

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN  
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

<b>Course Number:</b>	SW 393R	<b>Instructor's name and email:</b>	Cynthia Franklin, PhD, LCSW, LMFT <a href="mailto:Cfranklin@mail.utexas.edu">Cfranklin@mail.utexas.edu</a>
		<b>Teaching Assistant and email:</b>	Katherine Montgomery <a href="mailto:kmontgomery@utexas.edu">kmontgomery@utexas.edu</a>
<b>Unique Number:</b>	62830	<b>Office Number:</b>	SSW 3.106C
<b>Semester:</b>	Spring, 2012	<b>Office Phone:</b>	471-0533, 413-1946
<b>Meeting Time/Place:</b>	Monday 11:30-2:30 SSW 2.118	<b>Office Hours:</b>	Monday 1:30-2:30 PM, Tuesday, 10:30-11:30 or by appointment.

**CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND DIFFERENTIAL  
DIAGNOSIS**

**Standardized Course Description**

This course will focus on the incidence, etiology, and assessment of health and mental health issues with children, adolescents, adults, and families. The framework of the course is based on social work values and the ethical decision making process, as illuminated by the [NASW Code of Ethics](#). Students will learn models of assessment to evaluate human functioning throughout the lifecycle. A bio-psycho-social-spiritual and cultural emphasis will be applied to the diagnostic categories within the DSM-IV TR. Students will develop an advanced understanding of people from diverse backgrounds, affirming, and respecting their strengths and differences. The course is built on the identification, analysis, and implementation of empirically-based assessment tools that have incorporated statistically valid reliability and validity studies. Major classification systems, such as Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders and the International Classification of Diseases, and other schemes for assessing and understanding human behavior, will be covered.

- I. **Standardized Course Objectives** By the end of the semester, students should be able to:
1. Demonstrate an in-depth understanding of biological, psychosocial, and cultural theories on the etiology of mental health and mental illness **(CL/APB3)**;
  2. Demonstrate the ability to apply methods of empirically-based assessment tools and techniques, including those developed through classificatory schemes, standardized measures, and qualitative typologies **(CL/APB10b)**;
  3. Demonstrate an advanced clinical knowledge of the relationship between assessment and intervention as it relates to the strengths, capacities and resources of individuals and families **(CL/APB10b)**;
  4. Demonstrate the ability to adapt assessment models to reflect an understanding, of persons from diverse backgrounds, including (but not limited to) race, ethnicity, culture, class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, physical or mental ability, age, and national origin **(CL/APB3 & CL/APB 5)**;
  5. Critically evaluate and analyze different theoretical and assessment models as to their efficacy in given situations. This includes: a) the adequacy of the research and knowledge base; b) the range of applicability; c) the value and ethical issues, including the student's own value system, and d)

the policy implications involved in assessment and delivery of services (CL/APB1, CL/APB3, & CL/APB 5);

6. Demonstrate an understanding of the limitations in using classification schemes in understanding human behavior and the danger of mislabeling people, particularly those from at-risk populations. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of social work values and the ethical decision making processes as they relate to ethical dilemmas in clinical assessment and practice (CL/APB10b).

The School of Social Work has been continuously accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) since 1952. In order to maintain our accreditation status, we engage in ongoing curriculum assessment to demonstrate compliance with CSWE's Education Policies and Accreditation Standards (EPAS). Several required courses in our curriculum are part of this ongoing assessment, including this course. Below is a list of the specific Educational Policies (EP) and Practice Behaviors (PB) that are assessed in this course. The complete EPAS can be optioned from your Student Handbook.

