

# Clinical Assessment

## PSYC 203

Fall 2025 Section 01 In Person 3 Unit(s) 08/20/2025 to 12/08/2025 Modified 08/24/2025

### Contact Information

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Instructor:	Glenn M. Callaghan, Ph.D.
Office Location:	DMH 322
Telephone:	408-924-5610
Email:	<a href="mailto:Glenn.Callaghan@sjsu.edu">Glenn.Callaghan@sjsu.edu</a>
Office Hours:	M W:12:30-1:30pm (& email with request)

I have office hours for this Fall session as posted above. If you need to meet at a different time than this, **send me an email** with a few suggested times, and we will work something out based on both of our schedules and availability.

If you know you want to attend one of the office hour meetings, please try to email me in advance to let me know.

Email is the best way to reach me. If you email me, you can generally expect a response back in 48 hours during the week. If you email on a Friday or over the weekend, you will not hear back from me until the next business day (typically Monday).

### Course Description and Requisites

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An in-depth introduction to objective, projective and behavioral assessment techniques used in the clinical evaluation of the behavior and functioning of adults, children and families.

Prerequisite: PSYC 117 (or equivalent).

Notes: MS program priority. This course satisfies graduate-level GVAR in this master's program.

# \* Classroom Protocols

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This is a graduate seminar, so I expect you to be attentive in our meetings, participate in discussions, and limit other distractions. Please place cell phones in silent mode during meetings. If you must make or answer a call, please excuse yourself from class for such activity. Do NOT browse the web or be on your computer doing unrelated tasks during our meetings. Most importantly, please be respectful of your classmates' opinions, as this is a seminar course and we are likely to discuss topics for which students will have differing opinions. Also, if you discuss client-related content in class, please be sure to protect that person's confidentiality. Students are asked not to share these discussions outside of class.

Attendance is essentially required. I expect you to come to every class. If you do not attend classes, you will definitely miss essential material that is part of your training and could result in not meeting licensing requirements or passing the course. If you have to miss a class, please let me know ahead of time. It is expected that you will NOT miss more than one grad class per semester unless there are extreme circumstances. If you have to miss more than one class, please make an appointment with me so that we can discuss your progress in the course (and program) and your reasons for not attending class.

Please note that the [Policy Regarding Missing Classes in the MS Clinical Program](#) described both on the MS Clinical website and the *MS Clinical Student Handbook* applies to this course (as with all others). Missing more than one meeting may prevent the student from passing the course. Please review the policy if you are at all unclear about the requirements of attending class.

## Class Etiquette

There are only a few real issues here, and they are easy. In general, the guiding principles are to **be respectful and attend to what is going on in class**. These issues are not typically a problem; that said, doing any of these will not be tolerated and will be grounds for dismissal from the class.

For our in-person meetings here are the guidelines:

1. Be polite and respectful to the other people in the class, particularly when engaged in discussion. While I encourage an open discussion of many ideas, please refrain from using language that is prejudicial or hurtful to others.
2. Do not carry on conversations with others during class. (If you have a question or point to make, just say it so we can all hear it!)
3. Please turn off your cell phone for the time you are in class. If you need to receive an emergency call, let me know about it in advance. Never take a call and start talking during class.
4. Do not text message during class.
5. Attend to the class material. Do not work on any other course material during class, including other coursework or browsing the internet.
6. Do not sleep during class.

## Professional Communication

The best method of contacting me is via email. Please allow 1 to 2 business days for a response. I do not typically respond to email on weekends. Please use the email address listed on this syllabus. I do not respond to emails sent to Canvas as frequently.

Email is NOT a place to get extensive help with papers. If you have questions about a paper or larger assignment, you must attend online office hours to discuss them; I will not simply read drafts of papers over email. If you have specific questions about an upcoming assignment with respect to material covered, please tell me the question and then make an attempt to answer the question. I will let you know if you are on track and amend the answer to make it better, if need be. Please do not send more than two questions at a time. If you have more than two questions, office hours are the place to get those answered.

