

Brigham Young University  
CPSE 725, Winter 2020  
Class Syllabus

Projective & Objective Assessment of Personality  
Wednesdays, 9:00 AM – 11:30 PM 343 MCKB

**Instructor:** Stevan Lars Nielsen, Ph.D., [stevan.lars.nielsen@byu.edu](mailto:stevan.lars.nielsen@byu.edu), (801) 422-3035

**Objectives:** You will become acquainted with a range of personality assessment procedures and develop basic skills in several. Mastery and full application of these techniques will require future training and practice, under supervision in future training settings. You will learn a scientifically informed approach to assessment, then demonstrate application of that approach to a variety of assessment and evaluation procedures. It is impossible to provide exposure to the entire list of tests as there are thousands available.

You will learn to evaluate procedures and add to your colleagues' knowledge by presenting about one of more assessment techniques in class, highlighting the techniques involved in the procedure, it's strengths, and its weaknesses.

You will also add to the world's knowledge by making a substantial addition to Wikipedia (according to your instructor's estimation) about some feature of personality assessment. This could be the assessment technique you present in class, but need not be.

Required Text: Groth-Marnat & Wright (2016). *Handbook of psychological assessment*. 6<sup>th</sup> Ed. New York: Wiley. This text is available through Amazon.

Topics presented and discussed in class, the order of presentation, and the number of class sessions given to topics will be firmed up over the next few weeks. Our schedule will depend on your interests, our progress, and, especially, your instructor's interests and judgments about how we are doing.

**Grading:** Your grade will be determined by your performance on weekly exercises, class participation, and the final exam. You will also be expected to complete all assigned readings and verify that they have been completed. You are expected to take the MMPI-2, MCMI-III, OQ45, NEO-PI, Rorschach Inkblot Test, and other tests as discussed provided. Results for these procedures are for your use only and will remain strictly confidential. Your instructor will not be able to identify you from your test results. You will take the assessment, receive the results, sometimes scoring the assessment yourself, and interpret the results for yourself. You are encouraged to maintain possession of your profiles as reference points in your ongoing study of assessment. If we can coordinate a reasonable way for you to administer/interpret live assessments in your practicum, we will. This has proven to be unpredictable in the past. If not, we will use case studies for practice.

**Honor Code Standards:** In keeping with the principles of the BYU Honor Code, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic work. Academic honesty means, most fundamentally, that any work you present as your own must in fact be your own work and not

that of another. Violations of this principle may result in a failing grade in the course and additional disciplinary action by the university. Some assignments may be given as joint or group participation exercises. Students are also expected to adhere to the Dress and Grooming Standards. Adherence demonstrates respect for yourself and others and ensures an effective learning and working environment. It is the university's expectation, and my own expectation in class, that each student will abide by all Honor Code standards. Please call the Honor Code Office at (801) 422-2847 if you have questions about those standards.

**Preventing Sexual Discrimination and Harassment:** Sexual discrimination and harassment (including student-to-student harassment) is prohibited both by the law (Title IX) and by Brigham Young University policy. The University is required to investigate possible occurrences or violations. If you feel you are being subjected to sexual discrimination or harassment related to the class, please bring your concerns to the professor. *Please keep in mind that Title IX requires faculty to report identifiable instances of sexual assault involving students to the BYU Title IX Office.* You may also report sexual harassment or assault to the Title IX Office (1085 WSC; 801-422-8692). You may also lodge a complaint with the Equal Employment Office (D-240C ASB; 801-422-5895), Dean of Students Office (3500 WSC; 801-422-2731) or with the Honor Code Office (4440 WSC; 801-422-2847; 801-422-2767).

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability that may affect your performance in this course, you should get in touch with the University Accessibility Center (1520 WSC). This office can evaluate your disability and assist the professor in arranging for reasonable learning accommodations for the disability.