 (pp. 1-13)
		Chapter 2: Administration and Scoring (pp. 14-22)
		For reference:
		Tellegen, A. & Ben-Porath, Y.S. (1992). The new uniform T scores for the MMPI-2:
		Rationale, derivation and appraisal. <i>Psychological Assessment</i> , 4, 145-155.
4	T Feb 16	MMPI-2: Validity Indicators
		1. Graham, J.R. (2012).
		Chapter 3: The Validity Scales (pp. 23-62).
		2. Bagby, R.M., Buis, T. & Nicholson, R. (1995). Relative effectiveness of the standard
		validity scales in detecting fake-bad and fake-good responding: Replication and
		extension. <i>Psychological Assessment, 7,</i> 84-92.
		For reference:
		1. Baer, R. A. & Miller, J. (2002). Underreporting of psychopathology on the MMPI-2: A
		meta-analytic review. <i>Psychological Assessment, 14,</i> 16-26.
		Bagby, R.M. & Marshall, M.B. (2004). Assessing underreporting bias on the MMPI-2.
		Assessment, 11, 115-126.
	Th Feb 18	MMPI-2: Basic Clinical Scales
		1. Graham, J.R. (2012).
		Chapter 4: The Clinical Scales (pp. 63-91).
	T Feb 23	MMPI-2: Codetypes
		1. Graham, J.R. (2012).
		Chapter 5: Codetypes (pp. 92-116).
	Th Feb 25	MMPI-2: Content Scales
		1. Graham, J.R. (2012).
		Chapter 6: Content interpretation (pp. 117-155).
		For Reference:
		1. Green, B.A., Handel, R.W. & Archer, R.P. (2006). External correlates of the MMPI-2
		Content Component scales in mental health inpatients. Assessment, 13, 80-97.
		2. Barthlow, D.L., Graham, J.R. Ben-Porath, Y.S. & McNulty, J.L. (1999). Incremental
		validity of the MMPI-2 content scales in an outpatient mental health setting.
		Psychological Assessment, 11, 39-47.
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Wk	Dates	Topic & Readings
		3. Archer, R.P., Aiduk, R., Griffin, R., & Elkins, D.E. (1996). Incremental validity of the
		MMPI-2 content scales in a psychiatric sample. Assessment, 3, 79-90.
6	T Mar 1	Instructor Absence: APA State Leadership Conference
	Th Mar 3	MMPI-2: Supplementary Scales/PSY-5
		1. Graham, J.R. (2012).
	Case	Chapter 8: Supplementary Scales (pp. 182-221)
	Presentation	Chapter 7: Restructured Clinical and Personality Psychopathology Five Scales (pp.
		172-181).
		For Reference:
		Archer, R.P., Elkins, D.E., Aiduk, R. & Griffin, R. (1997). The incremental validity of
		MMPI-2 supplementary scales. Assessment, 4, 193-205.
7	T Mar 8	MMPI-2: Interpretation
		1. Graham, J.R. (2012).
	Case	Chapter 11: An Interpretive Strategy (pp. 283-331).
	Presentation	2. Lewak, R.W. & Hogan, R.S. (2003). Integrating and applying assessment information.
		In L.E. Beutler & G. Groth-Marnat (Eds.), Integrative Assessment of Adult Personality.
		(pp. 356-397). New York: Guilford.
	Th Mar 10	Report writing; linking interpretation to intervention and orientation
		1. Weiner, I.B. & Greene, R.L. (2008). The personality assessment process. In <i>Handbook</i>
	Case Presentation	of Personality Assessment. (pp. 19-47).
	Presentation	2. Kvaal, S., Choca, J. & Groth-Marnat, G. (2003). The integrated psychological report. In
		L.E. Beutler & G. Groth-Marnat (Eds.), Integrative Assessment of Adult Personality.
		(pp. 398-433). New York: Guilford.
		3. Brenner, E. (2003). Consumer-focused psychological assessment. <i>Professional</i>
		Psychology: Research and Practice, 34, 240-247.
		4. Groth-Marnat, G. & Horvath, L.S. (2006). The psychological report: A review of
		current controversies. <i>Journal of Clinical Psychology, 62</i> . 73-81.
		5. Michaels, M.H. (2006). Ethical considerations in writing psychological assessment
	T.14 45	reports. Journal of Clinical Psychology, 62, 47-58.
8	T Mar 15	MMPI-2-Restructured Form
	Case	1. Graham, J.R. (2012). Chapter 7: Postructured Clinical and Descendity Postshonathology Five Scales (no.
	Presentation	Chapter 7: Restructured Clinical and Personality Psychopathology Five Scales (pp.
		156-172). Chapter 14: MMPI-2 Restructured Form (MMPI-2 RF) (pp. 395-408)
	Th Mar 17	MMPI-2-RF: Interpretation/Construct validity
	III IVIdI 1/	1. Tellegen, A., & Ben-Porath, Y. S. (2008). MMPI-2-RF (Minnesota Multiphasic
	Case	Personality Inventory-2 Restructured Form): Technical manual. Minneapolis:
	Presentation	University of Minnesota Press.
		Chapter 5: Test Interpretation
		2. Selbom, M., Bagby, R.M., Kushner, S., Quilty, L.C. & Ayearst, L.E. (2012). Diagnostic
		construct validity of MMPI-2-Restructured Form (MMPI-2-RF) scale scores.
		Assessment, 19, 179-186.
9	T Mar 22	QUIZ/EXAM = QUIZZAM! (Instructor absence)
	22	College and the college and th

