SYLLABUS

This course offers an introduction to two (so-called) “projective” tests, the Thematic Apperception Test (TAT) and the Rorschach Inkblot Test (using primarily the Comprehensive System of John Exner, but with introduction to the R-PAS system). Students will learn the basic knowledge necessary to administer and interpret these tests in clinical settings. They will gain experience in administering these tests, with individual supervision by the instructor. Attention will be paid to various theoretical arguments regarding the assessment of personality and psychopathology, as well as to methodological and psychometric issues, including arguments regarding reliability and validity of the Rorschach Inkblot test.

Books to purchase or consider purchasing:
Shapiro, Neurotic Styles. (order online and start reading as soon as you can)
Aronow et al, A Practical Guide to the TAT (recommended only; important sections will be on SAKAI).
Exner, A Rorschach Workbook for the Comprehensive System, latest edition (to be ordered through “Rorschach Workshops,” as discussed in class).
Weiner, Principles of Rorschach Interpretation, 2nd edition. (for later in course)

Note: Other reading materials are available online through Sakai or, in some cases, as handouts. Some of the readings listed below are marked as “recommended.” All others are required. I also list some “background” readings.

Note: The following book may be on reserve at LSM: Exner, John, The Rorschach: A Comprehensive System, Vol 1, 4th Edition; can also be borrowed from instructor (= helpful reference work for the Comprehensive System approach to the Rorschach).

1: Introductory class. Take Rorschach and TAT in class. No required reading. (Your responses will not be turned in to me or discussed in class; they are for your eyes only.)

PART ONE: THEMATIC APPERCEPTION TEST

2: Thematic Apperception Test (TAT): Introduction. 
Read: ABZ (Allison, Blatt, & Zimet, Interpretation of Psychological Tests), pp. 1-17, 89-110 (recommended 110-133) (includes introduction to theory and practice of psychological testing)
Cramer, “Stories are telling” (SPA Exchange), 1 page
Page with various recommended TAT sequences.
Page with descriptions of various TAT cards.
TAT of Mr. Wilson; also: TAT #I (in group with #s I, II, III, IV)
By now you should have begun reading Shapiro, Neurotic Styles (book = crucial theoretical background re. perception and attention, cognitive style, and personality; just glance at chap. 1; you need to read chap.s 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

3: **TAT continued.**
Read: ABZ, pp. 102-110 (re-read these pages)
Sass summary of AWR book.
TAT #s II, #IV (note: omit #III).
Consent form (1 page)
*Reminder: Remember to read assigned chapters in Shapiro, Neurotic Styles. Also see Sass summary of Shapiro Neurotic Styles, and pp. 105-106 of the book (o-c and paranoid styles compared).*
*Recommended: Schafer, Roy, “How was this story told?” pp. 114-169 of Schafer, Projective Testing and Psychoanalysis (note: a classic article on the TAT, but anachronistic in various ways). Note: Some other classic articles are listed at the end of this syllabus.*

4: **TAT continued.**
Various examples of TAT responses, including #IV and perhaps M-26, M-20s, and MS (the latter 3 = handouts).

5: **TAT concluded; Rorschach introduced.**
Read: Further TAT examples: TM, DM, ED, HF. Also: MS (if not already discussed).
Sass’s summary of Schafer’s diagnostic summaries re TAT (5 pages).
*Note: some classic articles on TAT are listed at the end of syllabus, as optional background readings.*

**RORSCHACH:**
Begin reading Exner Workbook re Rorschach, pp. 1-88.
Read and discuss E.P. Rorschach protocol at end of class #5.
*NOTE: TAT protocol to be COMPLETED BY THIS CLASS (not graded); MEET with instructor this week or next to discuss your TAT protocol. (Be prepared: Think through the possible significance of your TAT protocol before meeting with instructor.)*
PART TWO: RORSCHACH INKBLOT TEST

6: **Rorschach: Introduction**

*Read:* E.P. sample Rorschach protocol (to be discussed further in class, if not concluded in previous meeting).

