PSY 322- PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Spring 2010 Monday 6:50 PM

Instructor: Joseph Coyne Ph.D.
Office hours are by appointment,
Phone: (510) 406- 0866

Required Text: Gary Groth-Marant, Handbook of Psychological Assessment, (most recent addition suggested but past addition are acceptable). New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

The Preston text is a suggested text for this class, the most recent copy can be obtained through and online source.

John Preston ,Handbook on Clinical Psychopharmacology for Therapists, New Harbinger Publications

Course Description:

The ability to understand and create accurate and concise psychological reports expands ones overall clinical expertise, and subsequent professional marketability. This course will provide the student with a basic understanding of the assessment instruments frequently used to evaluate clients. The goal is to inform students about the realistic assets and limitations of psychological testing, and help them learn how to integrate those results into a coherent view of the total person. During the course of the semester, students will also have the opportunity to take a number of psychological tests during lab sessions, in order to gain first hand experience in administering, scoring, and interpreting these instruments.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic theory associated with the assessment process, especially the concepts of validity, reliability, and the process of test construction.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to properly interpret results obtained from a number of clinical instruments, used in the assessment process.
3. Students will demonstrate their ability to undertake a clinical assessment interview, and to then write a concise psychological report.
4. Students will demonstrate their ability to combine information gathered from various test instruments into a viable treatment plan.

Course Requirements:

Much of the material presented in lectures will not be found in your textbook, so successful completion of this course will require regular attendance and participation in class discussions. There will be a midterm and final examination, as well as a required psychological report written on a hypothetical patient. Your final grade will be assigned according to the following percentages:

Midterm #1	20%
Midterm # 2	20%
Paper	20 %
Final	40%

SYLLABUS

I. Understanding Syndromes, Etiology, and Diagnosis

January 11 Preliminary Diagnostic Considerations

- The how of behavior
- Depressive Disorders
- Bipolar Disorders

Readings: Preston Chapters One, Two & Three

January 18 Diagnostic Categories

- Anxiety Disorders
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Psychotic Disorders
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Borderline Personality Disorder

Readings: Preston Chapters 7 through 11

January 25 Diagnostic Categories Continued

II. Testing Theory

February 1- Introduction to testing theory

- How are tests constructed
- How are tests validated
- How is test reliability established
- What makes for Hit or a Miss
- How are correlational coefficients used in test construction

Readings: Chapter 1 & 2

February 8- The Clinical Interview and Psychological Report

- Taking a case history
- Assessing mental status
- Proper report format
- General Guidelines
- Integrating test instruments and behavioral assessment tools.

Readings: Chapter 3 & 4 &14

Lab Test: The Beck Depression Inventory

February 15 Presidents Day

February 22 - Intelligence Testing

- The history of intelligence testing
- What is the meaning of IQ scores
- How to use the subscales on the WAIS-III to evaluate overall functioning
- In class demonstration of the WAIS-III administration

Reading: Chapter 5

Lab Test: WAIS-III

March 1 - Midterm 1

March 8 - Personality Testing

- History and development of the tests
- Interpretation procedures
- Computerized evaluations
- How to write a good summary evaluation
- Assessment of Violence potential
- Assessment of the Psychopathic Personality

March 15- The Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory

- Test administration
- Self scoring procedures
- Two point code interpretations

Reading: Chapter 6

Lab Test: MMPI

March 22 - Millon Clinical Multiaxial Inventory

- Test administration
- Self scoring procedures
- Test interpretation

Reading:Chapter 7

Lab Test: Million

March 29 - Rorschach,

Reading: Chapter 8 , 9 & 10

Lab: presentation of Rorschach and TAT Cards

April 5 - Rorschach continued
Paper assignments given

April 12 Projective Drawings, & Thematic Appreception test

- Draw a person, house, tree
- The Bender-Gestalt Test

April 19 – Thematic Appreception Test

PAPERS DUE and Final Course Review

April 26 Final