**EP 2.1.1. Identify as a professional social worker and conduct oneself accordingly.**

**CL/APB1** Evaluate professional roles and boundaries

Objectives 5

Assignment: Diagnostic Case exams

**EP2.1.3. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments.**

**CL/APB3** Utilize multiple perspectives to analyze client's strengths and problems

Objectives 1, 4, 5

Assignment: Diagnostic Case Exams

**EP2.1.5. Advance human rights and social and economic justice.**

**CL/APB5** Determine practice delivery and policies to promote social and economic justice and equity at multiple levels

Objectives 4, 5

Assignment: Assessment Manual

**EP2.1.10b. Assessment**

**CL/APB10b** Design and conduct a multi-level case assessment based on a systematic and conceptually-driven process

Objectives 2, 3, 6

Assignment: Assessment Manual

**III. Teaching Methods**

The primary teaching methods will be lectures, discussion, and group exercises. Guest lecturers, group presentations, and audio-visual presentations will also be utilized.

**IV. Required Texts and Materials**

American Psychiatric Association (APA). (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th Edition, Text Revision). Washington, DC: Author and DSM5 Revision list from APA( Use library version of DSMIV-TR and consult DSM5.org for proposed changes to DSM5)

Barlow, D.H. & Durand, V.M. ( 2012). *Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach* (5th Edition). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

Jordan, C. & Franklin, C. ( 2011). *Clinical assessment for social workers* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Chicago: Lyceum Press.

**Recommended:**

Preston, J.D., Oneal, J.H. & Talaga, M.C. (2010). *Handbook of psychopharmacology for therapists*. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger.

**Optional Not Required (for your Library). Purchase Optional.**

Fischer, J. & Corcoran, K. (2007). *Measures for Clinical Practice and Research: Couples, families, and Children: A sourcebook, Vol. 1.* Oxford University Press.

Fischer, J. & Corcoran, K. (2007). *Measures for Clinical Practice and Research: Adults: A sourcebook, Vol. 2.* Oxford University Press.

**Required Online Readings:**

Additional required readings are available on Blackboard under “Course Documents”. This syllabus and Dr. Franklin’s vitae is available under “Syllabus”. Check the *External Links* for helpful practice guidelines.

**V. Course Requirements**

The following course requirements will be completed during the semester, with a grade given for each assignment. Grading will be based on the final averages of cumulative grades across assignments and the student’s participation and attendance in the class.

***1) Examinations***

Two diagnostic case assessment exams will be given during the course of the semester (see course schedule for dates). Both exams are take-home. Both exams will consist of making an accurate diagnosis of case vignettes and discussion of other differential diagnosis that are to be ruled out in the making of the diagnosis. Students will also be expected to list the strengths of the client and appropriate psychosocial treatments and psychiatric medications that may be used to treat the diagnoses. Students will be allowed to use the DSM IV-TR and other notes during the exam. The first take home exam will have five cases and the second exam will have three cases. Both exams are short answer and test your knowledge of the DSM-TR, psychopharmacology, interventions, and class readings.

***2) Assessment Manual and Research Paper***

Each student is to select a problem area of interest from the DSM (i.e. ADHD, Conduct Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder, etc.) and conduct a scholarly study of this area in order to become an expert on the best way to assess this area. A typed, well organized, 15-20 page manual of assessment methods is to be submitted for a final grade. An outline for the manual is presented below. It is recommended that students start on this assignment right away because the professor expects a thorough search of the literature in social work, psychology, and psychiatry in order to demonstrate that one has mastered the up-to-date, and current knowledge and assessment methods. A search of the literature should include journal articles as well as pertinent book chapters or monographs. Emphasis should be given to the most recent (within the past 5-7 years) literature and studies. While no specific number of articles or resources is suggested as necessary for developing an assessment manual, an adequate reference list should be provided for the assessment resources obtained. It is assumed that most papers will have a lengthy bibliography to demonstrate one’s mastery of the assessment methods under study. It is recommended that students set up the manual using both headings and subheadings (i.e. interview methods, standardized measures, tasks etc.). See the Jordan and Franklin for examples of assessment methods and conduct thorough searches of your topic areas to discover valid and reliable measures used. **This assignment helps each student gain experience in applying the evidenced-based practice process and learning about the best assessment methods for a particular problem area.**

**Evidenced-Based Practice Process**

- 1) Converting one’s need for information into an answerable question.
- 2) Tracking down the best available information to answer the question
- 3) Critically appraise the evidence for its’ validity, reliability, impact and applicability.
- 4) Integrate this critical appraisal to improve practice skills and match our client’s unique values.
- 5) Evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency in executing steps 1-4 and seek ways to improve both for next time.