As a graduate student, you are required to engage in professional communication with faculty, staff, and your fellow students. This is especially important in electronic mail notes that you might send. When sending email, I would encourage you to create an email account that includes your name (e.g., Joe.Student@internet.com. If you do not create such an email, be certain to include your name in the correspondence. Please be sure to follow the following basic guidelines when communicating in a professional capacity:

1. In the Subject line, state what specific issue you are emailing about (e.g., paper 2, absence).
2. In the greeting, please address your professor professionally and with courtesy.
3. Be sure to identify yourself clearly by stating your full name and the specific course and section number you are in.
4. Be clear in your statement about what you are asking for or of what you are informing the reader.
5. Consider your request before you make it. If you believe you can make that request in a professional way and support your reasons for your request, please ask. If you have overslept, are tired, hangover, or whatever, please do not make requests based on those reasons.
6. Use a polite and respectful tone.
7. Use complete sentences.
8. Do not use abbreviations for words that are often used in text messages.
9. Use upper and lower case letters.
10. Be sure to use correct grammar and spelling in your message.
11. If you need a reply to the email you have sent, please request that clearly. I strongly encourage you to request a response back if you send something that needs to be graded in a timely matter to be certain it was received.
12. If you do not hear back within a reasonable amount of time from the person you sent the email to, politely request a response and resend the original message (you can use the forward function here).

### **Cell Phone and Personal Computer (Laptop) Use**

All of the notes for the course are available for you. If you prefer to take notes on your laptop, you agree to stay focused on the lecture and NOT surf the web as this is distracting to you and those around you.

There is research showing that non-academic web browsing during college class time is related to lower grades [e.g., Ravizza, S. M., Uitzlucht, M. G., & Fenn, K. M. (2017)].

Attending class is something you have paid to do. I will attend to the lecture, and the assumption is that you will, too. If you do not or cannot attend to the lecture, you should not come to class that day. This is not to be anti-technology or unduly aversive, it is to share expectations of professional meetings and interactions that are part of any job.

If you use your phone, computer, or other device to connect to the web or text during class, you will be asked to leave the class. If you do this a second time, the situation will be discussed with the MS Clinical Program committee regarding professionalism.

### **Needing Help with our Course Website**

If you see any broken links, can't figure out where something is, or just need help, please email me. I can likely help!

### **Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material**

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without their approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent. You may NEVER give or sell the course notes or any other course material to an outside agency (e.g., a study website) as this material is copyrighted and legally protected by both the professor and SJSU.

Education Code of California Law section 66450-52 prohibits any person from selling or otherwise publishing class notes or presentation for a commercial purpose. In addition, Title 5, section 41301 in the Student Code of Conduct for all California State Universities prohibits the publication of academic presentations for commercial purposes.

Members of SJSU work actively to detect compromised coursework made available on the web and will determine the specific source of that compromise. We will seek academic and legal consequences to all individuals who posts any course material to another website (including course notes and test materials).

Distributing course or test material is a violation of academic integrity as well as intellectual property rights. These consequences can include academic dismissal and financial liability in civil court.

With respect to recording lectures, University Policy S12-7 requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course. Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the

instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only.

The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material. In order to record a class a written request must be made to the instructor, who will respond in writing. In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.

Please note that the videos shared here in Canvas most often belong to those who hold a copyright. Do NOT download or distribute any of the videos from this course.

## Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified.

You must turn in all of your papers as an upload on Canvas and receive a TurnItIn score. You cannot turn in any content generated by AI software. In Canvas, you will receive feedback about the amount of copying or non-human generated text you may have done in your paper before you turn in your final version. You can still correct any mistakes or plagiarism based on this feedback BEFORE you turn in your final copy (of each paper) by the deadline. Once the deadline has arrived, the last version uploaded will be your final draft.

**Note, that for this course, you must use quotes and page number for more than three words of text AND provide the reference. Failing to do so is plagiarism.**

**If you plagiarize or otherwise violate the policy of academic integrity in this course, you will fail that assignment and may fail the entire course and be dismissed from the graduate program. All instances of violations of academic integrity will be reported.**

### Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations register with the Accessible Education

Center (AEC) to establish a record of their disability. AEC will contact the instructor with further details, if needed. If special arrangements are needed in cases of emergency or if the building must be evacuated

## Program Information

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**Licensure Learning Outcomes (LLOs)** indicate how each course meets the educational requirements as detailed by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences. [The MS Clinical LLOs are detailed on our program website. \(https://sjsu.edu/psych/graduate-programs/masters-clinical-psych/learning-objectives.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/psych/graduate-programs/masters-clinical-psych/learning-objectives.php)

**Program learning outcomes (PLOs)** are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the MS in Clinical Psychology degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs. The PLOs for the degree are:

