

COURSE SYLLABUS

Introduction to Assessment--CPSY 532--Spring, 2008

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Office Hours: Please arrange in advance

Course Objectives:

The student is introduced to all aspects of psychological assessment, including testing, interviewing, and observation. Technical aspects of psychological testing will be covered, including standardization, scoring, validity, reliability. The student will learn basic points of test administration, and will be introduced to several specific tests. Strategies for assessment will be reviewed, focusing on identifying the appropriate questions to ask, and the best techniques for acquiring the information necessary to answer those questions. The student will also learn how to present the results of an assessment to clients and other professionals.

Text: **Where to start and what to ask - Susan Lucas Norton - ISBN13:** 9780393701524.

Course Requirements:

1. Attend and **participate** in class (25% of grade)
2. Complete the weekly readings, discuss, and return assigned reflection papers (25% of grade)
3. Assessment “one sheet” (25% of grade) – each student will pick a test and make a reference guide to present to the class. I’ll explain more as we go.
4. In-class group project: Conduct an evaluation of a real or fictitious character. (25% of grade) Your evaluation must address the following:
 - Assessment questions
 - Assessment strategies
 - Assessment devices (you are encouraged to respond to psychological tests as if you were the character)
 - Your interpretation of the results
 - How you will present the results to your character

There will small groups of 3-4 students each, and you will present your findings to the class towards the end of the semester (30-40 minute presentation). Assume that you have three hours with your character, so don't go overboard with testing. You are encouraged to be creative and have fun with this activity, but approach the conclusions with seriousness, using the data you have. For your presentation, you may choose to role-play the presentation of results to your character. If you have trouble agreeing on a character, I will help you pick one.

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Introduction to Assessment--CPSY 532—SPRING 2008*Readings to be assigned***WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Topic</u> |
|--------------------|--|
| Jan. 7 | Introduction—Fundamentals of Assessment, sources of information |
| Jan. 14 | Test development, reliability and validity |
| Jan. 21 | Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no classes |
| Jan. 28 | Interviewing, behavioral observations/mental status GROUPS MEET |
| Feb. 4 | Reading reports, response validity GROUPS MEET |
| Feb. 11 | Intellectual/cognitive assessment, personality assessment GROUPS MEET |
| Feb. 18 | Guest speaker (neuropsychology), risk assessment (suicide assessment) |
| Feb. 25 | Projective testing, learning disorders GROUPS MEET |
| Mar. 3 | ADHD assessment, presentation of testing “one sheets.” GROUPS MEET |
| Mar. 10 | GROUPS PRESENT |
| Mar. 17 | GROUPS PRESENT, Wrap-up. |