

APSYCHOLOGY 621/694A  
 CLINICAL ASSESSMENT  
 Fall, 2021  
 Mondays, 3:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.  
 (WELL, MOSTLY, SINCE THERE IS ONE WEDNESDAY 4:00-6:30 P.M.)  
 ROOM 323 PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor: John J.B. Allen, Ph.D.  
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 621-4992  
 John.JB.Allen@Arizona.edu  
 Office Hours: Most Tuesdays 4:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.  
 VIA ZOOM: [HTTPS://ARIZONA.ZOOM.US/J/86422389606](https://arizona.zoom.us/j/86422389606)

### ***Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes***

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. Specifically, upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Make well-informed diagnoses and differential diagnoses using the DSM-5;
- Understand the psychometric issues associated with inferring a diagnosis from interview, laboratory, or test data, including positive predictive value, negative predictive value, sensitivity, and specificity;
- Understand and be sensitive to cultural and many other individual differences in psychological assessment and diagnosis;
- Gain experience with structured diagnostic interviewing, unstructured clinical interviewing, assessment of suicide risk and mental status;
- Understand and apply psychometric principles in assessment, test construction, and test theory, in order to evaluate the reliability and validity of assessment instruments;
- Understand key concepts and controversies in 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 Wednesday afternoons.

### ***Useful Information***

A tentative schedule of topics and readings appears at the end of the syllabus. We will use two books, both of which I recommend purchasing online. The remaining readings will be available as pdf files, available at the class website: [http://jallen.faculty.arizona.edu/psyc621\\_clinical\\_assessment](http://jallen.faculty.arizona.edu/psyc621_clinical_assessment) .

American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders: Fifth Edition (DSM-5)*. Washington, D.C.: Author.  
 Kaplan, R.M., & Saccuzzo, D.P. (2018). *Psychological testing: Principles, applications, and issues, (9th Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Thompson Wadsworth.

I recommend purchasing the DSM, but it is also available online for free through the UA library. The Kaplan and Saccuzzo book can be rented from Amazon at a reasonable price, or you can also purchase a used copy from the 6<sup>th</sup> edition on up).

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 by a bulleted arrow ➤) 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).
- Performance on a Test Construction, Item Analysis, Reliability, and Validity Exercise (20%).
- Presentation of readings when asked (10%; if you are prepared when asked, you will get the 10%; if you 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.

**University Policies and Other Information****University of Arizona Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Arizona resides on ancestral lands of the Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui nations, where many today continuously reside in their ancestral land. I acknowledge the privilege it is to teach and learn in this region and I express my gratitude to these nations. For more information about native lands on which UA sits, see <https://nasa.arizona.edu>.

**Diversity and Inclusion**

Diversity unites and moves us forward. The diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives that each student brings to this class will be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. In this class, we have a unique and important opportunity to learn from the information and ideas shared by each other, and we also a responsibility to do so with sensitivity and respect. Ideally, science would be objective. However, as you will learn, much of science is subjective and is historically build on a small subset of privileged voices. It is important to make note of this and to think about how significant research findings may be biased by their nature of being carried out on a typically small, non-representative sample of participants.

I would like to create a learning environment for my students that honors diverse identities (including race, ethnicity, gender, age, class, sexuality, nationality, religion, ability, etc.) and supports a diversity of experiences, thoughts, and perspectives. To learn more about the UA's commitment to diversity and inclusion, please visit <https://diversity.arizona.edu>.

**Preferred Name and Gender Pronouns**

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you would prefer that a different name from your legal one or the one that appears on the class roster be used, the university has established guidelines that allow students and employees to indicate their chosen or preferred first names. Please see the following link for more information: <http://lgbtq.arizona.edu/use-chosen-or-preferred-names>. I want to be sure that I refer to you in your preferred way. If you prefer a name other than the one on the class roster, please let me know. I will try our best to remember your preferred names and pronouns, but please also feel free to give me a reminder. Also, students are able to update and edit their pronouns in UAccess. To change your listed pronoun on UAccess, navigate to the Student Self Service page, go to the personal information section, and click on "Names."