1. Interventions and evidence-based applications

- 1.1 Students will be able to apply, compare, and contrast a variety of psychotherapy theories and implement at least one chosen theory or intervention with clinical case material
- 1.2 Students will be able to evaluate, select, and implement empirically supported clinical interventions for clinical case material and clients
2. Communication and Case presentation
  - 2.1 Students will be able to integrate and communicate clinical case material
  - 2.2 Students will be able to synthesize contextual and cultural variables into their understanding of and presentation of client materials
  - 2.3 Students will effectively respond to queries about clinical material and engage in discussions about their clients with supervisors and peers
  - 2.4 Students will be able to analyze cases other than those they are treating, applying theories, principles, and relevant empirical findings to those cases
3. Competent Assessment and Evaluation
  - 3.1 Students will be able to evaluate, select, and implement different assessment devices and strategies for assessing client outcomes and processes of change over the course of treatment including nomothetic and idiographic approaches
4. Professional clinical practice
  - 4.1 Students will demonstrate competency consistent with professional standards of practice in areas including, but not limited to, psychotherapy theory, service delivery, ethics, assessment, research methods, family/couples therapy, cultural diversity and humility, risk management and safety planning, psychopharmacology, and issues relevant to adult and child clinical populations.
5. Preparation and meeting professional licensing requirements
  - 5.1 Students will demonstrate fulfillment of coursework and other pre-degree licensing requirements outlined by the Board of Behavioral Sciences

## Course Goals

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[Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement at SJSU](https://sites.google.com/sjsu.edu/gradhandbook/academics/graduate-writing-assessment-requirement)  
(<https://sites.google.com/sjsu.edu/gradhandbook/academics/graduate-writing-assessment-requirement>)

This course satisfies graduate-level writing assessment requirement [GWAR] in this master's program.

## Licensure Learning Outcomes (LLOs)

Licensing requirements for academic coursework toward the California MFT and/or LPCC will be met for this course in the following way:

LL01: For the MFT requirements, this course includes instruction in diagnosis, assessment, prognosis, and treatment of mental disorders, including severe mental disorders, evidence-based practices, psychological testing, psychopharmacology, and promising mental health practices that are evaluated in peer reviewed literature as specified in BPC Section 4980.36(d)(2)(A).

LL02: For the MFT requirement set by the BBS in AB1436, this course partially meets the requirement of completing at least 6 hours of coursework or supervised experience in suicide risk assessment and intervention. This requirement is satisfied across the courses in assessment, child psychopathology, ethics, and crisis and trauma intervention.

## Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

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Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1: Develop an understanding of the role of assessment in case conceptualization and treatment planning.

CLO1: Understand the fundamental role of contextual variables and culture in both the assessment and treatment process for clients.

CLO2: Understand the role and appropriate use of standardized tests and assessments idiographic data tracking.

CLO3: Identify and explain key psychometric properties such as norms, means, deviations, reliability, types of validity, and cut scores.

CLO4: Develop the skills to select rapid assessment inventories that are specific to disorders or problem areas that provide meaningful data for clients.

CLO5: Develop the skills to create an idiographic assessment instrument for specific client problems.

CLO6: Recognize the purpose, strengths, and weaknesses of commonly used tests and assessment approaches.

CLO7: Develop the skills to track and present data for individual as part of evidence based practice of psychology.

These Course Learning Goals and Objective will be evidenced through the following assessment strategies:

1. Response assignments critically thinking about assessment issues at a broader level
2. Applying concepts of contextual and cultural variable awareness to case vignettes
3. Developing problem, goal, and treatment plans for sample cases
4. Applying concepts of psychometric properties, the ethics of assessment, and rapid assessment inventory selection to multiple vignette cases
5. Practicing developing idiographic assessment question development in context of sample cases
6. Interpreting raw assessment data and putting into the context of a case
7. Practicing the intake process to determine strengths and areas for improvement through roleplays

**Note:** This course is approved as meeting the Competency in Written English requirement set by Graduate Studies and Research at SJSU under the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR).

Because of this, this course will emphasize quality writing at a professional level. You are required to adhere to the current standards of APA referencing and maintain graduate level writing throughout the course. Information about the Writing Center on campus is provided at the end of the syllabus, should you find that useful.

## Course Materials

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### Required Texts/Readings

The required chapters and articles have been loaded onto the course website. Additional articles or readings may be added as needed.

