Required Objectives:

Professional Counseling Identity (CACREP 2016 Standards)

7a. historical perspectives concerning the nature and meaning of assessment and testing in counseling
7b. methods of effectively preparing for and conducting initial assessment meetings
7c. procedures for assessing risk of aggression or danger to others, self-inflicted harm, or suicide
7d. procedures for identifying trauma and abuse and for reporting abuse
7e. use of assessments for diagnostic and intervention planning purposes
7f. basic concepts of standardized and non-standardized testing, norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessments, and group and individual assessments
7g. statistical concepts, including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, and correlations
7h. reliability and validity in the use of assessments
7i. use of assessments relevant to academic/educational, career, personal, and social development
7j. use of environmental assessments and systematic behavioral observations
7k. use of symptom checklists, and personality and psychological testing
7l. use of assessment results to diagnose developmental, behavioral, and mental disorders
7m. ethical and culturally relevant strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessments and test results.

Entry-Level Specialty: Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CACREP 2016 Standards)

C1e. psychological tests and assessments specific to clinical mental health counseling
## Key Required Assignments/Student Learning Outcomes

These assignments are required for the course, but **will not be the only requirements/expectations**. The chart below lists the assignment, method of submission, and benchmark score/grade. These assignments are set up for upload to Taskstream and/or instructor provides rating for assignment. See syllabus for details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research and Assessment</th>
<th>Proficient (A)</th>
<th>Benchmark (B)</th>
<th>Emerging (C)</th>
<th>Inadequate/Fail</th>
<th>As evidenced by:</th>
<th>Review and Remediation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 6 of 7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Students demonstrate an understanding of assessment and evaluation in mental health counseling</td>
<td>Practicum year</td>
<td>Cumulative score 90-100%</td>
<td>Cumulative score 80-89%</td>
<td>Cumulative score 70-79%</td>
<td>MHC 541: Introduction to Assessment Midterm and Final exam scores</td>
<td>Assessment Chair Review/Referral to BRC or ARC</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 7 of 7</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Students understand social and cultural factors related to assessment and ethical strategies for using assessment in mental health counseling.</td>
<td>Practicum Year</td>
<td>90-100% Assignment scores</td>
<td>80% -89% Assignment scores</td>
<td>70% -79 Assignment scores</td>
<td>MHC 541: Test Critique</td>
<td>Assessment Chair Review/Referral to BRC or ARC</td>
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The Ever Evolving Syllabus of MHC 541
Introduction to Assessment
Spring 2017

Instructor: Jeffrey Christensen, PhD
Phone: 503-768-6071
e-mail: jchristensen@lclark.edu
Office Hours: Please arrange in advance by email

Catalog Description:
Principles of psychological assessment as employed in school, clinical, and applied settings. Addresses psychometric concepts such as validity, reliability, norms, and score interpretation. Surveys intelligence, personality, career, interest, aptitude, and achievement tests and reviews alternative methods of assessing competence and person-situation interactions. Contemporary issues such as the validity of instruments for diverse populations and the impact of technology on assessment are discussed.

Required Text:

Course Expectations:

CPSY Departmental Attendance Policy

Class attendance is expected and required. Any missed class time will be made up by completing extra assignments designed by the instructor. Missing more than ten percent of class time may result in failure to complete the class. This would be 4.5 hours of a 45 hour class (3 credits), 3.0 hours for a 30 hour class (2 credits) or 1.5 hours for a 15 hour class (1 credit.) In case of extreme hardship and also at the discretion of the instructor, a grade of incomplete may be given for an assignment or the entire course. In such cases, the work to be submitted in order to remove the incomplete must be documented appropriately and stated deadlines met. Students are expected to be on time to class and tardiness may be seen as an absence that requires make-up work.

