Course Overview. This two-term course is designed to give students an introduction to assessment issues and approaches by integrating: (1) the students’ beginning experience with assessment, (2) the empirical evidence regarding the validity of these tools, and (3) practice-based perspectives on their utility in answering clinically important questions. Topics covered will include fundamental principles of assessment, basic concepts of test construction, reliability and validity, psychometrics, test selection and rationale, ethical considerations, and multicultural issues in assessment, with an emphasis on the development of skills in test administration, scoring, interpretation, and report writing. Students will learn through readings, didactics, and applied formats. This course includes a weekly Skills Lab run by the GTFs (advanced clinical doctoral students) in order to provide students practice administering various tests, as well as immediate feedback. Students will be evaluated on the completion of several graded assignments and one pass/no pass assignment.

APA core competency ‘Readiness for practicum’ benchmarks that students will strive to achieve in this class:

- Demonstrates basic knowledge of the scientific, theoretical, and contextual basis of test construction and interviewing
- Demonstrates basic knowledge of administration and scoring of traditional assessment measures, models and techniques
- Demonstrates knowledge, awareness, and understanding of one’s own dimensions of diversity and attitudes towards diverse others

Required Book:

Recommended Book:

Other Required Reading (posted on Canvas):
- American Psychological Association, APA Task Force on Psychological Assessment and


**Reference Texts:**

- WAIS-IV technical manual
- WISC-5 technical manual

**Class evaluation.** Students’ total grade will be derived from eight assignments. There are a total of 100 points in this course. Points for each assignment are listed in the assignment descriptions below.

**Assignment #1: Clinical and Statistical Prediction** Students will read articles pertaining to “statistical versus clinical prediction” and write a short reaction paper. 10 points.

**Assignment #2: Evaluating and Selecting Measures** Students will conduct a focused review on a measurement instrument of their choice, with particular emphasis on reliability and validity. 15 points. *Note: A grade of B+ or higher (8.7+ points) is required on this assignment in order to pass this course.*
**Assignment #3: Cultural formulation (ADDRESSSING).** Students will be evaluated on their emerging self-awareness of identity dimensions and reflections on the use of the ADDRESSING framework in clinical assessment. 10 points. Pass/no pass.

**Assignment #4: DIAMOND report.** Students will draft a brief report based on their behavioral observations and test results from their full mock DIAMOND. 15 points.

**Assignment #5: “G.”** Students will listen to two Radiolab podcast episodes about the history of cognitive testing and some of its controversies, followed by a reflection paper. 10 points.

**Assignment #6: WAIS pt 1.** Students will watch training videos of first five WAIS subtests and score along. Students will be evaluated on the accuracy of their scoring. 10 points.

**Assignment #7: WAIS pt 2.** Students will watch training videos of last five WAIS subtests and score along. Students will be evaluated on the accuracy of their scoring. 10 points.

**Assignment #8: WAIS pt. 3.** Students will administer a full mock WAIS and draft a brief report based on their behavioral observations and test results. The write-up will be due during exam week and will be based on an example provided in class. 20 points.

Grades will be based on the total points earned:
- 94-100 points = A
- 90-93 points = A-
- 87-89 points = B+
- 84-86 points = B
- 80-83 points = B-
- Earning less than 80 points is considered failing.
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| 1. Sept 27 | - Course Overview  
- Fundamental principles of assessment |  
- Bornstein (2017)  
- Youngstrom et al. (2015)  
- Independently review APA Guidelines for Psychological Assessment and Evaluation (2020) | No lab – |
|         |                                                    |                                            | Diagnostic Assessment Lab                      |
| 2. Oct 4 | - Current diagnostic systems  
- Diagnostic assessment  
- DSM-5 criteria for common disorders |  
- Assignment #1 (Clinical & Statistical Prediction) due (Dawes, 1994; Dawes et al. 1989; Meehl, 1986; Sarbin, 1986) | DIAMOND practice, Part 1                        |
| 3. Oct 11 | - Psychometrics, Part 1  
- Basic concepts of test construction |  
- DIAMOND training (scoring along)  
https://giving.harhosp.org/tolin-diamond-training-video  
- Sattler Ch. 4 | DIAMOND practice, Part 2                        |
| 4. Oct 18 | - Psychometrics, Part 2  
- Reliability, validity, and test selection |  
- Review/practice DIAMOND, as needed | DIAMOND practice, Part 3                        |
| 5. Oct 25 | - Cultural Considerations, Part 1  
- Ethical, Legal, and Professional Issues |  
- Sattler Ch. 3  
- Assignment #2 (Evaluating and Selecting Measures) due | Full mock DIAMOND                               |
| 6. Nov 1 | - Cultural Considerations, Part 2  
- Report writing |  
- Assignment #3 (Cultural Formulation) due  
- Council of National Psychological Associations for the Advancement of Ethnic Minority Interests (2016) | Final review of DIAMOND                         |
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| 7. Nov 8   | History and Theories of Cognitive Assessment, Concepts, and Statistics - Intro to WAIS | • Sattler Ch. 7  
• WAIS Administration & Scoring Manual  
• Assignment #4 (DIAMOND report) due |  | WAIS practice, part 1 |
| 8. Nov 15  | WAIS cont. - Scoring                       | • WAIS subtests 1-5  
• Assignment #5 (“G.”) due |  | WAIS practice, part 2 |
| 9. Nov 22  | WAIS cont. - Interpretation                | • WAIS subtests 6-10  
• Assignment #6 (WAIS part 1) due |  | WAIS practice, part 3 |
| 10. Nov 29 | WAIS cont. - Report writing                | • Assignment #7 (WAIS part 2) due              |  | Full mock WAIS       |
| Finals     | No class                                   | • Assignment #8 (WAIS report) due              |  | No lab               |