PSY 504: PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT
Summer 2020
THURSDAY – Online-Asynchronous

Professor:  Adam M. Volungis, PhD, LMHC
E-mail:  am.volungis@assumption.edu
Phone:  508-767-7647
Office:  Kennedy 134
Office Hours:  Available weekly by Email & Zoom

Course Location:  Online
Course Week:  Thursday (class day) to Wednesday
Course Times:  All course interaction will be conducted asynchronously. In other words, you can work at times most convenient for you as long as you meet the deadlines.

TECHNOLOGY EXPECTATIONS

- Regular access to a computer or laptop (PC or Mac)
- Broadband internet connection
- Ability to send and receive email and email attachments
- Ability to access Assumption College’s and my personal website:  (http://dradamvolungis.com/)
- Ability to access Zoom
- MS Office, MS Excel, Adobe’s Acrobat PDF Reader (available for free from http://www.adobe.com)
- *Note: Please contact Information Technology for any internet/technology concerns. I cannot fix them for you. *Concerns regarding my website should be directed to me.*

REQUIRED TEXT

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides an introduction to the instruments and the methods used in the measurement and evaluation of the psychological characteristics of human beings, including elementary principles of statistical analysis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The following topics will be covered and discussed in-depth:
1. Nature and use of psychological tests for counselors
2. Historical antecedents of modern testing
3. Norms and the meaning of test scores
4. Reliability
5. Validity and item analysis
6. Selecting, administering, scoring, and communicating test results
7. Initial assessment techniques
8. Intelligence and general ability testing
9. Achievement and Aptitude testing
10. Assessment in career counseling
11. Measuring interests and attitudes
12. Appraisal of personality
13. Using assessment in counseling
14. Ethical, legal, and social/cultural considerations in testing

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

_Brightspace, Dr. V’s Website, & email:_ Course announcements (i.e., emails) will be made through Brightspace. All other information (e.g., lectures, lecture recordings, blog discussions, assignments) will be provided on my personal website: [http://dradamvolungis.com/](http://dradamvolungis.com/). It is expected that you check your email and my website frequently to ensure that you are up to date with all class material and information. Feel free to email me with any questions or concerns. On most weeks, I check my email on the following (“business”) days: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Although I typically reply to emails promptly (i.e., less than 24 hours), please give me 1-2 “business” days to reply. Due to the unique circumstances of COVID-19 there may be an occasional “business” day that I am not readily available.

_Course Readings & Lectures:_ Please refer to the “Projected Course Outline” for the due date and topic of each reading and lecture recording. You are expected to have completed the required readings and reviewed (i.e., watched) the lecture recordings by the indicated class date. In addition to the readings provided on the course outline, you may be required to read supplemental materials to enhance existing readings.

_Time Commitment:_ You should assume that you will put in at least the same amount of time for this online course as you would for a traditional “face-to-face” class, including both “class time” and time for work outside of class. For a 14-week semester face-to-face class the expectation is 2.5 hours in class and 5 hours outside of class for a total of 7.5 hours a week for a 3-credit course. *The expectations for a summer online course are the same, but the hours are condensed into a 10-week semester and the classroom is virtual. Thus, expected work time for an online summer course totals 10.5 hours a week minimum for a 3-credit course.* Most activities for this class will take place in asynchronous fashion. In other words, you will be able to participate in most activities at a time convenient for you as long as you meet the due date.

_Submission Policy, Late Assignments, & Technological Malfunctions:_ All assignments should be submitted no later than the due date. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments must be completed by 11:59 pm of the published due dates. Late work (i.e., work that is submitted after the due date) will only be accepted within a 24-hour grace period and will be reduced by one full letter grade. After the 24-hour grace period, late work will not be accepted and a ‘0’ will be given for the assignment. Please contact Information Technology for any technology problems (unless it is my personal website). If you experience recurrent technical problems that prohibit you from completing multiple assignments, you may be asked to re-enroll into the course at a future date.
IMPORTANT NOTES

Academic Honesty: Representing the work of another as your own is a violation of fundamental principles of truthfulness and an offense against the academic community. Academic dishonesty may result in the student failing the course, at the discretion of the instructor. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on examinations, as well as plagiarism (i.e., failure to credit properly the ideas, organization of material or phrasing of another, including the use of term paper or reference paper services). Submitting one’s own work, in part or in whole, to more than one instructor without proper notification is also academically dishonest and subject to appropriate disciplinary action. I reserve the right to utilize turnitin.com if there are concerns of academic dishonesty. For more information, please consult Assumption College’s Academic Honesty Police: http://graduate.assumption.edu/student-resources/graduate-student-policies-handbook (p. 13).

Students with Disabilities: Assumption College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a disability (or think you have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College’s programs or services, then you should speak with me and contact Student Accessibility Services. All information regarding disabilities will be treated with confidentiality. Documentation guidelines are available at: https://www.assumption.edu/people-and-departments/organization-listing/student-accessibility-services. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me with any questions.