- Re-read Exner Workbook pp. 1-88 (includes introduction to Comprehensive System approach to Rorschach inkblot test)
- See 1-page list of Codes for the Comprehensive System.
- See 1-page re The 8 Scoring Categories (Table 1).
- Brown, Spencer, Rorschach Test (1 page poem, describing emotional response to being asked to respond to Rorschach inkblots).
- Sass summary of relevant Weiner sections.  (*Note: I have summarized most Weiner chapters [a few sections were summarized by students, as indicated]. These summaries can be found online, and should be read in connection with each assigned chapter. Note: always be sure to bring the summaries to class since we will sometimes use them as basis of class lecture/discussion.)*

*Note:* Shapiro, *Neurotic Styles*, chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 should be read by now.

Rorschach protocol #5: try to code some of this (an impossible task at this stage, but useful to try nonetheless).

7: **Rorschach: Coding.**

*Assignment:* Review protocol #5; we will begin, or continue, to discuss this in class.

- Rorschach protocol #35: read this over; try to code some of it.
- Do some practice coding examples from back of Exner Workbook.
- Page re Beck “D”s.


8: **Rorschach: Coding continued.**

*Assignment:* Continue to study Exner’s Workbook. Familiarize yourself with the various materials re Rorschach that have been distributed or are online.


IN THIS CLASS OR THE NEXT: In-class, ungraded, oral quiz on the meaning of the different codes; be sure you understand everything listed on the one-page list of all possible codes.

9: **Rorschach: Administration.**

*Assignment:* Re-read workbook, Chapter 1: Procedures.
See 4 pages “Procedures of Administration” with phrases to remember (= based on previous Workbook).
Sass re Rorschach Administration (2 pp summarizing Exner points).
In-class exercise: role-play administration, with focus on inquiry (protocol #182, to be distributed in class). Watch DVD re Rorschach administration.

10: **Rorschach: Special scores.**
Assignment: Re-read Exner Workbook re special scores, pp. 62-80.
ABZ pp. 172-179 re special scores (be aware that ABZ present a slightly different set of special scores, based more directly on the Rapaport/Schafer system).
Piotrowski, Rorschach signs of organicity (1 page).
Code protocol #4, especially for special scores.
Read several pages of JH’s Rorschach; think re special scores for this protocol.
(Possibly: discuss special scores in GW also.)  ???
Recommended: Weiner, Principles, Chap 8, Conducting a sequence analysis, pp. 238-246.

11: **Rorschach: Structural summaries and interpretation.**
Assignment:
See 1 page: Rorschach: Teaching Structural Summary Interpretation
See: “Cheat Sheet”: Structural Summary Form with modes and means.
Prepare, as best you can, the structural summary for protocol #5.
See: Rorschach Interpretative Guide (slightly outdated, based on 3rd edition of Exner’s The Rorschach, A Comprehensive System: Basic Foundations, Volume 1—but still somewhat useful as a summary.)
Recommended: Weiner, Principles, Chap 3, The comprehensive-system search strategy, pp. 59-83 (remember: a Sass summary of this and other Weiner chapters is online).

12: **Rorschach: Structural summaries and interpretation continued.**
Assignment: Prepare structural summaries for protocol #35.
See: in Weiner, Principles, Tables 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 (= Search Strategy Tables, which give the order in which variables and groups of variables are to be considered)
See: Progress Evaluation Form
NOTE, IN THIS CLASS OR THE NEXT: IN-CLASS ORAL CODING QUIZ (UNGRADED): In-class, oral, ungraded quiz on the meaning of the different scores in the bottom part of the structural summary sheet. (We will go around room; I will pick out
something from bottom part of structural summary and ask a student to explain it to the group.)

GIVE two 3-card practice Rorschachs (1st 3 cards only) by today; turn them in (not graded).
LEARN how to input material into RIAP computer program.

13: Rorschach continued.
Class #13 will be: Mr Ingram
Also: exercise using blanked out copy of protocol #35.


Full Rorschach to be FINISHED by today (not graded). MEET with Louis Sass this week or next re your full Rorschach.