## Course Requirements and Assignments

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The emphasis of this class is placed on learning to assess and conceptualize cases. The goal will be to develop skills in understanding how and why assessments are used and how those will guide an intervention. The majority of our work will be developed in class and continued by the student through assignments.

**ALL assignments are due at the beginning of class as listed in the schedule. Late assignments are not accepted unless explicit permission has been given to allow for this.**

#### *TurnItIn*

Please note you **must** be able to submit your papers online in Canvas and have them be evaluated with the TurnItIn feature. This is a useful tool for both student and instructor and is required for this course and is usually not a problem. If we find that for whatever reason yours are not being checked by TurnItIn, then we will need to remedy this immediately.

#### **Important Information about Cheating and Plagiarism**

The following is **REALLY important** for you to read. In no way do I want to be the plagiarism or cheating police for this course; that is not a role that makes me happy or makes for a great learning atmosphere. SJSU's academic integrity policy is posted later in this syllabus. In our MS Clinical Program, cheating and plagiarism are treated very seriously and will be grounds for **dismissal from the program**.

I want to give a quick reminder to everyone about two main places **cheating & plagiarism** can be an issue for this course.

**Using AI to generate written responses.** Your writing must always be your own, otherwise it is plagiarism. You can use AI to inspire you, to help you consider issues, but your writing must be your own. Canvas has a way to detect this, there are numerous AI detection programs, and my experience will help here, too. You cannot turn in writing that is not your own. That constitutes cheating.



**Using another person's writing or another resource and claiming it as your own.** You cannot copy another student's writing, and you cannot turn in another student's writing as your own for this course. You cannot use a series of words from another source (book, article, internet source) without quoting them and providing the appropriate APA reference (source, page number). This will constitute plagiarism. **DO NOT QUOTE COURSE LECTURES.**

**You cannot do either of these.** Please do not cheat. **You will be dismissed from the program,** and it just isn't worth it.

Remember that this is your education. Taking the Assignments seriously and working through them will make you a better clinician, and you will learn the content!

If you have any questions or want to talk about this, just let me know. As always, I want you to succeed in this course. I also want you to learn things and, ideally, have a good time. Let's keep our class atmosphere full of integrity, and fun, collaborative, & supportive!

### **Workload estimate per week in PSYC 203A**

The estimates given below are to help you balance your work in this course with other demands on your time. They are estimates and may not line up with how you engage the material. For example, some of us are slower readers, some faster. Some sub-modules have more content to study than others as well.

Task each week	Estimated amount of time to complete
Reading textbook/articles	2-3 hours
Attend course lectures	2.5 hours
Writing assignments	3 hour per week/average
Total time estimate	~9 hours

These weekly estimates are still below the 9 hour weekly minimum required commitment set by SJSU for a 3 unit course (see next paragraph) given that the additional tasks are not all in one week. However, there is an outside of class assignment at the end of the course.

**University requirement:** Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

## ✓ Grading Information

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### Grading Policy

There will be 235 points available in the course.

All of the assignments are up on Canvas. There is one *Opinion Paper* (instructions below) due early in the semester. There are 10 *Response Papers*, and each is different and focuses on what we are covering at the time. These assignments are designed to be applied and help show me what you understand and don't yet get in the class. They are all clearly articulated on the web, but we will talk about them in class as well. All assignments will be loaded directly to Canvas. We will not do hard copies of the assignments with the exception of your data presentation.

The *Major Vignette Assignment* is also posted online and is worth 120 points. It is a culmination of our learning objectives for this course and is directly tied to both the program learning objectives and our goals for you as a clinician. This will be written individually and require APA formatting for references throughout the paper.

Participation is an essential part of the course and of graduate study in general.

Your grade will be determined by your performance in four categories of coursework:

Assessment Items and Their Value			
	How Many?	% of Final Grade	Points Each
Opinion Paper	1	15/195=8%	15
Response Papers	11	120/195=61%	5 @ 12 6 @ 10
Final Paper	1	60/195=31%	60

*TurnItIn*

Please note you **must** be able to submit your papers online in Canvas and have them be **evaluated with the TurnItIn feature**. This is usually not a problem. If we find that for whatever reason your is not being checked by TurnItIn, then we will need to remedy this immediately. This is a useful tool for both student and instructor and is required for this course.