METHODS of EVALUATION

1. Participation – Discussion Blogs (15%): This course depends greatly on student preparation and participation. To facilitate preparation, students are required to complete the required readings and review the lecture recordings for each week (i.e., Thursday [class day] to Wednesday). Each student must complete two blog discussions per week (beginning 5/28). The first blog will be due on Thursday. The second blog will be due on Monday. You must also post two replies to your peers no later than two days after the due date (Saturday and Wednesday, respectively). All discussion blogs will be available on my website.

- Up to the midterm the weekly discussion blogs will be based on the required chapter/lecture content (e.g., Week 2 [5/28]: Thursday [5/28] blog – Chapter 2; Monday [6/1] blog – Chapter 3).
- After the midterm the weekly discussion blogs will be based on the required chapter/lecture content and required assessment reviews (e.g., Week 5 [6/18]: Thursday [6/18] blog – Chapter 6; Monday [6/22] blog – Suicidality and Substance Abuse assessments).

- Participation Expectations: Participation is demonstrated through regular and thoughtful interaction in discussion board and email activities. Daily participation in the course is more preferable than batching activity on the day that a blog is due. Discussion board posts should demonstrate some engagement in the discourse:
  - Really Bad: “Ditto,” “Whateva”
  - Not So Good: “Genius thought, Billy-Bob! There’s nothing else for me to say!”
  - Much Better: “Billy-Bob, I think you raise a great point about making sure clients receive a clear explanation of the cognitive-behavioral model
as part of their psychoeducation for treatment of depression. However, I’m not sure if the next step should be identifying negative automatic thoughts. Rather, Aaron Beck recommends to focus on behavioral activation techniques first because…”

2. **Midterm Exam (25%).** Each student is required to complete a midterm exam covering their knowledge and understanding of the readings and class lectures from the topic “Historical Antecedents and Principles of Assessment” as outlined in the ‘Projected Course Outline’ below (5/21-6/4). **The date of the midterm exam is 6/11.** Details on administration of the exam will be provided no later than 5/28. It is reasonable to expect this exam graded and returned to students by 6/25 (two weeks).

3. **Psychological Assessment Development and Presentation (25%).** All students are required to participate in a small group class presentation on an assessment development proposal. The class presentations will be completed in video format with a PowerPoint and supplemental handouts. **These presentations are due on 7/9 (peer observations due 7/16).** A separate class handout describing this assignment in detail will be provided and reviewed no later than 6/11. It is reasonable to expect this assignment graded and returned to students soon after final grades are due.

4. **Psychological Assessment Review (10%).** Each student is required to individually complete one psychological assessment review. **These reviews are due on 7/16.** However, you are more than welcome to complete these reviews earlier than the due date. A separate handout describing this assignment in detail will be provided and reviewed no later than 6/4. **This review will only be accepted through email at am.volungis@assumption.edu in MS Word.** It is reasonable to expect this assignment graded and returned to students soon after final grades are due.

5. **Final Exam (25%).** Each student is required to complete a take-home final exam covering their knowledge and understanding of the readings and class lectures from the topic “Assessment Areas, Applications, and Issues” as outlined in the Projected Course Outline’ below (6/18-7/16) (and general integration of major themes from the midterm). **The due date for the final exam is 7/23.** The final exam will be provided no later than 7/9. **This exam will only be accepted through email at am.volungis@assumption.edu in MS Word.** It is reasonable to expect this exam graded and returned to students soon after final grades are due.

**GRADING SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93.0-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90.0-92.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82.5-87.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80.0-82.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72.5-77.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70.0-72.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>62.5-67.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60.0-62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87.5-89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77.5-79.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67.5-69.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**PROJECTED COURSE OUTLINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th><em>Topic/Assignment</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Historical Antecedents and Principles of Assessment</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 5/21/20  | Introduction & Review of Syllabus  
Text Chapter 1 (Parts A& B) – Assessment in Counseling |
| 5/28     | Text Chapter 2 – Basic Assessment Principles  
Text Chapter 3 – Reliability |
| 6/4      | Text Chapter 4 – Validity & Item Analysis  
Text Chapter 5 – Selecting, Administering, Scoring, and Communicating Test Results |
| 6/11     | *Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-5)* |
| **Assessment Areas, Applications, and Issues** |
| 6/18     | Text Chapter 6 – Initial Assessment in Counseling  
----Assessments: Suicidality & Substance Abuse |
| 6/25     | Text Chapter 13 – Using Assessment in Counseling  
----Assessments: Depression & Broad-Band |
| 7/2      | Text Chapter 9 – Assessment in Career Counseling  
----Assessments: Career & Anxiety |
| 7/9      | Text Chapter 10 – Appraisal of Personality  
----Assessments: Personality  
*Psychological Assessment Development and Presentations Due* |
| 7/16     | ----Assessments: Youth (Behavior checklists, Depression, Anxiety)  
*Presentation Observations Due*  
*Psychological Assessment Review Due* |
| 7/23     | *Final Exam Due* |

**Right of Revision Statement:** As professor of this course, I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed. It may be deemed pertinent to modify the syllabus as the class progresses through the semester. You will be informed of any changes as soon as possible, during class or via e-mail and Brightspace.