Participation in class activities and discussion within the course are paramount, therefore regular and timely attendance is expected. Students are expected to attend all classes on time unless an illness or emergency occurs. All other absences should be discussed with the instructor in advance. More than one absence from class may result in a failing or incomplete grade. If a student plans to leave class early, he or she needs to alert the instructor in advance and complete required work. Missed classes will require a make-up assignment: a one page bulleted summary of the information presented in the class you missed, gathered via interview with your classmates, and an article review on a topic related to the missed class with a two page written review and reflection.
PLEASE NOTE (Americans with Disabilities Act): Students with specific learning needs and/or disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any medical emergency information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of an evacuation, should inform the instructor as soon as possible, no later than the first week of term.

**Course Requirements:**
1. Attend and participate in class. Attendance is mandatory. (See Course Expectations)
2. Complete weekly readings prior to class meetings
3. Mid-Term exam (25% of grade)
4. Final exam (25% of grade)
5. Test Review (35% of grade)

A written review of one assessment of your choice written in APA format. You can obtain the test from the counseling psychology office (there are several tests on reserve), or from some other source such. The review in the *Mental Measurements Yearbook* (a reference book in the library--Buros, ed. or on-line), can be very helpful, but should not be used solely. The reviews in the text should be helpful.

I. Identifying information (type of test, population group, type of information yielded, how it is administered and scored, publisher)

II. What and for whom is this test intended?

III. Summarize evidence regarding reliability and validity and evaluate each.

IV. If there is a manual how well does it portray the uses and limits of this test given the evidence in III? If there is no manual, how readily available was this information presented by the author of the test, or other authors’ review of the test?

V. How helpful is the manual to you as a test user?

VI. How are issues related to minorities and special populations handled?

VII. Your evaluation:
On the basis of the information presented, for what purposes and with which clients would you consider this test to be useful? For what purposes and with what clients would you not consider it useful?

What other kinds of information would you want to combine with test results to help you or your client make decisions resulting from an assessment?

What issues must you attend to carefully in order to present the test results accurately, i.e., not over- or under-interpret their significance?

This review should be no more than 10 double-spaced typed pages.

**Due: 3/1/16**
6. In-class group project (15% of grade)

Conduct an evaluation of a fictitious character that addresses the following:

- Assessment questions (what questions come up given the character’s presentation?)
- Assessment strategies (given the specific personality traits of this character, what strategies are needed to ensure valid and reliable results?)
- Assessment devices (you are encouraged to respond to psychological tests as if you were the character)
- Your interpretation of the results
- How you will present the results to your character

There will be five groups of four students each, and you will present your findings to the class towards the end of the semester (30-40 minute presentation). Assume that you have three hours with your character, so do not go overboard with testing. You are encouraged to be creative and fun with this activity, but approach the conclusions with seriousness, using the data you have. For your presentation, you may choose to role-play the administering and/or presentation of the results to your character. If you have trouble agreeing on a character, I can provide you with one.
# Weekly Readings and Agenda*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assigned Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/9</td>
<td>Introductions, Class Overview, Syllabus</td>
<td>Course Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/16</td>
<td><strong>Martin Luther King Day, NO CLASS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1/23</td>
<td>History of Assessment, Assessment Process, Ethics, Cultural Considerations Group formation</td>
<td>Chapters 1-2 ACA Code of Ethics; Section E</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/30</td>
<td>Diagnosis, Assessment Reporting, Structured Interviews</td>
<td>Chapters 3-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>Semi-Structured Interviews Test-Worthiness, Mid-Term Review</td>
<td>Chapters 4-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>MID-TERM Exam Groups Meet</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/20</td>
<td>IQ, Aptitude, Achievement Tests</td>
<td>Chapters 6-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/27</td>
<td>Intelligence Testing, Career Assessment</td>
<td>Chapter 9-10</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>Personality Assessments, Projective Testing</td>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>Informal Assessment Strategies Giving Feedback to Clients</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>DUE: Final Exam Group Presentation</td>
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</table>

*Please Note: The weekly schedule is offered as a guideline only and is subject to revision by the instructor based on the needs of the class.*