**Students with Special Needs**

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with me so that we can discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that disability-related accommodations are necessary, please register with Disability Resources (621-3268; [drc.arizona.edu](http://drc.arizona.edu)) and notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. We can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA the Academic Integrity policy: <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/code-academic-integrity>. Cheating or plagiarism on the exam or the paper will result in a failing grade for the course, a notice will be sent to the Dean's office, and expulsion from the University of Arizona can result. Plagiarism is defined as any case where one person tries to take credit for the ideas or work of another, including fellow students, or published authors.

***Other University Classroom Policies that Apply to this Class***

Please familiarize yourself with these additional University Policies:

- Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy. The University of Arizona is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>
- Threatening Behavior by Students. The University seeks to promote a safe environment where students and employees may participate in the educational process without compromising their health, safety, or welfare: <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>

***Classroom Behavior Policy and the Use of Electronic Gizmos Specifically***

It is my intent, and I ask you to join me, in creating a positive learning environment that is free from distractions. Computers or tablets may be used for note-taking and downloading lecture notes. As such they can be useful, but alas, they can also be a potent distraction. Please do not use them for other purposes (e.g. social media, e-chatting/texting, shopping, catching up on email, organizing a flash mob, plotting mass insurrection) or you will be asked to leave the classroom. Please turn your phones to silent mode and do not use them during class or you will be asked to leave the classroom.

***COVID-19-related information***

Where posted, face coverings that cover the nose, mouth, and chin are required to be worn at the University of Arizona (e.g., in classrooms, laboratories and studios with posted signage). Any student who violates such a directive will be asked to immediately leave the learning space, and will be allowed to return only when they are wearing a face covering. Subsequent episodes of noncompliance will result in a Student Code of Conduct complaint being filed with the Dean of Students Office, which may result in sanctions being applied. The student will not be able to return to the learning space until the matter is resolved.

Please also consider the following University guidelines:

- If you feel sick, or may have been in contact with someone who is infectious, stay home. Except for seeking medical care, avoid contact with others and do not travel.
- Notify your instructor(s) if you will be missing a course meeting or an assignment deadline.
- Non-attendance for any reason does **not** guarantee an automatic extension of due date or rescheduling of examinations/assessments.
  - Please communicate and coordinate any request directly with your instructor.
- If you must miss the equivalent of more than one week of class, you should contact the Dean of Students Office [DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu](mailto:DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu) to share documentation about the challenges you are facing.
- Voluntary, free, and convenient [COVID-19 testing](#) is available for students on Main Campus.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 and you are participating in on-campus activities, you must report your results to Campus Health. To learn more about the process for reporting a positive test, visit the [Case Notification Protocol](#).
- COVID-19 vaccine is available for all students at [Campus Health](#).
- Visit the [UArizona COVID-19](#) page for regular updates.

***Changes in Course Content, Schedule, Requirements***

The information contained in this syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## Approximate Schedule of Topics and Readings

