

Forensic Assessment – PSGA 6190 – Summer 2004

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Psychologists who work in legal settings are often confronted with unique questions and diagnostic dilemmas that rarely arise in traditional clinical settings. As a result, a number of specialized assessment techniques have been developed over the past few decades, many of which are designed to address specific psycho-legal issues. In this course, students will develop a theoretical understanding and practical experience selecting and administering specialized forensic assessment instruments. The course will be roughly equally divided between understanding the theoretical underpinnings and psycho-legal utility of forensic assessment instruments as well as practical issues in their administration, scoring, and interpretation. The types of forensic assessment instruments covered include tests of malingering and deception, risk assessment tools and techniques, sex offender and psychopathy assessment, and personality assessment in the context of forensic evaluations. In addition, more specialized instruments such as those designed to assess competence to stand trial and make medical decisions, and tools for child custody evaluation will be reviewed.

Grading will be based on three factors (weighted equally):

Scoring/Interpretation of first 2 test protocols
Final Forensic Report
Attendance/Participation

Recommended Texts:

Heilbrun, K. (2001). *Forensic Mental Health Assessment*. New York: Kluwer Academic

Rogers, R. (1998). *Clinical assessment of malingering and deception*, (2nd Ed). New York: Guilford

Tentative Course Schedule

<u>Class</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction to Forensic Assessment/The Daubert Standard
2	Forensic Interviewing/Psychopathy Checklist
3	Malingering and Deception I: Specialized Instruments
4	Malingering and Deception II: Multiscale Inventories
5	Violence Risk I: Clinical/Structured Clinical Assessment – Test report 1 due
6	Violence Risk II: Actuarial Assessment
7	Competence to Stand Trial and Confess – Test report 2 due
8	Child Custody Instruments
9	Assessment of Juveniles
10	Last class / Report writing – Final report due

Reading List

1. **Forensic Assessment/Psychopathy**

Cooke, D. J., Michie, C., Hart, S. D., & Hare, R. D. (1999). Evaluating the Screening Version of the Hare Psychopathy Checklist-Revised (PCL:SV): An item response theory analysis. *Psychological Assessment, 11*, 3-13.

Hare, R. D. (1998). The Hare PCL-R: Some issues concerning its use and misuse. *Legal and Criminological Psychological Psychology, 3*, 99-119.

Heilbrun, K. (1992). The role of psychological testing in forensic assessment. *Law and Human Behavior, 16*, 257-272.

PCL-R Manual excerpt

2. **Malingering/Deception**

Greene, R. L. (1998). Assessment of malingering and defensiveness by multiscale inventories. In R. Rogers (Ed.). *Clinical assessment of malingering and deception, 2nd Ed.* (pp. 169-207). New York: Guilford Press.

Mossman, D. (2003). *Daubert*, cognitive malingering, and test accuracy. *Law and Human Behavior, 27*, 229-249.

Mossman, D. & Hart, K. J. (1996). Presenting evidence of malingering to courts: insights from decision theory. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 14*, 271-291.

VIP / SIRS / TOMM Manuals

3. **Violence Risk**

Hanson, R. K., & Thornton, D. (2000). Improving risk assessments for sex offenders: a comparison of three actuarial scales. *Law and Human Behavior, 24*, 119-136

Litwack, T. R. (2001). Actuarial versus clinical prediction of dangerousness. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law, 7*, 409-443.

Quinsey, V. L., Harris, G. T., Rice, M. E., and Cormier, C. A. (1998). *Violent Offenders: Assessing and Managing Risk*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association Press, pp. 141-169.

Webster, C. D., Hucker, S. J., & Bloom, H. (2001). Transcending the actuarial versus clinical polemic in assessing risk for violence. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 29*, 659-665.

HCR-20, SARA manuals

4. **Competence**

Otto, R. K., Poythress, N. G., Nicholson, R. A., Edens, J. F., Monahan, J., Bonnie, R. J., Hoge, S. K., & Eisenberg, M. (1998). Psychometric properties of the MacArthur Competence Assessment Tool – Criminal Adjudication. *Psychological Assessment, 10*, 435-443.

Zapf, P. A., & Viljoen, J. L. (2003). Issues and considerations regarding the use of assessment instruments in the evaluation of competency to stand trial. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 21*, 351-367.

MacCAT, Miranda Comprehension Manuals

5. Child Custody

LaFortune, K. A. & Carpenter, B. N. (1998). Custody evaluations: A survey of mental health professionals. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, *16*, 207-224.

Otto, R. K., & Collins, R. P. Use of the MMPI-2/MMPI-A in child custody evaluations. In Y. S. Ben-Porath, J. R. Graham, G. C. N. Hall, R. D. Hirschman & M. S. Zaragoza (Eds.) *Forensic Applications of the MMPI-2*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 222-252.

Quinnell, F. A., Bow, J. N. (2000). Psychological tests used in child custody evaluations. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, *19*, 491-501.

6. Assessment of Juveniles

Grisso, T. (1998). *Forensic Evaluation of Juveniles*. Sarasota, FL: Professional Resource Press, pp. 127-158, 195-226

Grisso, T., Barnum, R., Fletcher, K. E., Cauffman, E., & Peuschold, D. (2001). Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument for mental health needs of juvenile justice youths. *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, *40*, 541-548.

Leistico, A. R., & Salekin, R. T., (2003). Testing the reliability and validity of the Risk, Sophistication-Maturity, and Treatment Amenability Instrument (RST-i): An assessment tool for juvenile offenders. *International Journal of Forensic Mental Health*, *2*, 101-117.

Lexcen, F. J., Vincent, G. M., & Grisso, T. (2004). Validity and structure of a self-report measure of youth psychopathy. *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, *22*, 69-84.

7. Report Writing/Testimony

Borum, R. & Grisso, T. (1996). Establishing standards for criminal forensic reports: an empirical analysis. *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law*, *24*, 297-317.