

Argosy University—San Francisco Bay Area
COURSE SYLLABUS

C7410
Assessment in Counseling
[Fall II 2011 - blended format]

Class Hours: Online instruction: October 27th to December 17th
November 5th & 6th (9:00am – 5:00pm)
December 3rd & 4th (9:00am – 5:00pm)

Faculty Information

Faculty Name: Susan Guzzo, Psy.D
Campus: San Francisco Bay Area
Contact Information: Phone: 510/282-0680
sguzzo@argosy.edu
Office Hours: by appointment

Argosy Communication:

If you choose to use an email address other than the assigned Argosy email, please be advised that you do so at your own risk. Any difficulty receiving Argosy emails will be your responsibility.

Course Pre-requisites: None

Course Description:

This course is designed to build on students' current understanding of psychological assessment in developing expertise for its practical application in clinical settings. The process of clinical assessment will be explored in detail, from making effective referrals to understanding and utilizing the resulting evaluation reports. Students will review commonly used assessment tools and their functions, including the ethical, legal, and effective use of these instruments. Leveraging the underlying statistical concepts and psychometric properties, students will gain familiarity in reading test results. It is assumed that students are familiar with basic descriptive statistics, reliability, and validity; a brief review will be provided. The implications of testing with cultural and special needs populations will also be covered.

Required Textbook:

Whiston, S. (2008). Principles and Applications of Assessment in Counseling, 3rd Edition. Alexandria: Brooks/Cole Publishing (eBook)
ISBN # 9780495501978

Recommended Textbook:

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition*. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.

Technology: Pentium III CPU/ Windows 98; 128MB RAM printer; Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat (full version), Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.5 (PC), 5.0 (MAC), or Netscape Navigator 4.08. Norton Antivirus.

Course length: 7.5 Weeks
Contact Hours: 22.5 Hours
Credit Value: 3.0

Final Date to Drop the Class:

To receive a “W” grade a student must officially drop this class by the date listed below that corresponds to this course’s term and length. Students may not withdraw from this course after this date. If a student chooses to discontinue course work after the final drop date, the student may receive an “F” grade for the course.

Session II (7.5 week courses):
Deadline for withdrawal “W”: November 30, 2011

Program Outcomes: This course addresses Program Outcome One: Professional Practice, Competency 1: Assessment and Skills, and Program Outcome Four: Ethics.

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course students will

- 1) Demonstrate familiarity with relevant measures of intelligence, achievement, personality, and ability.
- 2) Demonstrate understanding of the cultural implications (ethnicity, language, gender, age, SES) of assessment and potential for test bias.
- 3) Demonstrate understanding of the ethical implications of assessment.
- 4) Demonstrate the ability to reference statistical concepts in understanding test results.
- 5) Evaluate the validity and usefulness of evaluation reports.
- 6) Utilize test results to improve treatment planning and client self-awareness.

Course Requirements:

This course is taught in a blended format that involves in-class didactic and group learning experiences paired with posted lecture material, discussion groups, and assignments. Online course curriculum will be presented through the Argosy Internet eCollege platform. Throughout the duration of the course, students will be expected to read the required texts, participate in online discussions, and complete all assignments as indicated; students will also be expected to participate meaningfully to class discussions and exercises.

Assignments should be submitted through the appropriate Dropbox in eCollege and are due by 9pm Pacific Time on their respective due dates. **No late work will be accepted without prior permission from the instructor.** In addition, Argosy's plagiarism policy is strongly in effect in my classes. **All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. It also should be crystal clear that all work should be your own, and every assignment submitted should contain proper citation of any references used in APA style (as appropriate). Material from other sources that is not cited yet submitted in your name will be considered plagiarism and handled according to Argosy policies, including failing the class and a referral to SPDC.**

Since online discussion is the heart of effective online learning, students are expected (i.e., required) to post to the discussion board to demonstrate their full engagement with the material (a minimum of three times per week). Students will respond to the weekly discussion thread presented, respond to classmates' ideas in a thoughtful manner, and/or start a new discussion thread that relates to the material in some manner.

