



---

Psychology 671 (L01)		Psychological Assessment of Adults		Fall 2015
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. Kristin von Ranson	<b>Lecture Location:</b>	AD 247	
<b>Phone:</b>	403-220-7085	<b>Lecture Days/Time:</b>	T 9:30-12:15	
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:kvonrans@ucalgary.ca">kvonrans@ucalgary.ca</a>	<b>Lab Instructors:</b>	Michael Spilka Leah Tobin	
<b>Office:</b>	AD 272	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:mspilka@ucalgary.ca">mspilka@ucalgary.ca</a> <a href="mailto:ltobin@ucalgary.ca">ltobin@ucalgary.ca</a>	
<b>Office Hours:</b>	By appointment	<b>Lab location/time:</b>	EDC 286; R 2:00-4:45pm	

---

### Course objectives

In this course we review major theoretical, professional, and ethical issues in the psychological assessment of adults, and help students develop competence in the administration and interpretation of selected assessment methods and instruments, including clinical interviews and specific intellectual and personality tests. Students receive supervised practical experience in both laboratory and clinical practicum settings. Development of students' critical evaluation skills is also emphasized.

### Required texts and readings

Selected readings are available via D2L. In addition, the following required texts are available at the University of Calgary Bookstore and on reserve at the University of Calgary library:

Haynes, S. N., Smith, G. T., & Hunsley, J. D. (2011). *Scientific foundations of clinical assessment*. New York: Routledge. [HSH]

Groth-Marnat, G. (2009). *Handbook of psychological assessment* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: John Wiley and Sons. [G-M]

Suhr, J. A. (2015). *Psychological Assessment: A Problem-Solving Approach*. New York: Guilford. [S]

### Integrity and security of test materials

Responsible professional conduct requires that you exercise strict control over the integrity and security of the assessment materials with which you are provided during this course. You may not supply materials or allow access to tests, individual items, or protocols to unqualified users, i.e., those outside the clinical psychology training program.

## Evaluation

You must successfully complete the following course requirements, and achieve a passing grade in both the class and lab components, to pass this course.

1. **Article Leading (4 x 5% = 20%)** You will lead the discussion of 4 articles or readings. Your goal is to not simply summarize the readings, but to create interest and discussion. You can also integrate others' thought questions with your own ideas and questions. Guide us through the key issues and some examples of relevant research, without rushing or cutting off useful discussion.
2. **Thought Questions (10 x 1% = 10%)** You will post a thought question on D2L prior to each readings-based class. Your goal is to identify and post an issue, criticism, or stimulating thought related to that week's readings. Try to keep your thought question to a paragraph. You must post it no later than 10pm the night before class. Be sure to read everyone's thought questions before coming to class.
3. **Seminar Participation (10 x 1% = 10%)** You are expected to contribute to discussions during each readings-based class.
4. **Midterm exam (30%)** This exam covers all course material and readings through October 20. The exam will include definitions and short and/or long answer questions. No study aids will be permitted.
5. **Final exam (30%)** - Date TBA. This exam covers all course material and readings on and after October 27. The exam will include definitions and short and/or long answer questions. No study aids will be permitted.
6. **Laboratory (Pass/Fail)** A separate outline is provided for this practically-oriented part of the course, which covers topics such as interviewing skills, WAIS-IV administration and interpretation, and report-writing skills.
7. **Complete one or two assessments in a clinical practicum setting and submit reports (Pass/Fail)** In November, students will complete an intellectual and personality assessment (e.g., WAIS-IV plus MMPI-2 or MCMI-II) of a patient under the supervision of a registered psychologist. They will be expected to integrate assessment information from various sources and to use these data in formulating treatment plans. Students must behave in a highly professional and ethical manner at all times, both on- and off-site. Professional demeanor, clinical skills, and report-writing ability will be evaluated by your on-site supervisors on a pass/fail basis. In the unlikely event that you fail, you will be required to repeat the practicum component of the course.