Wk	Dates	Topic & Readings
	Th Mar 24	The Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)
		*** Assessment #2, First MMPI-2 report ***
		1. Morey, L.C. (1999). An Interpretive Guide to the Personality Assessment Inventory.
		Psychological Assessment Resources, INC.
		Chapter 1: Introduction and Overview (pp. 1-21)
10	T Mar 29	PAI: Profile Validity
		1. Morey, L.C. (1999). An Interpretive Guide to the Personality Assessment Inventory.
		Psychological Assessment Resources, INC.
		Chapter 4: Negative Distortion: Random Responding and Malingering (pp. 105-127)
		Chapter 5: Identifying Defensiveness on the PAI (pp. 129-143)
		2. Braxton, L.E., Calhoun, P.S., Williams, J.E. & Boggs, C.D. (2007). Validity rates of the
		Personality Assessment Inventory and the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality
		Inventory-2 in a VA medical center setting. <i>Journal of Personality Assessment, 88,</i> 5-
	Th Apr 31	15.
	in Apr 31	PAI: Scales 1. Morey, L.C. (1999).
		Chapter 2: Interpreting PAI Clinical Scale Elevations (pp. 23-80)
		2. Slavin-Mulford, J., Sinclair, S.J., Stein, M., Malone, J., Bello, I. & Blais, M.A. (2012).
		External validity of the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI) in a clinical sample.
		Journal of Personality Assessment, 94, 593-600.
		3. Sinclair, S. J., et al. (2012). The Suicide (SPI) and Violence Potential Indices (VPI) from
		the Personality Assessment Inventory: A preliminary exploration of validity in an
		outpatient psychiatric sample. <i>Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral</i>
		Assessment, 34, 423-431.
11	T Apr 5 Th Apr 7	Spring Break
12	T Apr 12	PAI: Codetypes and Interpretation
		1. Morey, L.C. (1999).
		Chapter 3: Two-point Codetypes in Profile Interpretation (pp. 81-103)
		Chapter 6: Use of PAI in Diagnosis (pp. 145-196)
	Th Apr 14	Diversity and Multicultural Assessment
		*** Assessment #3, Second MMPI-2 report ***
		1. Dana, R.H. (2005). Multicultural Assessment: Principles, Applications and Examples.
		Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.
		Chapter 1: Standard and multicultural assessment (pp. 3-33)
		Chapter 3: Assessment bias and cultural competence (pp.49-66)
		2. Cheung, F.M. (2009). The cultural Perspective in personality assessment. In Oxford
		Handbook of Clinical and Personality Assessment, ed. JN Butcher, (pp. 44–58). New
		York: Oxford Univ. Press
		3. Graham, J.R. (2012).
4.5		Chapter 10: Use with Special Groups (Older adults & Ethnic minorities, pp. 261-268)
13	T Apr 19	Student Led Topic:
	TI A 01	Readings TBA
	Th Apr 21	Student Led Topics
		Readings TBA

Wk	Dates	Topic & Readings
14	T Apr 26	Student Led Topic:
		Readings TBA
	Th Apr 28	Student Led Topic:
		Readings TBA
15	T May 3	Student Led Topic:
		Readings TBA
	Th May 5	Summation/Evaluation

FINALS WEEK: Final Report (Assessment #4, PAI) due by 12:00pm, Wednesday, May 11