### *Opinion Paper*

The opinion paper is an opportunity for you to begin to clarify what you believe is important about the assessment process in psychotherapy and how a client (in this case, you) would be understood by a therapist sufficiently to allow therapy to occur. I know your beliefs in this area will evolve over time. This is a chance for me to get to know what you think and for you to elucidate those thoughts. Directions are provided in the assignment online.

### *Response Papers*

Response papers are targeted to develop your thinking and application of key concepts in the course. Each will be slightly different and will build on skills you develop across the semester. They are meant to clearly applicable to your goals as an evidence based clinician. Some will be more challenging than others and take more time. Plan accordingly.

The format for each response will vary according to the assignment, but place your name in the upper right corner, PSYC 203A, and the date on each response paper assignment you upload to Canvas.

Your writing must be clear and coherent with minimal spelling and grammar errors. Papers with problems with writing will lose points. If the writing prevents me from understanding your paper, you will lose points or may not get credit for the assignment.

### **Final Examination or Evaluation**

Faculty members are required to have a culminating activity for their courses, which can include a final examination, a final research paper or project, a final creative work or performance, a final portfolio of work, or other appropriate assignment.

## **Final Paper on The Process of Assessment and Psychotherapy**

This is our culminating assignment for PSYC 203 that satisfies the GVAR requirement. For this task, I want you to consider psychotherapy and assessment from the perspective of what you would most want **to provide to a client** based on what you have learned in this course over the semester. You will include two revised *Response Papers* with this assignment (as part of one whole document) showing changes you made based on feedback and what you learned in the course. You will also answer the following questions below.

For these questions, I want you to focus on what you think matters most to understand your client and what would allow you, as a professional therapist, to best help them. You are conveying why how you think about this content and what you would do will matter to your clinical understanding and service delivery

based on your learning across this semester.

You can write in the first person, but keep your writing professional and academic. Attend to grammar, spelling, and be as specific as you can in your answers. Do not use abbreviations (e.g., BDI, CBT) without explaining what you mean. You **must provide academic references** where appropriate (e.g., Beck, 1979) using appropriate and professional referencing. Do not use abbreviations such as etc. or vs. in your writing.

As a reminder: Do not simply answer yes or no to any questions; elaborate your answers explaining why you are responding the way you are. In addition, do not just pose a question; state why you care to know the answer to that question.

## Structure of Final Paper

The final paper is comprised of three components. You have received feedback on all of these components throughout the semester, and for two of them you have already answered the questions. The other is a reflection on what you learned in this course as it applies to your clinical work.

The Final Writing Assignment is worth a total of **60** points. The first component is worth 30 points. The other two components are worth 15 points each for a total of 30 points for those two combined.

The paper must be a minimum of 3000 words not including references. Your *Essential Response A* and *Essential Response B* will likely be 1200 words each.

Component 1: *Reflection on Assessment* [30 points]

Component 2: *Essential Response A* [15 points]

Component 3: *Essential Response B* [15 points]

## - *Reflection on Assessment* Component

Use these **bold headers** in your paper to demarcate each section, using the titles as provided. Please do this in order as you write your paper so I can better track your responses.

Write briefly on these issues. You do not need to go into great depths or details. State your responses clearly and succinctly.

Papers in this component should be no longer than 4 or 5 pages double spaced (no cover page necessary); reference page does not count in total).

### • **Contextual variables [5 points]**

- ◦ How do you understand the term *contextual variables* and why are these important to clinical practice?
- What is the role of contextual variables in how you will approach psychotherapy as a clinician?
- Are there one or more variables you notice are essential in how you might understand a client?

- Briefly define the concept of intersectionality and how this is important in your integration of contextual variables.
- How does a cultural humility approach to assessment participate in your understanding of a client's contextual variables?

## • Your assumed theory of psychotherapy [5 points]

- ◦ Briefly define and reference your assumed paradigm or theory of psychotherapy. For **this task**, you can choose any of the paradigms that are evidence based (e.g. BT, CT, etc). If you emphasize a psychotherapy, be sure to embed that approach and its mechanisms of change in a broader paradigm (e.g., ACT in a behavioral or functional contextual understanding).
- You can utilize a cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) approach, but I want you to focus on one of those components as your primary mechanism of the problem and mechanism of change (e.g. "CbT" or "cBT") where you acknowledge the role of each component but explain the primary mechanisms as you understand them (e.g., cognitive/schema change as a primary mechanism but a need for behavior change as well; "CbT").
- Be sure to reference your theory and/or therapy.