Weekly Schedule:

Assignments are subject to change—please refer to the Learning Activities section posted each week online, as it is the definitive source and supersedes the syllabus

Week 1: 10/27/11

Introduction and Review of Statistical Concepts

Read Chapters 1 & 2

Assignment 1: Introduction online

Assignment 2: Online Assessment

Reflections

Week 2: 10/31/11

Tests of Intelligence and Achievement

Read Chapters 3, 4, 5, and article

Assignment 2: Article Critique

Reflections

Weekend 1: 11/5 & 11/6

Make sure that you have completed all the reading prior to the weekend. You will be expected to contribute meaningfully and substantively to the discussion of the material.

Week 3: 11/7/11

Specialized Tests and Neuropsychological Tests

Read Chapter 6, 7, 8, and 10

Assignment 1: Case Study

Assignment 2: Instrument Analysis

Reflections

Week 4: 11/14/11

Tests of Personality

Read Chapters 12 and 13, and 2 articles
Assignment 1: Case Study Response
Reflections

Week 5: 11/21/11

Culture and Ethics in Assessment

Read Chapters 14, and Therapeutic Assessment handout from Week 1
Assignment: Discussion (2 questions—respond to both)
Reflections

Week 6: 11/28/11

Evaluating Reports

Read Chapter 15, and 2 articles
Assignment 1: Case Study
Reflections

Weekend 2: 12/3 & 12/4

Week 7: 12/5/11

Now what? Utilizing Test Results

Read Chapter 16 and 3 articles
Assignment 2: Reaction Paper
Reflections

Week 8: 12/12/11

Summary

Complete Reflection Paper
Assignment 1: Case Study Analysis

Grading Criteria:

Please refer to the grading criteria posted online for each assignment. These points awarded will determine your grade.

Criteria for Class Participation

Grade	
A = 90+	Student actively participated in discussions in >80% of class sessions; nearly all comments were thought provoking and incorporated material from the assigned readings
B = 80 – 89	Student actively participated in discussions in >80% of class sessions; most of the comments were thought provoking and incorporated material from the assigned readings

C = 70 – 79	Student participated in discussions in >70% of class sessions; comments/questions demonstrate a surface level understanding of course topics
F = <70	Student participated in <70% of class sessions; comments/questions did not demonstrate an understanding of course topics, or student did not participate in class discussions.

Criteria for Paper

Grade	
A = 90+	Paper is in appropriate APA format, well thought out and provides excellent coverage of material
B = 80 – 89	Paper is well thought out, but is missing one component of APA format OR coverage of material is adequate
C = 70 – 79	Insufficient number of references provided AND limited coverage
F = <70	Paper is disorganized AND coverage is not adequate AND does not conform to APA format, or there is evidence of plagiarism , or paper not submitted

Grading Scale

A	100 – 93
A-	92 – 90
B+	89 – 88
B	87 – 83
B-	82 – 80
C+	79 – 78
C	77 - 73
C-	72 – 70
D+	69 – 68
D	67 – 63
D-	62 – 60
F	59 and below

Library

All resources in Argosy University’s online collection are available through the Internet. Students can access the online collection by logging into the student portal and clicking on the library link.

Library Resources: Argosy University’s core online collection features over **48,889 full-text journals and 23,000 electronic books** and other content covering all academic subject areas including Business & Economics, Career & General Education, Computers, Engineering & Applied Science, Humanities, Science, Medicine & Allied Health, and Social & Behavior Sciences. Many titles are directly accessible through the Online Public Access Catalog at <http://library.argosy.edu>.

In addition to online resources, Argosy University’s onsite collections contain a wealth of subject-specific research materials searchable in the Online Public Access Catalog. Catalog searching is easily limited to individual campus collections. Alternatively, students can search combined collections of all Argosy University Libraries.

