

PSY-313: Psychological Assessment (3 CHs)

Prerequisite: None

Course Description:

This is the first and foundational of the two courses on Psychological Assessment. In this course students will learn about understanding referral questions and addressing these by conducting initial interviews and history taking, conducting mental status examination, behavioral observations, selecting appropriate tools for psychological assessment, and integrating findings from these different sources into coherent written reports. The emphasis of the course will be on developing interviewing and analytical skills with attention to social, educational, cultural, and ethical factors involved in the process of assessment.

Course Objectives:

The course will facilitate students to:

- Understand the definition and goals of psychological assessment.
- Understand the role of referral questions in psychological assessment.
- Practice history taking interviews and behavioral observations.
- Know about basic conceptual, practical, ethical issues related to psychological assessment.
- Learn about types of assessment techniques and tools.
- Learn report writing.

Course Learning Outcomes:

After the completion of the course, the students will be able to:

- Explain and assess psychometric properties of tests.
- Choose appropriate assessment methods in the context of referral questions.
- Conduct history taking interviews and behavioral observations.
- Be able to understand the basic conceptual, practical, ethical issues related to psychological assessment and apply them.
- Demonstrate learning through write integrative assessment reports suited to undergraduate level

Course Contents:

- Review of course objectives, course plan and expected learning outcomes, Approach, Gaining information about students' current level of understanding and expectations from course.
- Overview of psychological Assessment; Difference between testing and assessment
- Processes involved in psychometry vs. assessment.
- Evaluation and selection of tests – clinical, cultural, technical, practical, and ethical considerations
- APA Ethical guidelines for psychological assessment
- Understanding referral question
- Understanding various components of assessment - Initial intake/history taking- interviewing different populations; Behavioral observations; MSE; Informal Assessment
- Report writing

Textbook:

- Coaley, K. (2014). An introduction to psychological assessment and psychometrics. Sage.
- Cohen, R. J., Schneider, W. J., & Swerdlik, R. T. M., Sturman, E (2022). *Psychological testing and assessment: An introduction to tests and measurement* (3rd ed.). Mc Graw Hill.

Reference Books:

- Kaplan, R. M., & Saccuzzo, D. P. (2009). Psychological testing: Principles, applications, and issues (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.
- Reynolds C.R. & Kamphaus, R.W. (2003). Handbook of Psychological and Educational Assessment of Children. Intelligence, Aptitude, and Achievement. 2ndEd. The Guilford press. | ISBN-10: 1572308834 | ISBN-13: 978-1572308831
- Groth-Marnat, G. (2009). *Handbook of psychological assessment*. John Wiley & Sons.