## • Mechanisms of the problem [5 points]

- Briefly define the mechanism of the problem from your assumed theoretical approach as it would apply to all clients at a general level.
- Describe how this mechanism might appear with different clients with a few different clinical presentations.
- How might you assess the presence of that problem with a client with respect to the theoretically defined mechanism.
  - That is, how might a client present to therapy struggling with an issue as you see it through the lens of your theory? (e.g. What does a cognitive therapy perspective say about how trauma might present with clients?)
- At a general level, how can you tie the mechanism of the problem to the clinical assessment of **progress/outcome**?
- Give an example of progress/outcome measurement that is consistent with your theory.

## • Mechanisms of change [5 points]

- Briefly define the mechanism of change from the theory you outlined above at a general level. What change would need to occur at this broader level for clients (given it would appear slightly differently for each person).
- Describe how you might assess for clinical change consistent with this theory?
- Briefly define process measurement and how you would know if the client engaged the mechanism of change in your treatment.
- State how you would attempt to tie the mechanism of clinical change to the clinical assessment of process at a general level.
- Give an example of process measurement that is consistent with your theory.

## • Case conceptualization [5 points]

- Define case conceptualization and state your understanding of why this matters to providing psychotherapy.
  - How does your theory and the mechanisms of the problem and clinical change fit into a case conceptualization?
  - How can you integrate your understanding of contextual variables into your conceptualization as you consider these mechanisms?
  - Give an example of integrating contextual variables into a case conceptualization.
  - How will you know if you have created a useful and accurate clinical case conceptualization that integrates the client's context to that understanding?

## Writing, clarity, grammar, references [5 points]

### *Writing quality*

- clarity of your writing
    - coherence, consistency, and sophistication/thoughtfulness (this will grow a great deal across your first year)
    - grammar, spelling, and sentence construction

### *Referencing*

- use of appropriate and primary resources and outside resources beyond a course reader and textbooks
    - references sufficient must show a depth of coverage and be relevant to content
    - APA referencing style

Total points available for *Reflections on Assessment* component: 30

## - *Essential Response A and Response B*

UPLOAD THESE with your Reflections Upload [as one unified paper]

You will include two revised *Response Papers* (not your *Opinion Paper* or *Responses 10* or *11*) from the semester. Use the feedback you received and class discussions to revise these and make any corrections or clarifications required. You should choose *Responses* that you feel are central to your training in the MS Clinical program and inform how you approach assessment and conceptualization as a professional therapist.

Be sure to identify each revised *Response Paper* using the original number (1-9) using the format **Essential Response Paper A: Response 4** as a header for that paper.

These revised versions should read differently as you approach them having a full semester of clinical training. You will receive a maximum of 10 points per revised *Response*, even though the original *Response* may have been worth a little more. You need to evidence your development in thinking in your revised

answers as well as integrate feedback you received on the assignment. Do not simply upload the exact version of your original response. Doing so will result in a loss of half or more of the point value for that section.

You need to add a brief paragraph at the top of each revised *Response* stating why this topic or task is informative for you as a therapist providing service to your clients. This will be worth 5 points in addition to the 10 points for the revision.

There will be 15 points maximum for each revised *Response* with the introduction paragraph stating why it matters.

Your revised *Response* papers will be evaluated based on the original grading rubric with attention paid to what you developed and changed and your writing.

**Total points available for *Essential Response A* and *Response B* component: 30**

The **grading scheme** for this course is determined as follows:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A plus	99 to 100%
A	92.5 to 98.9%
A minus	90 to 92.4%
B plus	87.5 to 89 %
B	82.5 to 87.4%
B minus	80 to 82.4%
C plus	77.5 to 79%
C	72.5 to 77.4%
C minus	70 to 72.4%

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
D plus	67.5 to 69%
D	62.5 to 67.4%
D minus	60 to 62.4%
F	59% and below

## University Policies

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Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

## Course Schedule

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This schedule is approximate, and we will likely deviate from it. It is your responsibility to know where we are in the readings and if the assignment dates have been changed.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment Due
Aug 25	<b>Introduction to course</b>  The Big Picture (Case conceptualization)	1. Course Syllabus*  2. Meier (chapter 1)  3. Patterson et al. (article)	Begin reading!
Sept 1	<b>Holiday (no class)</b>		