*You must follow the outline below in developing your assessment manual.*

## Assessment Manual Research Paper Outline

- I. **Abstract.**
- II. **Brief history and prevalence of the problem. Include data from epidemiological studies.**
- III. **Assessment methods and tools available to assess and diagnose the problem.**
  - a. Interview outline and key questions to ask.
  - b. Standardized measures: Rating scales and self report instruments.
    1. Description (i.e., This is a 33 item standardized self-report instrument measuring ...).
    2. Summary of validity (i.e. factor analytic studies) and reliability (include coefficients) of available assessment measures.
    3. Discussion of clinical utility of assessment tools and how they are being used in assessment and treatment of clients.
  - 4. Report a brief review of the populations (Norm groups) the measure is standardized on.**
  - 5. Include a section on uses of measures with vulnerable and diverse populations. Examples include people of color, and those of low socioeconomic standing. Indicate if it is a good measure for use with those populations and why or why not.**
  6. Include an example of at least one assessment and measure as a table or appendix. You should also fill out one for practice or use an example of one that is completed.
  - c. **Theoretical/Empirical** categories, or other typologies that are frequently used by clinicians to understand and assess the problem (Bi-polar 1, II, rapid cycling, type 1 & 2 alcoholic etc...). Summarize available evidence or lack thereof for various typologies and how distinctions they may be relevant to understanding a person's behavior and planning appropriate interventions.

**Also discuss How ideas about the disorder might be biased against, women, ethnic groups, and those of low socioeconomic classes?**
  - d. **Medical tests** (i.e. MRI) if relevant to clinical assessment or other scientific means to ascertain the existence of the problem. Summarize how the method is being used in clinical practice.
  - e. **Other methods (i.e. medical tests)** found in the literature that has special significance for the assessment of this problem area.
- IV. **Conclusion** that summarizes the knowledge discussed in the paper gives an example of how you will use this knowledge in your practice. Be specific here because I am looking for an assessment plan and a case example for how you would apply the assessment methods reviewed. ***Receive extra-credit for obtaining and filling out a measurement instrument and writing up the results in a one page summary that explains what the results mean and how this information might guide your work with clients.*** Attach to the manual.

### ***Suggestions for Background Work Needed to Develop the Assessment Manual Paper***

1. Obtain the empirical, research literature reviewing what are the most effective assessments and evaluation approaches for working with your problem area. You can discover this easily by reading reviews of the area, and doing a literature search in Psych Info for measures and assessments of the area. Certain books in social work may also be helpful to you such as the Jordan and Franklin book on the syllabus and the Corcoran & Walsh book on Assessment and diagnosis published by Oxford University Press or Fischer book on Clinical Measures suggested as an optional reading. There is a library of assessment resources in the social work LRC and UT libraries including the Mental Measurement Year book.
2. Search out available assessment tools and procedures, and provide specific details on how to deliver to perform the assessment on your problem area.
3. Outline the procedures and outline and illustrate interview protocols, and question to ask the client. Also review assessment phases and instruments, stages or steps to follow in order to conduct a client assessment.

4. To improve your grade, practice filling out and scoring one the assessment measures and include in the manual.
5. When appropriate consult experts in this area who may guide you to pre-existing assessment tools or clarify details of an assessment.