14: Rorschach continued
Read: Weiner, Principles, chapter 14, case 9, re Mr. Ingram (an ex of an interpretation), pp. 380-396.
Begin reading: the diversity readings required for class #15.
Reading re report writing:
Sass notes with advice re psychological test reports (1 page).
Some sample reports (TS, JP, TM, MR).

15: Final Class: Diversity Issues; Rorschach Controversy; R-PAS introduction.

Assignment: by today, you should have entered data into RIAP (Rorschach computer program available on clinic computers) in preparation for writing your final report.

Bring to class:
R-PAS Handouts (11 pp)
R-PAS notes by Louis Sass (3 pp)

Readings re diversity issues in Rorschach:
[The following are some recommended readings on diversity:

Read re Rorschach controversy:

Sass summary of Wood, Nezworski, Lilienfeld Garb, What’s Wrong with the Rorschach (2003), chapter 9 (= pp. 217-255, 363-371 of What’s Wrong...; you need only read my summary of this particular chapter).

Recommended:


Introduction to RPAS, either in this class or the following. Reading to be announced

Re R-PAS

Bring to class: Sass notes on R-PAS Bring to class: copy of RPAS_notes by Sass (on Sakai)

AT END OF SEMESTER (7 days after final class meeting), TURN IN paper on Rorschach protocol, probably with structural summary included (which will have been handed out, with “correct” codes). 6-8 pages, double spaced. Use computer program as part of the process to produce a report; BUT then integrate this material with a more qualitative consideration of individual responses, sequence analysis, or whatever else seems relevant; offer an overview of the most salient features of the protocol; note: do not just offer material from the computerized report! See below for more guidelines re this paper. Send paper by email to SAKAI dropbox, and also to the following email address: lsass@rci.rutgers.edu.

(See below* for more information on this assignment.) Paper due 7 days after final class meeting.

REQUIREMENTS include the following:

--Give a TAT, to be completed by class # 5 at latest. Meet with L.A.S. re TAT, after preparing notes on the TAT record (not graded).

--Give one or two 3-card Rorschachs (not coded; not graded), to be completed by class # 11 at latest.

--Give a Rorschach, and code it (without summary scores; not graded), by class # 12. Meet with L.A.S. to discuss this Rorschach protocol, and other questions.
--Prepare a write-up of a Rorschach protocol that has been handed out to you; you will have the “correct” codes available to you; due at end of semester (graded; due date will be one week after final class meeting). There is a brief tutorial on the mechanics of the computer program available on SAKAI. See below* for more information on this assignment.

SOME TIPS:
--This course requires that you learn some technical material (Rorschach coding and interpretation). It is especially important that you keep up with assignments week-by-week; otherwise you will soon find yourself out of step, confused, and unhappy.

--You will be downloading or receiving a considerable amount of copied material during the course. It will make your life easier if you set up a special filing system for this course, so that you can quickly find what you need to bring to class or to use to do assignments.

NB: Please be aware that any testing reports produced during this semester are for learning purposes ONLY. Many of you will be testing volunteers. There is a Consent Form that you should use with any subject whom you test.

If you do test a patient, your report supervised for this class is NOT to be placed in the clinical records for that patient. If you do wish to use a report for clinical purposes, then it MUST be overseen and approved independently by a supervisor at the clinical setting where the patient is being seen. This is an introductory testing course; we at GSAPP cannot yet validate your reports for professional, clinical purposes.

You should avoid testing someone whom you know at all well. A good method is for a student to recruit subjects, then trade the subjects he or she has recruited for subjects recruited by other students in the class. (An exception is the practice 3-card Rorschach; use anyone you wish for this.)

* Note re individual TAT meetings with instructor:
The TAT need not be turned in prior to your meeting with me. But be sure to give yourself enough time to have gone through the record quite carefully on your own, so that you will be prepared to talk in our meeting about what interpretations you think might be appropriate. I will ask you to tell me your thoughts re the whole record, and then we will go through some of the stories together.