Sept 8	<b>Theory and Epistemology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reasons and Causes for Human Suffering</li> <li>Scientific Evidence</li> <li>Considerations and Choices</li> </ul> Progress and Process (intro)	1. Meier (chapter 2) 2. Smith (chapter 1) 3. Houts (article) 4. Read Case of John*	Opinion paper
Sept 15	<b>Overarching Considerations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidenced Based Practice</li> <li>Purpose, assumptions, ethics</li> <li>Observational Assessment</li> <li>Case conceptualization</li> </ul>	1. Meier (chapter 3) 2. Ethics codes from MFT and ACA (LPC)	
Sept 22	<b>Contextual Variables, Intersectionality, &amp; Assessment of Cultural Experience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intersectionality</li> <li>Self-awareness and assumptions</li> <li>Client identity &amp; cultural humility</li> <li>Hypothesis generation</li> <li>Assessing impact on client</li> </ul>	1. ADDRESSING rubric (Hays) 2. Sue (article) 3. Davison (article) 4. <i>Treatment of Ethnic Minority ...</i> (pp. 4-28) 5. Hansen et al (article)	Response 1 (Background)
Sept 29	<b>Case Conceptualization</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mechanisms of Pathology and Change</li> <li>Theory Driven Hypotheses</li> <li>Problem list development and evidenced based treatments</li> </ul>	1. Perlman (article) 2. Persons (chs 1-3)	Response 2 (Context)
Oct 6	<b>Case Conceptualization (continued)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing the goal list for clients</li> <li>Developing the plan list</li> <li>Tying this all to assessment</li> </ul>	1. Meier (chapter 5) 2. Johnstone & Dallos (chapter)	Response 3 (Problems)
Oct 13	<b>Diagnoses vs. Mechanisms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Symptom-based assessments</li> <li>DSM assessment, targets, &amp; critique</li> </ul>	1. Follette & Houts (article)	Response 4 (Goals & Plan)

Oct 20	<b>Behaviorally Specific Targets &amp; Functional Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Understanding function</li> <li>o Assessing function and contingencies</li> <li>o Considering intra- &amp; interpersonal functions</li> <li>o Progress and Process (revisited)</li> </ul>	1. Morganstern (chapter) 2. Hayes et al (article)	
Oct 27	<b>Nomothetic and Standardized assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Construction</li> <li>o Psychometrics</li> <li>o Cut-scores</li> <li>o Batteries, RAIs</li> <li>o Assumptions of takers</li> </ul> Clinical vs. statistical change	1. Solano-Flores (article) 2. Clark & Watson (article) 3. BDI review (article)	Response 5  (Symptoms, Progress & Process)
Nov 3	<b>Common Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Common RAIs, when to use, what to know</li> </ul>	1. RAIs	Response 6  (Psychometrics)  <i>Self-evaluation of participation</i>
Nov 10	<b>Idiographic Assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o How to build an assessment</li> <li>o [All Final Paper components finished here]</li> </ul>	1. Molenaar (article) 2. Runyan (article)	Response 7  (RAI Application)
Nov 17	<b>Tracking &amp; Presenting Data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o How to track meaningful data</li> </ul>	1. Meier (chapter 4) 2. Callaghan (article)	Response 8  (Idiographic for Samuel)

Nov 24	<b>The Intake: Structure and Goals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Organizing your approach</li> <li>o Essential information</li> <li>o Suicide assessment</li> <li>o Safety issues and Mental status</li> <li>o CPS, Crisis Teams, Mini-Mental</li> </ul> <i>Demonstration and Practice opportunity</i>	1. Cormier & Nuriious (chapter 9) 2. Halpern (article)	Response 9 (Presenting data – Lupe)
Dec 1	<b>The Intake: Gathering Assessment data</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Initial contact, the intake, ongoing collection, termination</li> <li>o Outcome, Progress, and Process measurement</li> </ul> <b>Progress Notes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Ethics and SOAP notes</li> </ul> <i>Demonstration and Practice opportunity</i>	1. Jones (article) 2. Structured Interview example 3. Roth (article)	Response 10 (Intake 1)
Dec 8	<b>Closing up and role plays</b> <i>Demonstration and Practice opportunity</i>		Response 11 (Intake 2)  Final Paper due
Dec 13	<b>Final as scheduled by SJSU: 7:15-9:30am</b>		