**Criteria for Getting an Excellent Grade on the Assessment Manual**

**In order to receive an excellent grade on the Assessment Manual it must be well researched, well written and accurately describe how a practitioner applies the assessment information. I should be able to look at your manual and use the assessment methods and you should be able to take the materials to your field placement and use it. Make the manual something that will benefit your work. Here are the criteria I will be looking for in your assessment manual:**

- 1) Did you cover all the material in the outline? Do not forget the questions to ask and the assessment instruments.
- 2) Did you demonstrate that you read the important assessment literature in this area? Do your citations indicate that you went beyond overview books, and Internet sites and looked at scholarly journal articles, treatment manuals, and assessment instrument review (s)?
- 3) Did you accurately describe the assessment methods in a way that you or another practitioner could read what you wrote and understand how to apply the intervention?
- 4) Was your assessment manual well organized and well written? Does the presentation of information look good and is easy to follow?
- 5) Did you use appropriate case examples, and outlines and tables to capture how a practitioner would conduct and apply the assessment, including filling out a measure and scoring it?
- 6) Does your work express effort and creativity? Did you produce a product that is helpful and that you could use later in your practice? Tip: Would you be proud to show it to your potential employer in a job interview?

**COURSE GRADING CRITERIA:**

Diagnostic Case Assessments:  
25% each of final grade  
(50% total)

Assessment Manual :  
50% of final grade

Total = 100%

Grading Scale for Graduate Students

100 - 94 = A  
93 - 90 = A-  
89 - 87 = B+  
86 - 84 = B  
83 - 80 = B-  
79 - 77 = C+  
76 - 74 = C  
73 - 70 = C- (Class failed / no credit: 73 and below)  
69 - 67 = D+  
66 - 64 = D  
63 - 60 = D-  
59 and below = F

Grading Scale: (Grades are rounded up to the next number at .5). Grading of all written assignments will take into account the quality of the writing as well as the content. The APA format should be followed. Written material should be carefully proof-read and corrected for errors in punctuation, typographical errors, and spelling errors. Good writing requires a reiterative process that must be followed if quality is to improve. It is a good idea to read your paper several times and if possible have someone else read it.

**ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES:**

<b>Diagnostic Case Exams</b>	<b>March 5</b> <b>April 9</b>
<b>Assessment Manual</b>	<b>April 30</b>

Graduate students must earn a minimum grade of C in the course for credit; also, graduate students must maintain an overall B average.

**VI. Class Policies**

1. It is important for social work practitioners to be punctual in both attendance and in meeting deadlines. Therefore, class attendance is expected, as is handing in assignments on time. Students will lose 5 points for each day that an assignment is late. Any adjustments in due dates MUST be discussed with the instructor at least 24 hours PRIOR to the regularly scheduled date.
2. Students who fail to attend class on a regular basis (missing more than one class without a valid excuse, e.g., medical documentation) may receive one course grade lower than their final grade when points are totaled.
3. Social work practitioners assume responsibility for themselves. Therefore, it is expected that work handed in will be your own. Scholastic dishonesty, including plagiarism and cheating during examinations, violates social work values and will result in recommendation for dismissal from the social work program and a referral to the Dean of Student's Office.
4. Social work practitioners are assertive and function as team members. Therefore, feedback about the course is welcome and the course will be viewed as a joint effort between students and the instructor.
5. Social work practitioners respect others. Therefore, differences in values, opinions, and feelings of class members and guest speakers will be respected.

6. Because of the length and scope of this assignment students may work with one partner (but no more than one) and develop a joint intervention manual paper. If a joint paper is written it is expected that each student will contribute equally to the research and writing of the paper. A summary of each student's contribution must be included along with the paper.

**VII. Course Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Text / Readings</b>
Week of 1/23	<p>Overview of Syllabus</p> <p>Overview of Course Introduction to Making Clinical Diagnosis: DSM and Assessment and Classification Systems</p> <p>DSM Multiaxial system</p> <p>Commonly Used Psychological Measures</p>	<p>Read Syllabus and examine resources on Blackboard site</p> <p>DSM-IV-TR (pp. 1-27)</p> <p>Barlow and Durand, <i>Chapter 3</i></p> <p>Brouillard, <i>Popular Psychological Tests</i></p> <p>Koocher, <i>Assessing the Quality of a Psychological Test Report</i></p> <p>Raskin &amp; Lewandowski, <i>The construction of disorder as human enterprise</i></p> <p>Jordan &amp; Franklin, <i>Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 5</i></p> <p>Williams, <i>Using DSM IV from Social Worker's Desk Reference</i></p> <p>Munson, <i>Guidelines for the DSM IV-TR from Social Workers Desk Reference</i></p> <p><i>New York Times, The Americanization of Mental Illness</i></p>

