PSY 504: PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT
Fall 2020
THURSDAY – Online-Synchronous 7:00-9:15pm

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 & scheduled Zoom meetings

Course Location: Online
Course Week: Thursday (class day) to Wednesday
Course Times: Class will be held synchronously on Thursdays from 7:00-9:15pm via Zoom. All other course content will be conducted asynchronously.

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/. 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-Friday. 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.

Attendance: Due to the topic of this course being primarily class discussion, it is crucial that you attend class. Attending class virtually through Zoom is just as important as attending class face-to-face. Much of the value of this course lies in your presence and participation in the classroom. Therefore, your presence is important for the “community within the class.” If you are absent from class, you are still responsible for all information and material covered that day. Also, class will always start and end on time, thus, the expectation is for students to be present for the full duration of class. If you must come late or leave early, please notify me before class.

• Coming late to class is an important issue. A pattern of tardiness (even 10 or 15 minutes) is unacceptable.
• Even in circumstances where you have an acceptable reason for missing class, you will not receive credit for this class if you are absent for more than 2 classes during the semester. If you do miss more than 2 classes because of personal emergency or similar extenuating circumstances, you may petition the Dean of the Graduate School for an exception to this rule.

Zoom Etiquette: All class meetings will be held remotely via use of Zoom. You are required to have your video activated during class meetings. Your “presence” in class is important because this will help everyone in this class (including the professor) get to know one another. Developing a sense of familiarity and community is important for the Clinical Counseling Psychology program, and the active video feed is one way to accomplish this. You may use a virtual background if you wish but the background should not be distracting. The audio function should be muted during class meetings unless you are speaking. Additionally, please remain focused on the class meeting, not other tasks (e.g., checking email, texting, talking to someone in the room, eating a full meal). These behaviors are distracting and disrespectful to your peers.

Course Readings & Recorded Lectures: Please refer to the “Projected Course Outline” for the due date and topic of each reading and recorded lecture. You are expected to have completed the required readings and viewed the recorded lectures by the indicated class date. Class meetings
will not consist of simply reviewing lecture slides. Students are expected to attend class prepared and ready to participate in class discussion on select topics and ask questions. 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 expectation for 5 hours outside of class remains the same for this online course. Some of the activities will take place in asynchronous fashion. In other words, you will be able to participate in some 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](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](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. **Class Attendance, Participation, & Discussion Blog (15%).** This course depends greatly on student preparation and participation. To facilitate preparation, students are urged to read all the material assigned for a given class prior to the day it is to be discussed, and to come to class with notes about the readings. With the exception of the first class, each student is expected to complete a blog post in response to a question provided by the professor by the beginning of each class. At least two replies to your peers’ posted responses is also required, no later than two days after the original post due date. The discussion board will be available on my personal website: [http://dradamvolungis.com/](http://dradamvolungis.com/). These reflections are required in the spirit of assuring each student keeps up with the assigned readings and is prepared to engage in class discussion.

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 (8/20-9/17). **The date of the midterm exam 9/24.** Details on administration of the exam will be provided no later than 9/3. It is reasonable to expect this exam graded and returned to students by 10/8—10/15 (2-3 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 11/12 (peer observations due 11/23).** A separate class handout describing this assignment in detail will be provided and reviewed no later than 10/1. 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 11/19.** However, you are more than welcome to complete your review earlier than the due date. A separate handout describing this assignment in detail will be provided and reviewed no later than 9/10. **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 (10/1—11/19) (and general integration of major themes from the midterm). **The due date for the final exam is 12/3.** The final exam will be provided no later than 11/5. **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

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## PROJECTED COURSE OUTLINE

**Date** | *Topic/Assignment*
---|---
**8/20/20** | **Historical Antecedents and Principles of Assessment**
Introduction & Review of Syllabus
Text Chapter 1 – Assessment in Counseling

**8/27** | Text Chapter 2 – Basic Assessment Principles

**9/3** | Text Chapter 3 – Reliability

**9/10** | Text Chapter 4 – Validity & Item Analysis

**9/17** | Text Chapter 5 – Selecting, Administering, Scoring, and Communicating Test Results
Midterm Review

**9/24** | *Midterm Exam*

**10/1** | **Assessment Areas, Applications, and Issues**
Text Chapter 6 – Initial Assessment in Counseling
----Assessments: Suicidality & Substance Abuse

**10/8** | Text Chapter 13 – Using Assessment in Counseling
----Assessments: Depression & Broad-Band

**10/15** | ***FALL BREAK***

**10/22** | Text Chapter 9 – Assessment in Career Counseling
----Assessments: Career & Anxiety

**10/29** | Text Chapter 10 – Appraisal of Personality
----Assessments: Personality & Anxiety (cont.)

**11/5** | *Receive Take-Home Final Exam (Due 12/3)*
Text Chapter 7 – Intelligence and General Ability Testing
----Assessments: Youth (Behavior checklists, Depression, Anxiety)
11/12 Psychological Assessment Development and Presentation Due

11/19 Psychological Assessment Review Due
Complete Remaining Assessments

11/26 ***THANKSGIVING BREAK***

12/3 *Take-Home 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 email and Brightspace.