

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS AND MEASUREMENTS
PSYC 320-DL1
3 Credits, Spring 2021
Distance Learning

Instructor: Rachel NguyeN, M.A.

Office Hours: By appointment (email me class title, subject, and some days and times available & we'll set up a meeting on zoom)

Office: will give zoom link for you to join

Email: rnguye@gmu.edu (please do not hesitate to email me a question)

Lab Instructor:

Mary Fesalbon (mfesalbo@masonlive.gmu.edu)

PSYC 320-2D1 and 2D2 (online)

Required Textbook:

Cohen, R.J., & Swerdlik, M.E. (2017). *Psychological Testing and Assessment: An Introduction to Tests and Measurement* (9th ed.). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Education.

Recommended Textbook:

Salkind, N. J. (2018). *Tests and Measurement for People Who (Think They) Hate Tests and Measurement* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc.

Course Objectives:

This course is a survey of tests and measurements used across the field of psychology. Psychological measurement or psychometrics, is fundamental to social science research and application. This class will introduce you to the central concepts of psychometrics by reviewing the underlying theory and its applications. The overall goal of the class is for each of you to 1) understand basic psychometrics concepts, 2) gain the ability to critically evaluate existing psychological tests, and 3) critically evaluate a measure of your choice. This will be done by providing:

- (1) A fundamental understanding of the core issues in psychological testing and measurement
- (2) A fuller understanding of the statistical concepts that underlie tests and test scores
- (3) A review of widely used databases of tests and measures
- (4) Guidance in critically analyzing measures
- (5) Review of a wide variety of applications of psychological testing (e.g., ability, personality, interest)

This is a technical writing course, so much of the work you complete in lab will be designed to help you develop strong writing skills.

Course Delivery Method:

This course will be delivered online using an asynchronous format via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email

password.

Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.

Technical Requirements

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:
https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:
https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their **GMU email and Blackboard**, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - Windows Media Player: <https://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/downloads/windows-media-player/>
 - Apple Quick Time Player: www.apple.com/quicktime/download/

Student Expectations

- Course Week: Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Monday at 12:01am and finish on Sunday at 11:59pm.
- Log-in Frequency: Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least two times per week.
- Participation: Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.

- **Technical Competence:** Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- **Technical Issues:** Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. **Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.**
- **Workload:** Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students may work ahead but are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- **Instructor Support:** Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times. One-on-one sessions will take place via email or Zoom meeting.
- **Netiquette:** The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- **Accommodations:** Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Please email me the form within the first 2 weeks of the course.

Grade Breakdown:

| Your grade will be based on your performance on the following: | % of Total Grade | Points |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|
| 5 Discussion Forums | 15% | 15 |
| 6 Quizzes (lowest grade dropped) | 35% | 50 |
| Paper #1 | 15% | 100 |
| Paper #2 | 15% | 100 |
| Lab | 20% | 200 |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | <i>100%</i> | <i>465</i> |
| Extra Credit: Presentation | 2.5% | 2.5 |

Grade Percentage Breakdown:

| | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| A+: 97-100 | B+: 87-89 | C+: 77-79 | D: 65-69 |
| A: 93-96 | B: 83-86 | C: 73-76 | F: 64 & under |
| A-: 90-92 | B-: 80-82 | C-: 70-72 | |

Evaluation Criteria:

1. Discussion Forums: Each student is expected to post a comment in 5 different discussion forums and reply to another student's comment within that forum. Each discussion forum will be related to text material. Each posting with reply is worth 3 points for a total of 15 points that will be factored directly into the overall grade. **Original posts are due on Fridays and reply posts are due on Monday.** Due to the interactive nature of discussion forums, late posts will not be graded.
2. Review A Psychological Test of Your Choice: You will write **TWO** related 5-6 page papers critically reviewing and providing your opinion about a psychological test. There are two ways to choose a test:
 1. From a list of pre-approved measures
 2. Choosing your own (must be approved by **both** the course and lab instructors)

Paper 1: Introduce the test, background information & "tour of the test"

Paper 2: Psychometric/technical aspects & overall review/opinion, future directions

The papers aim to help you practice integrating course knowledge with critical thinking skills in evaluating tests, and communicating your findings in a clear, logical, written format. Each paper will be scored out of 100 points and worth 15% of your grade (30% total). Papers will be deducted 5 points for each day they are late (late papers will not be accepted after one week past the due date). Requests for extension must be made before the due date. Further guidelines and grading rubrics will be provided.

3. Quizzes: There will be **6** timed quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will consist of 10-20 multiple choice questions based on lecture material. Each quiz is worth 7% of your final grade (35% total), and your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Please see the semester schedule for dates. Because you can drop a quiz score, late quizzes will not be accepted. If you aren't able to complete a quiz, you drop that quiz. Answers can be viewable once, when the due date is past.
4. Lab: All students must actively participate in their assigned lab section. As this is a technical writing course, lab activities will focus on hands-on application of the lecture material as well as cultivating strong writing skills in psychological science. Your lab grade is worth **20% of your total grade (200 points)**. A major component of the lab meetings is working on the two papers. Please see your lab syllabus for further details.

Extra Credit Opportunity:

Presentation: Submit a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation (with audio and video) on a test of interest (this can be the same measure used in your test review papers or a different one). Additional information about this assignment will be provided at a later date.