Academic Policies

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism: In an effort to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity during the learning process, Argosy University requires that the submission of all course assignments represent the original work produced by that student. All sources must be documented through normal scholarly references/citations and all work must be submitted using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition (2009)*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association (APA) format. Please refer to Appendix A in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 6th Edition* for thesis and paper format. Students are encouraged to purchase this manual (required in some courses) and become familiar with its content as well as consult the Argosy University catalog for further information regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

Scholarly writing: The faculty at Argosy University is dedicated to providing a learning environment that supports scholarly and ethical writing, free from academic dishonesty and plagiarism. This includes the proper and appropriate referencing of all sources. You may be asked to submit your course assignments through “Turnitin,” (www.turnitin.com), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin compares submitted papers to billions of pages of content and provides a comparison report to your instructor. This comparison detects papers that share common information and duplicative language.

Americans with Disabilities Act Policy

It is the policy of Argosy University to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If a student with disabilities needs accommodations, the student must notify the Director of Student Services. Procedures for documenting student disability and the development of reasonable accommodations will be provided to the student upon request.

Students will be notified by the Director of Student Services when each request for accommodation is approved or denied in writing via a designated form. To receive accommodation in class, it is the student’s responsibility to present the form (at his or her discretion) to the instructor. In an effort to protect student privacy, the Department of Student Services will not discuss the accommodation needs of any student with instructors. Faculty may not make accommodations for individuals who have not been approved in this manner.

The Argosy University Statement Regarding Diversity

Argosy University prepares students to serve populations with diverse social, ethnic, economic, and educational experiences. Both the academic and training curricula are designed to provide an environment in which students can develop the skills and attitudes essential to working with people from a wide range of backgrounds.

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Instructional Contact Hours/Credit

Students can expect 15 hours of instructional engagement for every 1 semester credit hour of a course. Instructional engagement activities include lectures, presentations, discussions, group-work, and other activities that would normally occur during class time. Instructional engagement activities may occur in a face-to-face meeting, or in the eclassroom.

In addition to instructional engagement, students can expect to complete 30 hours of outside work for every 1 semester credit hour of a course. Outside work includes preparing for and completing readings and assignments. Such outside work includes, but is not limited to, all research associated with completing assignments, work with others to complete a group project, participation in tutorials, labs, simulations and

other electronic activities that are not a part of the instructional engagement, as well as any activities related to preparation for instructional engagement.

At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph above shall be applied for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

APA Style Requirements

Minimum required elements of APA style for written assignments in first year courses include the following:

- Cover page that meets APA style requirements of elements and formatting (i.e., title of paper, name, course number/course name, Argosy University, semester or term and year, running head in left header, and page number in right header)
- Body of paper with critical voice (e.g., synthesis of opinions/ comments) supported by paraphrasing of credible sources using the two styles of APA citing (out-of-text and in-text) with correct punctuation; avoid use of 1st person singular “I” (except personal reflection papers) and 2nd person singular “you;” use of third person plural “we” acceptable to reflect universal human experience
- Quoted passages to include author, year, and page number; emphasis on paraphrasing with minimal use of quotations to support critical voice
- Reference page that meets APA style requirements to include appropriate sources (e.g., no Wikipedia), references that match citations (e.g., no references listed that are not also cited), and correct formatting/punctuation
- APA style formatting to include 1” margins, running head in left header, page number in right header, Times New Roman 12 point font, left justification of all passages, indentation of 5 spaces for new paragraphs, 1 ½ line spacing and double sided pages (modified APA in spirit of promoting “green” for MACP program)
- Grammatical and punctuation errors edited to address incomplete sentences, run-on sentences, awkward sentences, inconsistent verb tense, inconsistent pronoun use, redundancy of ideas/words, use of extremes or superlatives (e.g., “always,” “never,” “very,”) and conversational or idiomatic language