## Grading Scale:

A+	96-100%	B+	80-84%	C+	67-71%	D+	54-58%
A	90-95%	B	76-79%	C	63-66%	D	50-53%
A-	85-89%	B-	72-75%	C-	59-62%	F	0-49%

As stated in the University Calendar, it is at the instructor's discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average of term work and final examinations is between

two letter grades. To determine final letter grades, final percentage grades will be rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage (i.e., 89.5% will be rounded up to 90%; 89.4% will be rounded down to 89%, etc.).

### **Tentative Schedule**

For selected readings, course announcements, and information, visit [d2l.ucalgary.ca](http://d2l.ucalgary.ca).

Class	Date	Topic
1	T Sep 8 Lecture	Foundations of psychological assessment
2	<b><u>M Sep 21</u></b> <b>AD 051</b> Lecture	Psychometrics Scale development, scale evaluation, and assessment utility
3	T Sep 22 Lecture	Scale development, scale evaluation, and assessment utility Why use multisource assessment data? Context of clinical assessment
4	T Sep 29 Seminar	Clinical judgment The use of questionable tests
5	T Oct 6 Seminar	Legal and ethical issues in assessment Clinical interviewing Pulling it all together
6	T Oct 13 Seminar	Behavioural and cognitive-behavioural assessment Intellectual assessment
7	T Oct 20 Seminar	Personality assessment overview
8	<b>T Oct 27</b>	<b>Midterm exam</b>
9	T Nov 3 Seminar	MMPI-2
10	<b><u>M Nov 9</u></b> <b>AD 051</b> Seminar	MCMI-II PAI
11	T Nov 17 Seminar	Science-practice gap Suicidality assessment Discredited tests
12	T Nov 24 Seminar	Projective techniques Brief measures Progress monitoring
13	T Dec 1 Seminar	Sociocultural issues in assessment
14	T Dec 8 Seminar	The relationship between psychological assessment and treatment Wrap-up
--	Final exam period	<b>Final exam</b>

### **Reappraisal of Grades**

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

### **Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct**

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct.

### **Academic Accommodation**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of this course.

### **Absence From A Test/Exam**

Makeup tests/exams are **NOT** an option without an official University medical excuse (see the University Calendar). A completed Physician/Counselor Statement will be required to confirm absence from a test/exam for health reasons; the student will be required to pay any cost associated with this Statement. Students who miss a test/exam have up to 48 hours to contact the instructor and to schedule a makeup test/exam. Students who do not schedule a makeup test/exam with the instructor within this 48-hour period forfeit the right to a makeup test/exam. At the instructor's discretion, a makeup test/exam may differ significantly (in form and/or content) from a regularly scheduled

test/exam. Except in extenuating circumstances (documented by an official University medical excuse), a makeup test/exam must be written within 2 weeks of the missed test/exam during exam make-up hours provided by the department <http://psychology.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/exam-and-course-information#mves>.

### Travel During Exams

Consistent with University regulations, students are expected to be available to write scheduled exams at any time during the official December and April examination periods. Requests to write a make-up exam because of conflicting travel plans (e.g., flight bookings) will NOT be considered by the department. Students are advised to wait until the final examination schedule is posted before making any travel arrangements. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam. Under no circumstances will this be accommodated by the department.

### Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act

The FOIP legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve tests and assignments from a public place. Therefore, tests and assignments may be returned to students during class/lab, or during office hours, or via the Department Office (Admin 275), or will be made available only for viewing during exam review sessions scheduled by the Department. Tests and assignments will be shredded after one year. Instructors should take care to not link students' names with their grades, UCIDs, or other FOIP-sensitive information.

### Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

### Student Ombudsman's Office

The Office of the Student Ombudsmen provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. The office can be reached at 403-220-6420 or [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca) (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>)

### Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.  
Call 403-220-5333.

### Important Dates

The last day to drop this course with no "W" notation and **still receive a tuition fee refund is September 18, 2015**. Last day for registration/change of registration is **September 21, 2015**. The last day to withdraw from this course is **December 8, 2015**.