Use the order of the TAT cards as specified by either ABZ or Rap/Schafer; you have those listed on a page on SAKAI. If you use a copy of the TAT from the clinic, please be sure to add a blank card at the end if there is not one there already. Also, you would need to add a Xerox copy of A and B—as they are not part of the original TAT set (but added by Rapaport/Schafer). Remember to omit the 4 cards that are not appropriate for the gender of the person you are testing (see list on SAKAI to figure this out). Finally, you will need to arrange the order in advance. Remember: you should not keep out a TAT set from the clinic for more than a day or two.;)
There is nothing to hand in prior to your meeting with me. But please bring an extra copy of the TAT stories so that I can read it along with you, and please be sure that you have thought through the question of what you think the stories show. There is no written TAT paper due, though; just the discussion with me. You need not type the TATs; we can use your handwritten version.

** Note re individual Rorschach meeting with instructor:
Your Rorschach protocol need not be turned in prior to your meeting with me. But be sure to give yourself enough time to have gone through the Rorschach record quite carefully on your own, so that you will be prepared to talk in our meeting about what codes as well as interpretations you think might be appropriate. I will ask you to tell me your thoughts re the whole record, and then we will go through many of the responses together.

If you use a copy of the Rorschach inkblots borrowed from the clinic, please remember: you should not keep out a Rorschach set from the clinic for more than a day or two;)

There is nothing to hand in prior to your meeting with me. But please bring an extra copy of the Rorschach protocol so that I can read it along with you, and please be sure that you have thought through the question of what you think the Rorschach responses might indicate about the person. There is no written paper due on this protocol; just the discussion with me. You need not type it up; we can use your handwritten version.

*** Note re final write-up of a Rorschach protocol. There is no single way to do this assignment well, but here are a few suggestions to bear in mind:
Try to say something about the qualitative features of some of the specific responses. Consider also whether you might have something interesting to say about sequence analysis (e.g., possible psychodynamic interpretation of two or more responses offered in a row). Consider whether there might be features of the automatic, computerized interpretation that could be misleading—and if so, say why. In general, try to write your report in a way that is easily comprehensible, and that makes sense to you. That is: avoid too much Rorschach jargon, but at the same time, try to indicate what it is about the Rorschach responses that warrant the interpretations you offer. Actual psychological reports sometimes make little reference to the actual data, but in the case of this assignment, I would like you to indicate the empirical bases of your interpretations. Try (without going to an obsessive extreme) to indicate that you know why you are offering the interpretations you offer (as opposed to simply paraphrasing what is given in the computerized report). Include in your report a summarizing paragraph that gives a quick overview of the most significant findings (at beginning or end, or perhaps lead with something very general and then sum up at the end).

Some details on the final paper: Please email your paper to: lsass@rci.rutgers.edu
Please give the attachment containing your paper a label as follows: your last name, first name_final: as in the following example: Smith, John_final. Your paper should be DOUBLE SPACED, and the pages should be numbered.
LIST OF MATERIALS HANDED OUT

The following three items are not photocopies:

Structural Summary Blank
Color Location Sheet
Cluster Data Sheet

And the following items are photocopies:

“Cheat sheet” with modes and means
TATs of MS, TM, ED, HF, M-20s, M-26.
DM: Gottschalk response, 2 TAT responses
Psychological reports re: JP, MR, TM.

REFERENCE INFORMATION RE COURSE READINGS:


**Additional recommended readings re diversity issues in Rorschach:**

**Additional Readings re Rorschach controversy:**
- Sass summary of
  (2003), chapter 9 (= pp. 217-255, 363-371 of *What’s Wrong…*; you need only read my summary of this particular chapter).
- *Recommended:*
  - *Recommended:*
  - Introduction to RPAS, either in this class or the following. Reading to be announced. Source of information is Meyer et al (2011).

**SOME ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND READING on the TAT, CLASSIC ARTICLES (SUGGESTED ONLY):**
Here are listed some background readings on the TAT (*not* required), for those who are interested in consulting some of the classic articles:
STATEMENTS ON DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.

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