EDCP615: Counseling 1: Appraisal

Spring 2011

Instructor: Margaretha S. Lucas, Ph.D.
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  mlucas1@umd.edu
Course time and room: Tuesday, 4:15-7:00
Office hours: by appointment

Course description: The purpose of this course is to provide students with the basic knowledge and skills necessary to use, conduct and interpret assessments generally used in counseling fields. The course serves the larger goal of producing professional counselors who will function as reflective practitioners in a pluralistic society.

Course objectives: Objectives for this course were selected to reflect the standards for assessment content of the Council on rehabilitation Education (CORE) and related counseling programs. As a result of participation in this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the purpose of testing.
- Understand basic measurement principles, statistical and research skills needed to select, administer, and interpret tests.
- Understand legal and ethical issues in measurement
- Understand types of tests and assessment procedures, particularly those used frequently in the counseling profession.
- Understand diversity, including disability issues in measurement and assessment
- Understand environmental assessment and technological issues in computer-based assessment.


INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS: Class time will be devoted primarily to lecture, discussion, exercises related to measurement, and student presentations. Students have to complete the assigned readings prior to coming to class and be prepared to discuss the readings in class. If you have to miss a class, discuss this with me beforehand. You will be responsible for knowing the material discussed in class, so make sure you get notes and handouts from others.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with a documented disability (permanent or temporary, physical or non-physical) needing special accommodation during the semester should make an appointment to meet with the instructor at the beginning of the semester.
ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The University of Maryland, College Park has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity, administered by the Student Honor Council. This code sets standards for academic integrity at Maryland for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student you are responsible for upholding these standards for this course. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Student Honor Council, please visit http://www.studenthonorncouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html

The university has a nationally recognized Honor Code, administered by the Honor Council. The Honor Pledge reads as follows: “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.” The university honor code applies to both undergraduate and graduate students alike, but the implementation may be altered to account for the greater academic experience that typifies graduate students.

Therefore, on your final written assignment, I will ask you to include and sign a slightly revised version of the Honor Pledge that refers to all of your work for the semester, rather than to write the Pledge on each piece of your work: Please write: “I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this semester’s assignments/examinations”.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES: The University System of Maryland policy on religious observances provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances.

Additionally, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. Prior notification is especially important in connection with final examinations, since failure to reschedule a final examination before the conclusion of the final examination period may result in loss of credits during the semester.

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**EVALUATION CRITERIA:** The course is graded A-F. In accordance with Graduate School policy, a grade of I (incomplete) is assigned only for work which has been of passing quality through the academic term but which, for good reason, cannot be completed within the time frame of the term. Students for whom special circumstances may warrant an I at the end of the semester, must discuss this matter with the instructor before the last day of class. **Grades for late assignments will be lowered one grade for every day they are late.** Poorly written assignments/papers/tests will receive lowered grades regardless of the content. (Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation.) Papers should be written APA style. Plagiarized materials will result in 0 points on the assignment as well as possible failure of the course.

In addition to the requirements of students reading assignments before class, regular and timely class attendance and informed class participation, course grades will be based on the following:

1. Midterm on 30 points
2. Presentation on 30 points
3. Final Paper due May 10 40 points

Grades:

- **A+** 100-98
- **A** 97-93
- **A-** 92-90
- **B+** 89-87
- **B** 86-82
- **B-** 81-79
- **C+** 78-76
- **C** 75-71
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Assignments

1. CLASS PRESENTATION:

- Gather the information for your presentation from your textbook and other resources. You need to use at least one resource other than the textbook.
- Send an outline of your presentation to me mlucas1@umd.edu at least three days before your presentation.
- At the beginning of your presentation, hand-out an outline on your presentation for everyone in class. Include a reference list of your resources.
- Each presentation in class will take approximately 50 minutes. Make sure to include Basic psychometric / statistical principles One or more examples explaining the basic principles.

After the presentation class members will have 10 minutes to ask you questions about the concepts.

2. FINAL PAPER:

- Select an assessment instrument specific to your specialty area. Please submit your instrument and a brief outline to me by week 6.
- Use a library reference source (i.e. Mental Measurements Yearbook, Tests in Print) as well as one additional reference, other than your textbook, from the literature to complete the assignment.
- Write a 8-10 pages double spaced (APA style) paper and include
  - Name of the measure
  - Description of it (type of measure, domain, give item examples of scales)
  - Availability, cost, scoring information, publisher name
  - Measure development information: Does it test a theory? Is it a functional measure?
  - Psychometric properties
  - Critique in terms of strengths and weaknesses for your specialty area
  - Attach references