<p>Week of 1/30</p>	<p>Introduction to Making Clinical Diagnosis: DSM and Assessment and Classification Systems</p> <p>Using Assessment in intervention</p> <p>Mental Status Examination</p>	<p>Baker &amp; Trzepacz, <i>Mental Status Examination</i></p> <p>Brown, <i>Discomforts of the Powerless: Feminist constructions of distress</i></p> <p>Jordan &amp; Franklin, <i>Chapter 3 &amp; 4</i></p> <p>Sperry, <i>Chapter 1</i></p> <p>Nugent, <i>Understanding Diagnosis from Social Worker's Desk Reference</i></p> <p>Austrian, S.G., <i>Guidelines for conducting a biopsychosocial assessment from Social Worker's Desk Reference</i></p>
<p>Week of 2/6</p>	<p>Personality Disorders</p>	<p>DSM-IV-TR (pp. 685-730)</p> <p>Barlow and Durand, <i>Chapter 12</i></p> <p>Sperry, <i>Chapters 2-6</i></p> <p>Singer, <i>Interventions with Borderline Personality Disorder from Social Worker's Desk Reference</i></p>
<p>Week of 2/13</p>	<p>Personality Disorders</p>	<p>DSM-IV-TR (pp. 685-730)</p> <p>Jordan &amp; Franklin, <i>Chapter 7</i></p> <p>Sperry, <i>Chapters 7-11</i></p>

<p>Week of 2/20</p>	<p>Disorders usually diagnosed in infancy, childhood or adolescence</p> <p>ADHD, OD &amp; Conduct Disorders</p>	<p>DSM-IV-TR (pp. 39-134)</p> <p>Barlow and Durand, <i>Chapter 14</i></p> <p>Jordan &amp; Franklin, <i>Chapters 6 &amp; 8</i></p> <p>Hinshaw, Klein, &amp; Abikoff, <i>Childhood ADHD Disorder</i></p> <p>Kazdin, <i>Psychosocial Treatments for conduct disorder</i></p> <p><i>JAACAP- Practice Guidelines</i></p>
<p>Week of 2/27</p>	<p>Substance Related Disorders</p> <p>The Elderly and Substance Abuse</p> <p>Eating Disorders</p> <p><b>Diagnostic Case Exam I distributed in class</b></p>	<p>DSM TR (pp. 135-90)</p> <p>DSM IV TR (pp. 191-296)</p> <p>Pomeroy and Wambach, <i>Cognitive Disorders AND Drug Related Disorders</i></p> <p>Barlow and Durand, <i>Chapter 8 &amp; 11</i></p> <p>Jordan &amp; Franklin, <i>Chapter 7</i></p> <p>Alvarez &amp; Ruiz, <i>Substance abuse in the Mexican American population</i></p> <p>Vinton &amp; Wambach, <i>Alcohol and drug use among elderly people</i></p> <p>DSM-IV-TR (pp. 583-678)</p> <p>Pomeroy &amp; Wambach, <i>Eating disorders AND Sleep-related disorders</i></p> <p>G. Terence Wilson &amp; Fairburn, <i>Treatments for Eating Disorders</i></p> <p>Yeager, <i>Overview of alcohol and drug dependence from Social Workers Desk Reference</i></p> <p>DiNitto and McNeece, <i>Guidelines for Chemical Abuse Dependency Screening from Social Workers Desk Reference</i></p> <p><i>Check the External Links for videos on substance abuse</i></p>