Class Date	Topics	Readings
25 August <i>Wednesday 4:00-6:30</i>	DSM-5: Use of the Manual Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders Depressive disorders Bipolar and Related Disorders Phenomenology of Psychosis	American Psychiatric Association (2013). <i>Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders: Fifth edition</i> . Washington, D.C.: Author. (DSM-5), pp. 19-24, 87-122, 155-188, 123-154. Kaplan, B. (1964). <i>The Inner World of Mental Illness</i> (pp.89-115). New York: Harper & Row.
30 August	DSM-5: Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders  Stigmata and Labeling Proliferation of Disorders and the DSM-5	DSM-5, pp. 189-234, 235-264, 265-290. ➤ Rosenhan, D.L. (1973). On being sane in insane places. <i>Science</i> , 179, 250-258. Regier, D.A., Narrow, W.E., Kuhl, E.A., & Kupfer, D.J. (2009). The conceptual development of DSM-V. <i>American Journal of Psychiatry</i> , 166, 645-650. Frances, A. (2009). Whither DSM-V? <i>The British Journal of Psychiatry</i> , 195, 391-392. ➤ Widiger, T.A., & Crego, C. (2015). Process and Content of DSM-5. <i>Psychopathology Review</i> , 2, 162-176.
6 September	<b>Labor Day Holiday!</b>	
13 September	DSM-5: Dissociative Disorders, Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders  Reliability of DSM-5 Prevalence of Disorders RDoC as an alternative to DSM	DSM-5, pp. 291-308, 309-328, 461-480, 481-590 (skimming specific substances). ➤ Freedman, R., Lewis, D.A., Michels, R., et al. (2013). The Initial Field Trials of DSM-5: New Blooms and Old Thorns. <i>American Journal of Psychiatry</i> , 170, 1-4. Kessler, R.C., Berglund, P, Demler, O., Jin, R., & Walters, E.E. (2005) Lifetime prevalence and age-of-onset distributions of DSM-IV disorders in the national comorbidity survey replication. <i>Archives of General Psychiatry</i> , 62, 593-602. ➤ Kozak, M., & Cuthbert, B. (2016). The NIMH Research Domain Criteria Initiative: Background, Issues, and Pragmatics. <i>Psychophysiology</i> , 53, 286-297. ➤ Kotov, R., Krueger, R.E., & Watson, D. (2018). A paradigm shift in psychiatric classification: the Hierarchical Taxonomy Of Psychopathology (HiTOP) <i>World Psychiatry</i> , 17, 24-25. <i>Optional:</i> Kotov, R. et al (2017). The Hierarchical Taxonomy of Psychopathology (HiTOP): A Dimensional Alternative to Traditional Nosologies. <i>Journal of Abnormal Psychology</i> , 126, 454-477.
20 September	DSM-5: Neurocognitive Disorders Neurodevelopmental Disorders Feeding and Eating Disorders Elimination Disorders Sleep-Wake Disorders (Insomnia)  The Prototype Approach to Diagnosis Pros and Cons of RDoC	DSM-5, pp. 591-644, 31-86, 329-354, 355-360, 361-368. ➤ Cantor, N., Smith, E.E., deSales French, R., & Mezzich, J. (1980). Psychiatric diagnosis as prototype categorization. <i>Journal of Abnormal Psychology</i> , 89, 181-193. Heckers, S. (2015). The Value of Psychiatric Diagnosis. <i>JAMA Psychiatry</i> , 72, 1165-1166. ➤ Yee, C.M., Javitt, D.C., & Miller, G.A.. (2015). Replacing DSM categorical analyses with dimensional analyses in psychiatric research. <i>JAMA Psychiatry</i> , 72, 1159-1160. ➤ Weinberger, D.R., Glick, I.D., & Klein, D.F. (2015). Wither Research Domain Criteria (RDoC)? The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. <i>JAMA Psychiatry</i> , 72, 1161-1162. Kraemer, H.C. (2015). Research Domain Criteria (RDoC) and the DSM – Two Methodological Approaches to Mental Health Diagnosis. <i>JAMA Psychiatry</i> , 72, 1163-1164.