Schedule:

Below is a tentative schedule for the semester with corresponding textbook chapters. Please note that additional required readings and videos made available on Blackboard may be assigned throughout the semester. The topics and due dates listed in this syllabus are tentative and therefore subject to changes made by the instructor.

| Week | Dates | Topic(s) | Readings | Quizzes/Assignments Due |
|------|---|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Jan 25 th -Feb 1 st | Review syllabus; Welcome & Introduction to the Course Overview of Psychological Testing and Assessment Historical, Cultural, and Legal/Ethical Consideration | Syllabus Ch. 1 Ch. 2 | Discussion Forum 1 First post due Jan 29th Reply post due Feb 1st Discussion Forum 2 First post due Jan 29th Reply post due Feb 1st |
| 2 | Feb 2-Feb 8 | Statistics Refresher | Ch. 3 | Statistics Quiz (not counted towards grade but definitely for your benefit) |
| 3 | Feb 9-Feb 15 | Assumptions of Psychological Testing, Introduction to Reliability, Validity, and Norms | Ch. 4 | Quiz 1 (chapters 1-4) Due end by end of Feb 15 |
| 4 | Feb 16-Feb 22 | Reliability | Ch. 5 | Discussion Forum 3 First post due Feb 19th Reply post due Feb 22nd |
| 5 | Feb 23-March 1 | Validity | Ch. 6 | Quiz 2 (chapters 5 & 6) Due by end of March 1st |
| 6 | March 2-March 8 | Test Utility | Ch. 7 | Paper #1 due end of March 8th |
| 7 | March 9-March 15 | Test Development | Ch. 8 | Quiz 3 (chapters 7 & 8) due end of March 15th |
| 8 | March 16 March 22 | Assessment of Intelligence Assessments of Achievement | Ch. 9-10 | Quiz 4 (chapters 9 & 10) due by end of March 22nd |
| 9 | March 23-March 29 | Personality Assessment: An Overview | Ch. 11 | Discussion Forum 4 First post due March 26 Reply post due March 29 |

| | | | | |
|----|--|---|--------|---|
| 10 | March 30- April 5 | Personality Assessment Methods | Ch. 12 | Quiz 5 (chapters 11 & 12) due by end of April 5th |
| 11 | April 6-April 12 | Clinical and Counseling Assessment | Ch. 13 | Discussion Forum 5 First post due April 9th Reply post due April 12th |
| 12 | April 23-April 19 | Neuropsychological Assessment | Ch. 14 | |
| 13 | April 20-April 26 | Assessment in Careers & Business | Ch. 15 | Quiz 6 (chapters 13, 14, & 15) due by end of April 26 |
| 14 | April 26-April 30 (official last day of classes) | Finalize Paper and Extra Credit Presentation | | Paper #2 due by end of April 30th Extra credit presentations due by end of April 30th |

Official Communications via GMU E-mail: GMU uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. **Please allow the instructor up to 24-48 hours/business days** to respond to emails. The instructor can only respond to emails sent from GMU email accounts. **The subject of all emails should include the course name followed by a short description of your request/questions. For example: ‘PSYC320: Question about paper 1.’**

Title IX Statement: George Mason University is committed to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community. The University does not discriminate on the basis of sex or gender in any of its education or employment programs and activities. The University complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”); 34 CFR Part 106 (“Title IX Regulations”); Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VII”); the Virginia Human Rights Act; Violence Against Women Act (“VAWA”); and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (“Clery Act”).

For more information or to report discrimination or harassment on the basis of sex or gender in any of the University’s education or employment programs and activities, please contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator:

Angela Nastase, JD
Title IX Coordinator
Phone: (703) 993-8730
Email: titleix@gmu.edu

Student life resource (food and emergency fund security & nearby resources): visit this website! <https://ssac.gmu.edu/patriot-pantry/>

Patriot Pantry Services are altered but for immediate needs or concerns, please email pantry@gmu.edu or call 703-993-3686

If you are a current enrolled Mason student in a degree-seeking program that is financially impacted by the COVID-19/Coronavirus you can apply for the Student Emergency Assistance Fund. Please review the application for eligibility and email ulilfe@gmu.edu if you have further qualifying questions.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity refers to honest and ethical behavior in all aspects of academic activity. This includes: not cheating on exams or homework assignments (e.g., copying the work of others), not passing off someone else's ideas as your own (plagiarism), not engaging in dishonesty of any kind with regard to your class participation and assignments.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the *unacknowledged* use of another person's labor, another person's ideas, another person's words, or another person's assistance. Unless otherwise stated in class, all work done for courses – writing assignments, examinations, homework exercises, laboratory reports, oral presentations -- is expected to be the individual effort of the student presenting the work. Any assistance must be reported to the instructor. If the work has entailed consulting other resources -- journals, books, or other media -- these resources must be cited in a manner appropriate to the course. Everything used from other sources -- suggestions for organization of ideas, ideas themselves, or actual language -- must be cited. Failure to cite borrowed material constitutes plagiarism. Undocumented use of materials from the World Wide Web is plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating, you will fail the assignment, and, depending upon the severity of the violation, you may fail the class.

Honor Code: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information.

Enrollment: Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar's Website).

Important Dates:

Please check Spring 2021 – Drop / Withdrawal Deadline from this link <https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring-2021/>

Last day to add a class: Monday, Feb 1st

Final drop deadline (no tuition penalty): Friday, Feb 12th

Final Drop Deadline (50% tuition refund): Tues, Feb 16th

Last day of classes: April 30th