3/5	Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders <b>Diagnostic Case Exam I Due</b>	DSM-IV-TR (pp. 297-344) Barlow and Durand, <i>Chapter 13</i> Kopelowicz, Liberman & Zarete, <i>Psychosocial Treatments for Schizophrenia</i> <i>APA Schizophrenia Practice Guidelines</i>
3/12	<b>Happy Spring Break!!!</b>	
3/19	Mood Disorders: Major Depressive Disorder	DSM-IV-TR (pp. 345-428) Barlow & Durand, <i>Chapter 7</i> <i>APA Guidelines for Suicide</i> Meichenbaum, <i>Suicide/Adolescents</i>
Week of 3/26	Mood Disorders: Bipolar Disorder	Craighead, et. al., <i>Psychosocial treatments for Major Depressive Disorder AND Psychosocial Treatments for Bi-polar Disorder</i>
4/2	PTSD and Obsessive Compulsive Disorders <b>Take Home Exam 2 Distributed</b>	DSM-IV-TR (pp. 429-484) DSM-IV-TR (pp. 519-534) Barlow & Durand, <i>Chapter 5</i> <i>Jordan &amp; Franklin, chapter 9</i> Franklin & Foa, <i>Cognitive Behavioral Treatments for Obsessive Compulsive Disorders</i>
4/9	<b>Take Home Exam II Due by Class Time. Send via e-mail to TA. Library Day to Work on Assessment Manual</b>	
4/16	Assessment Manual Consultation	
4/23	<b>Library day to work on Assessment Manual</b>	

4/30	Class Wrap-up and Evaluation. <b>Assessment Manual Due</b>	Finn (2003) <i>Therapeutic Assessment of a Man with "ADD"</i>  Tharinger, Finn, Wilkinson, & Schaber (2007) <i>Therapeutic Assessment with a Child as a Family Intervention</i>
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### Websites for Finding Evidenced-Based Assessment and Practice Information

Practice Guidelines Available online  
[www.psychguides.com](http://www.psychguides.com)

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Practice Guidelines. Available on line with subscription to the journal "Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry"  
[www.AACAP.org](http://www.AACAP.org)

The Journal of Clinical Psychiatry Practice Guidelines: Available on-line with subscription to the journal.  
[www.psychiatrist.com](http://www.psychiatrist.com)

The American Psychological Association publishes Practice Guidelines and Guidelines for interpreting the Plethora of Guidelines that exist.  
[www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)

The Journal Clinical Evidence is an on-line journal that helps clinicians decide on what works for what disorder.  
[www.clinicalevidence.org/ceweb/conditions/index.jsp](http://www.clinicalevidence.org/ceweb/conditions/index.jsp)

The Up-date, Clinical Update  
[www.uptodate.com](http://www.uptodate.com)

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)  
[www.nimh.nih.gov/](http://www.nimh.nih.gov/)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)  
[www.samhsa.gov/](http://www.samhsa.gov/)

Campbell Collaboration  
[www.CampbellCollaboration.org](http://www.CampbellCollaboration.org)

Cocharan Collaboration  
<http://www.cochrane.org/>

The National Institute of Drug Abuse ( NIDA)  
[www.nida.nih.gov](http://www.nida.nih.gov)

**ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR CLASS STUDY AND SOME JUST FOR FUN!!!**

Stat!Ref, a collection of online medical titles (provides searchable full-text access to: AHFS Drug Information 2001, Basic and Clinical Pharmacology, Current Medical Diagnosis & Treatment, DSM-IV, Mosby's Drug Consult(R), Review of Natural Products, USP DI, Vol. I-Drug Information for the Health Care Professional, and USP DI, Vol. II-Advice for the Patient. Stat! Ref is listed can be found at the following link:  
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/indexes/titles.php?id=341>.

**DSMIVR:** [www.DSMIV.org](http://www.DSMIV.org)

**DSMV:** <http://www.dsm5.org/Pages/Default.aspx>

**PSYWEB:** [www.Psyweb.com](http://www.Psyweb.com)

**Mental Health Information Source:** <http://www.mhsource.com>

**International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology** (Critiques of Psychiatric practice and drugs): <http://www.icspp.org/>