**PSYC 320-001**: **PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS AND MEASUREMENTS**

**Day/Time: Wednesday 7:20pm - 10pm**

**Classroom: Krug Hall 19**

**Semester: Fall 2021**

***Instructor:***  Dr. Raymond Lattanzio***Email:***rlattanz@gmu.edu

***Office Hours:***Wednesdays – 6-7pm ***Office:*** David King Hall 1014A

***Lab Instructors:***

Tevis Tucker – Lab Section 201 – Tuesday evening - ([ttucker9@masonlive.gmu.edu](mailto:ttucker9@masonlive.gmu.edu))

Mina Son – Lab Section 202 – Thursday evening – ([mson6@gmu.edu](mailto:mson6@gmu.edu))

**Primary 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.

You are required to have reliable access to the text throughout the semester. I understand that textbooks are expensive. If the price of the text is prohibitive, you may find it less expensive to rent the text (especially in the electronic form). Regardless of whether you rent or purchase the text, it is expected that you will have all readings completed prior to the class meeting in which they are discussed.

**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.

This course will primarily use lecture as a method of instruction. In addition, students are required to participate in class discussion and activities.

**Grade Breakdown:**

Your grade will be based on your performance on the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class Attendance/Participation | 15% |
| 6 Quizzes (lowest grade dropped) | 35% |
| Paper #1 | 15% |
| Paper #2 | 15% |
| Lab | 20% |
| ***TOTAL*** | ***100%*** |

**Grade Percentage Breakdown:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A+: 97-100 | B+: 87-89 | C+: 77-79 | D: 60-69 |
| A: 93-96 | B: 83-86 | C: 73-76 | F: 59 & under |
| A-: 90-92 | B-: 80-82 | C-: 70-72 |  |

**Evaluation Criteria:**

Attendance/Participation: Attendance/class participation is worth 15% of your total grade. Attendance will be taken each week at the start of class using a sign-in sheet. It is your responsibility to remember to sign in at the start of each class. Unexcused absences without approval from the instructor will result in a deduction from your attendance grade. However, I will make exceptions in emergency situations, for which you should provide some of form of official documentation of your situation.

* Participation in lectures is also required. “Participation” is considered active engagement in class – following along with lectures, taking notes, asking questions, participating in activities as necessary, etc.
* Use of laptops/tablets for non-academic purposes, use of cell phones, and talking to neighbors are all examples of behaviors that will result in a deduction from your grade.
* Eating is allowed during class. Food waste and empty beverage containers should be disposed of outside the classroom.

Review a Test of Your Choice: You will write two related 5 to 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). Requests for extension must be made before the due date. Further guidelines and grading rubrics will be provided. Late papers will not be accepted.

Quizzes:

* There will be **6** quizzes throughout the semester.
* The quizzes will cover lecture material and class demonstrations/activities.
* Quizzes will be multiple choice (about 20-30 questions) and will be delivered online.
  + Each quiz will have a 45-minute time limit. If you are prepared for the quiz, this is more than enough time to complete it. Study guides will be supplied prior to the quiz to help you prepare.
  + For each quiz, you will have two attempts.
  + Open and close dates/times for each quiz are included on the schedule section of this syllabus.
* Review of each quiz will take place the class meeting following the close of the quiz.
* Each quiz is worth 7% of your final grade (35% total), and your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Please see the semester schedule for dates.
* Because you can drop a quiz score and because them, there will be **NO** make-ups. If you have to miss a quiz, you **drop** that quiz.

Lab: All students must attend their assigned lab section (attendance is part of your lab grade). 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.

**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.

**Class Cancellation Policy:** This class will entail frequent use of email, blackboard, PowerPoint, etc. Please check blackboard and your email regularly. If class is cancelled, I will notify you by email/blackboard and let you know how we will make the time up.

**Schedule:** Below is a tentative schedule (and subject to change) for the semester with corresponding textbook chapters. Additional required readings and videos made available on Blackboard may be assigned throughout the semester. As this is a tentative schedule, ***attending class is the only way to ensure you stay current w/ all due dates, topics, & assignments.***

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings** | **Quizzes/Assignments** |
| 1 | 8/25 | * Welcome & Introduction * Syllabus Review * Overview of Psychological Testing and Assessment * Historical, Cultural, and Legal/Ethical Consideration | Syllabus Ch 1 & 2 |  |
| 2 | 9/1 | * Statistics Refresher * Assumptions of Psychological Testing, Introduction to Reliability, Validity, and Norms | Ch 3 & 4 |  |
| 3 | 9/8 | Reliability | Chapter 5 | Quiz 1 (Ch. 1-4) Opens Monday 9/6 @12:01 am.  Closes Friday 9/10 @11:59 pm |
| 4 | 9/15 | Validity | Chapter 6 |  |
| 5 | 9/22 | Test Utility **(Video Lecture)** | Chapter 7 | Quiz 2 (Ch. 5, 6)  Opens Monday 9/20 @12:01 am.  Closes Friday 9/24 @11:59 pm |
| 6 | 9/29 | Test Development | Chapter 8 |  |
| 7 | 10/6 | Assessment of Intelligence | Chapter 9 | Quiz 3 (Ch. 7, 8)  Opens Monday 10/4 @12:01 am  Closes Friday 10/8 @11:59 pm  ***PAPER #1 is due!*** |
| 8 | 10/13 | Assessments of Achievement | Chapter 10 |  |
| 9 | 10/20 | Personality Assessment: An Overview | Chapter 11 | Quiz 4 (Ch 9, 10)  Opens Monday 10/18 @12:01 am  Closes Friday 10/22 @11:59 pm |
| 10 | 10/27 | Personality Assessment Methods | Chapter 12 |  |
| 11 | 11/3 | Clinical and Counseling Assessment | Chapter 13 | Quiz 5 (Ch 11, 12)  Opens Monday 11/01 @12:01 am  Closes Friday 11/05 @11:59 pm |
| ***12*** | ***11/10*** | ***Work Day – Class will not meet*** |  |  |
| 13 | 11/17 | Neuropsychological Assessment | Chapter 14 |  |
| 14 | 11/24 | * THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS |  |  |
| 15 | 12/1 | * Assessment in Careers & Business | Chapter 15 | ***PAPER #2 is due!*** |
|  | **12/8** | **FINAL** |  | Quiz 6 (Ch 13, 14, & 15)  Opens Monday 12/6 @12:01 am  Closes Friday 12/8 @11:59 pm |

***Communication with course instructor:*** *Official Communications is to be conducted 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. In the event that class is canceled, I will notify you via email; this email will include information about making up the missed class. If you email me, 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*.’

**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. 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](http://honorcode.gmu.edu/) for detailed information.

**Classroom Needs:** If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, hearing, learning, or medical conditions) or any religious or cultural practices, please let me know by the second week of class so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. Disabilitiesmust be documented by the Disability Resources Center (703-993-2474) for reasonable accommodations to be provided.

**Important Dates:** Please check Fall 2021 – Drop / Withdrawal Deadline from this link https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/fall\_2021/

**Last day to add a class:** Monday 8/30

**Final drop deadline (no tuition penalty):** Tuesday 9/7

**Final Drop Deadline (50% tuition refund):** Tuesday 9/14

**Last day of classes**: Saturday 12/4