

Fall 2012
PSYCH 8325 - PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING
CRN: 22439; Thursdays 5:30 - 7:30 PM, 216 Tolentine Hall

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Office Hours:
Tues. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Fri. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM

TEXTBOOK/READINGS:

Furr, R.M., & Bachrach, V.R. (2008). *Psychometrics: An introduction*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Reserve Room, Falvey Library, Kurtz, J.E. (Ed.). *Psychology 8325*.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of psychological assessment. The primary objectives are to provide advanced instruction and training in: 1.) methodological concepts of applied psychometric theory and test construction; 2.) administration, scoring, and interpretation of selected assessment instruments commonly used by psychologists; and 3.) integration and communication of test findings in the interest of clinical decisions and treatment planning.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: (3 units; pre-requisite: graduate standing in psychology)

Examinations. There will be two non-cumulative exams; the first will be given October 11 and the second during the final exam period at a date to be announced later. Exams will be comprised of objective format items, short essays, and problem solutions. Exam content will be derived from lectures and readings.

Interpretive Writing Assignments. Students will be given test data from which to formulate three brief interpretive reports (WAIS-III, MMPI-2, PAI, and Unstructured) and one final integrative report using several sources of data. These are *not* collaborative tasks.

Test Review Paper. Students will select an appropriate psychological test and critique it using published research literature (minimum of 5 references) on issues of development, norms, reliability, and validity. Further instructions related to this assignment are appended to this document.

GRADING:

Midterm	30%	October 11
4 Interpretive Assignments	10% total	Due: Oct 4, Nov 8 Nov 15, Dec 6
Test Review Paper	20%	Due: November 29
Integrative Report	10%	Due at Final Exam
Final Exam	30%	TBA

COURSE CALENDAR:

1. Aug 30	Professional and Ethical Issues	Ch. 1 APA Ethics Code
2. Sep 6	Scales, Norms, and Reliability	Chs. 2, 3, 5, 6
3. Sep 13	Test Validity	Chs. 8, 9 Cronbach & Meehl
4. Sep 20	Intellectual Assessment	
5. Sep 27	WAIS-III Interpretation	Lichtenberger & Kaufman
6. Oct 4	Neuropsychological Testing	Lezak
Oct 11	<i>Midterm Exam</i>	-
<i>[Autumn Recess]</i>		
7. Oct 25	Test Construction	Chs. 7, 10, 11, 13
8. Nov 1	MMPI-2/MMPI-RF	Newmark & McCord
9. Nov 8	PAI	Morey Morey & Hopwood
10. Nov 15	Unstructured and Narrative Techniques	Dana
11. Nov 29	Rorschach	Groth-Marnat
12. Dec 6	Data Integration and Report Writing	Korchin
13. Dec 13	Diagnoses and Decisions	
Dec 15-19 (TBA)	<i>Final Exam</i>	

Psych 8325 – Fall 2012
Guidelines for Test Review Paper

DUE: Thursday, November 29
PAGE LENGTH: 6 pages, not including tables or references (*please do not exceed*)
APA Style (6th edition) format and referencing

You might use the Mental Measurements Yearbook (MMY) to “shop” for a test or scale or to get references on a test, but don’t use the MMY as a reference source for your paper; obtain and cite at least **5 primary sources** (journal articles or test manuals) from the literature. Tests with some research done by person(s) other than the original developer are preferable for objective analysis. I strongly recommend that you check your test choice with me before getting started. You may also want to start collecting literature *early* since our library holdings are limited and interlibrary loan may take up to 4 weeks.

Your paper should address points 1-5 below, although not all subpoints will necessarily apply:

1. Conceptual rationale and theoretical basis

- Choice of construct(s)
- Choice of method (structured test, performance task, etc.) and scaling procedures
- Population of interest
- Intended purpose of test

2. Development process

- Generation and selection of items and/or procedures
- Describe normative sample(s) and how they were recruited
- Revisions, refinements, improvements

3. Reliability

- Test-retest
- Internal consistency
- Parallel forms
- Rater agreement

4. Validity

- Criterion-based (describe criteria)
- Experimental, developmental, or intervention-based changes
- Construct-oriented approaches; convergent/discriminant procedures/data

5. Conclusion (**most important part – at least one page**)

- Is it a good test? For what purposes should one use it?
- What improvements can be made?
- What research still needs to be done? (This question applies to *all* tests)

Cite supportive data/statistics; large numbers of correlation coefficients, etc. should be presented in tables for easy reference.