Class Date	Topics	Readings
27 September	DSM-5: Sexual Dysfunctions Gender Dysphoria Paraphilic Disorders Personality Disorders  Conceptual and psychometric issues in diagnosis: The role of cultural and individual differences	DSM-5: 423-450, 451-460, 685-706, 645-684. ➤ Shim, R.S. (2021). Dismantling structural racism in psychiatry: A path to mental health equity. <i>American Journal of Psychiatry</i> , 178, 592-598. ➤ Paralikar V.P., Deshmukh, A., & Weiss, M.G. (2019). Qualitative analysis of cultural formulation interview: Findings and implications for revising the outline for cultural formulation. <i>Transcultural Psychiatry</i> , 0, 1-29 APA Council (2017). Multicultural Guidelines: An Ecological Approach to Context, Identity, and Intersectionality. Read pages: 1-13 <i>Optional:</i> Clark, L.A., Cuthbert, B., Lewis-Fenández, R., Narrow, W.E., & Ward, G.M. (2017). Three Approaches to Understanding and Classifying Mental Disorder: ICD-11, DSM-5, and the National Institute of Mental Health's Research Domain Criteria (RDoC). <i>Psychological Science in the Public Interest</i> , 18, 72-145.
4 October	Conceptual and psychometric issues in diagnosis: Positive Predictive Power and many other related concepts; To D, or not to D	➤ Meehl, P.E., & Rosen, A. (1955). Antecedent probability and the efficacy of psychometric signs, patterns, or cutting scores. <i>Psychological Bulletin</i> , 52, 194-216. Blashfield, R.K., Keeley, J.W., Flanagan, E.H., & Miles, S.r. (2014). The cycle of classification: DSM-I Through DSM-5. <i>Annual Review of Clinical Psychology</i> , 10, 25-51
11 October	Conceptual and psychometric issues in diagnosis: ROC curves	➤ Somoza, E., & Mossman, D. (1991). Neuropsychiatric decision making: making: Designing nonbinary diagnostic tests. <i>Journal of Neuropsychiatry</i> , 3, 197-200. ➤ Mossman, D. & Somoza, E., (1991). ROC curves, test accuracy, and the description of diagnostic tests. <i>Journal of Neuropsychiatry</i> , 3, 330-333. ➤ Somoza, E., & Mossman, D. (1991). ROC curves and the binormal assumption. <i>Journal of Neuropsychiatry</i> , 3, 436-439.
18 October	<b>Exam #1</b>	
25 October	The Mental Status Exam MMSE The unstructured interview Assessor qualifications Special Populations	Norris, D., Clark, M.S., & Shipley, S. (2016) The Mental Status Examination. <i>American Family Physician</i> , 94, 635-641. Turner, S.M., DeMers, S.T., Fox, H.R., & Reed, G.M. (2001). APA's guidelines for test user qualifications. <i>American Psychologist</i> , 56, 1099-1113.
1 November	Measurement Concepts Item Analysis  Suicide Assessment	➤ Mann, J.J., Apter, A., Bertolote, J., et al. (2005). Suicide prevention strategies: A systematic review. <i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i> , 294, 2064-2074. Swanson, J.W., Bonnie, R.J., & Appelbaum, P.S. (2015). Getting serious about reducing suicide: More "how" and less "why." <i>JAMA</i> , 314, 2229-2230. ➤ Meichenbaum (2005) "35 years of working with suicidal patients : Lessons learned" <i>Canadian Psychology</i> , 46, 64-72. Kaplan, R.M., & Saccuzzo, D.P. (2008). <i>Psychological Testing</i> . Chapters 1, 2, 3. ➤ McFall, R.M. (1991). Manifesto for a science of clinical psychology. <i>The Clinical Psychologist</i> , 44, 75-88. <i>Optional:</i> Beck, J.G., Castonguay, L.G., Chronis-Tuscano, A., Klonsky, E.D., McGinn, L.K., & Youngstrom, E.A. (2014). Principles for training in evidence-based psychology: Recommendations for the graduate curricula in clinical psychology. <i>Clinical Psychology Science and Practice</i> , 21, 410-424.
8 November	More Measurement Concepts Item Response Theory, and application to test bias Reliability	Kaplan, R.M., & Saccuzzo, D.P. (2008). Chapters 4 & 5. ➤ Campbell, D.T., & Fiske, D.W. (1959). Convergent and discriminant validation by the multitrait-multimethod matrix. <i>Psychological Bulletin</i> , 56, 81-105. Sechrest, L. (2005). Validity of measures is no simple matter. <i>Health Services Research</i> , 1584-1604.
15 November	More Reliability Validity Issues in Assessment I	Kaplan, R.M., & Saccuzzo, D.P. (2008). Chapter 6. ➤ Forer, B.R. (1949). The fallacy of personal validation: A classroom demonstration of gullibility. <i>Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology</i> , 44,

118-123.

