PSYCHOLOGY 621/694A
CLINICAL ASSESSMENT
Fall, 2010
Mondays, 3:00 P.M. –6:00 P.M.
ROOM 317B PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor: John J.B. Allen, Ph.D.
Room 424 Psychology
621-4992
jallen@u.arizona.edu
Office Hours: Fridays 9:30-10:30, or by appointment

Overview
The objective of this course is to provide students with a fundamental background in assessment and
measurement, and to prepare students to function in clinical assessment settings. This didactic portion of the
course (621) will cover those topics that will give students sufficient background, knowledge, and skills to
function as an apprentice in an applied setting, to use assessment instruments in research settings, and to construct
and evaluate assessment instruments and their application. To that end, this portion of the course will cover the
following:

- Diagnosis and differential diagnosis using the DSM-IV-TR;
- Psychometric issues associated with inferring a diagnosis from interview, laboratory, or test data;
- Cultural and individual differences in psychological assessment and diagnosis
- Structured diagnostic interviewing, unstructured clinical interviewing, assessment of mental status;
- Psychometric principles in assessment, test construction, test theory;
- The measurement of intelligence.

For Clinical Psychology Graduate students, the background, administration, and interpretation of specific
assessment instruments will be covered in the practicum portion of the course (694a). This course will meet
separately on seven occasions during the semester, most of them Thursday afternoons.

Useful Information
Below is a tentative schedule of topics and readings. The two books should be purchased at the bookstore; the
remaining readings will be available as pdf files, available at
http://apsychoserver.psych.arizona.edu/JJBAReprints/PSYC621.

Cohen, R.J. & Swerdlik, M.E. (2009). *Psychological testing and assessment: An introduction to tests and measurement, (7th

Whereas some of the course periods will be predominated by lecture, my pedagogical stance is that learning is
enhanced in a participative environment. To that end, each of the students in the class will take responsibility for
presenting a synopsis of and leading the discussion concerning selected readings (indicated in the reading list
below by ➤) at various points throughout the semester.

Requirements
Your grade (621) will be determined by a combination of:
- Performance on two exams to cover lecture, discussion, and readings (70%, with 47% from Exam 1 and 23%
  from Exam 2).
- Completion of the computer-guided DSM Vignettes (10%).
- Performance on a Test Construction, Item Analysis, Reliability, and Validity Exercise (20%).
- Presentation of readings when asked (0%, BUT if you are asked to present and are not prepared, you can lose
  up to 5% of the total points on each occasion this would happen.)
Your grade for 694a will be determined (pass/fail) by whether or not you complete the required assessments and interviews (see separate syllabus). You will also receive a letter providing a written synopsis of your performance in the practicum.

### Approximate Schedule of Topics and Readings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 August</td>
<td>Phenomenology of Psychosis</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 September</td>
<td><strong>Labor Day Holiday!</strong></td>
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<td>Class Date</td>
<td>Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 October</td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
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<td>1 November</td>
<td>Measurement Concepts Item Analysis</td>
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<td>Class Date</td>
<td>Topics</td>
<td>Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 December</td>
<td>Final Exam (5-7 P.M.)</td>
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**Other rather useful information in the form of unsolicited advice for first-year students, in no particular order of importance, to be discussed after we discuss the syllabus:**

- Useful Reference Materials to Obtain
  - Medical Dictionary or online equivalent
  - MMPI-2 interpretation book (Interpreting the MMPI-2-R, Ben-Porath)
  - WAIS-IV interpretation book (e.g., Essentials of WAIS-IV Assessments)

- Joining Professional Societies while a student

- Attending Professional Meetings

- Computer Skills for upcoming assignment: Students from past years said I cannot stress this enough!!! SPSS will be easiest. I will also host a short tutorial.

- Use a reference manager (e.g., Endnote or Zotero or similar)

- Start documenting clinical hours now, rather than wait until right before the application deadline in your fourth year, when you’d have to reconstruct your first year with scribbles from a day-planner or risk a palm-pilot melt-down. Use the APPIC application to guide your detailed Excel sheet or similar tracking method. APPIC is at [www.appic.org](http://www.appic.org).

- Be sure to have a hobby!