

PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

Prof. Shira Tibon

Fall Semester

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Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30-11:30

Short description:

Personality assessment in clinical practice is a complex intriguing process, which provides information about how people think, feel and act. The assessment process consists of data collection from various sources, including the clinical interview and two types of psychological tests: performance-based methods, known as projective tests (e.g., the Rorschach Inkblot Method) and self-report questionnaires (e.g., the Big Five Inventory). The integration of these data with behavioral observations is most helpful for drawing inferences about personality traits and mental states, for distinguishing between healthy and psychopathological functioning, and for understanding how individuals perceive external reality (e.g., whether internal experiences that are projected on the outer world might lead to distorted perception, faulty judgment, and illogical thinking). The seminar will focus on some of the major tests used in the clinical practice. The students will learn how to administer these tests and how to formulate general hypotheses based on the linkage between the collected data and personality functioning.

Assessment:

Minor Assignments

Oral Presentations. The students will describe in class their experience during the clinical interview and the administration of the tests to an adult who volunteered to be tested.

20% of the final grade.

Mid Term:

A preliminary report (1-2 pages) based on the data derived from the clinical interview. The report will include background information, behavioral observation, and initial impressions about the person's cognitive functioning, affective experience, interpersonal relatedness and self-perception.

20% of the final grade.

Final requirement:

Seminar paper (18-25 pages), double-spaced, excluding bibliography. The paper will consist of three sections: (a) Introduction (b) Case Illustration (c) Discussion. Students who take the

seminar as elective will submit referat papers (8-13 pages), double-spaced, excluding bibliography. The submission dates are set by the university and the Liberal Arts Program.

50% of the final grade.

Participation:

Active participation in class

10% of the final grade.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Students should keep all electronic apparatuses turned-off while in class.