American Psychological Association (2014). *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. Washington, D.C.: Author. Pages TBD.

Class Date	Topics	Readings
22 November	Test Theory Issues in Assessment II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dawes, R.M., Faust, D., &amp; Meehl, P.E. (1989). Clinical versus actuarial judgment. <i>Science</i>, 243, 1668-1674.</li> <li>➤ Dawes, R.M. (2005). The ethical implications of Paul Meehl's work on comparing clinical versus actuarial prediction methods. <i>Journal of Clinical Psychology</i>, 61, 1245-1255.</li> </ul> <p><i>Skim:</i> Lilienfeld, S.O., Wood, J.M., &amp; Garb, H.N. (2000). The scientific status of projective techniques. <i>Psychological Science in the Public Interest</i>, 1, 27-66.</p> <p><i>Optional:</i> Amhad, A.A. et al. (2020). Fairness in Machine Learning for Healthcare. KDD '20: Proceedings of the 26th ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery &amp; Data Mining. August 2020, 3529–3530.</p>
29 November	Test Theory Issues in Assessment III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chapman, L.J., &amp; Chapman, J.P. (1978). The measurement of differential deficit. <i>Journal of Psychiatric Research</i>, 14, 303-311.</li> <li>➤ Chapman, L.J., &amp; Chapman, J.P. (1969). Illusory correlation as an obstacle to the use of valid psychodiagnostic signs. <i>Journal of Abnormal Psychology</i>, 74, 271-280.</li> </ul>
6 December	Issues in Intelligence Testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Jensen, A.R. (1980). Précis of "Bias in mental testing." <i>Behavior and Brain Sciences</i>, 3, 325-371.</li> <li>➤ Devlin, B. Daniels, M., &amp; Roeder, K. (1997). The heritability of IQ. <i>Nature</i>, 388, 468-471.</li> <li>➤ Johnson, W. (2010). Understanding the Genetics of Intelligence: Can Height Help? Can Corn Oil? <i>Current Directions in Psychological Science</i>, 19, 177-182.</li> <li>➤ Sternberg, R.J. (1995). For whom the Bell Curve Tolls: A review of "The Bell Curve." <i>Psychological Science</i>, 6, 257-261.</li> <li>➤ Tucker-Drob, E.M., &amp; Bates, T.C.. (2015). Large Cross-National Differences in Gene x Socioeconomic Status Interaction on Intelligence. <i>Psychological Science</i>, 27, 138-149.</li> <li>➤ Smedley, A., &amp; Smedley, B.D. (2005). Race as Biology Is Fiction Racism as a Social Problem is Real. <i>American Psychologist</i>, 60, 16-26.</li> </ul>
13 December	Final Exam (3:00-5:00 p.m.) Data Exercise Due	

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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 for Clinical Assessment
  - ✓ Medical Dictionary (download an Android or iPhone app: <https://asoftclick.com/best-medical-dictionary-apps/>)
  - ✓ UpToDate Access free: [ahsl.arizona.edu/uptodate](http://ahsl.arizona.edu/uptodate)
  - ✓ WAIS-IV interpretation book (e.g., Essentials of WAIS-IV Assessments; e.g., Lichtenberger & Kaufman)
- ✓ Use a reference manager (e.g., Endnote or Mendeley or similar)
- ✓ Join Professional Societies while a student (APA, APS, [SSCP](http://SSCP.org), Discipline Specific Organizations) and Attend Professional Meetings
- ✓ Start documenting clinical hours now, rather than waiting until right before the application deadline in your fourth year, when you'd have to reconstruct your first year by going back to reports (if you have them) or to loose scraps of paper with scribbles and circles and arrows and a paragraph on the back of each one

explaining what each one was. Visit the APPIC website to see what is required, or use 'TimeToTrack' tool to track your hours: <https://time2track.com>. Note that APPIC stresses integrative reports, which you will begin to write late this semester.

- ✓ Great resources for clinical graduate students: <https://www.acadpsychclinicalscience.org/for-students.html>
- ✓ Be sure to have (or develop) a hobby!