



PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

PSYC 350 – Section 1

Fall, 2017 § Tu/Th 2:00 – 3:15 § CCC 234 § University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

Instructor: Rebecca Gathje, Ph.D.
E-mail: bgathje@uwsp.edu
Phone: 715-346-3186

Office: Science D231
Office Hours: M,T,Th 11:00-12:00, or by appt.
Psychology Main Office: Science D240

I. Course Description

This course provides an overview of psychological assessment, including psychometrics, test construction, validation, clinical interviewing, and psychological tests. Specific categories of tests that may be covered include: intelligence tests, achievement tests, neuropsychological tests, psychosocial and behavioral instruments, career inventories, positive psychological instruments, personality inventories, and projective tests. The course format will include a combination of lectures, discussions, testing demonstrations, and group activities to facilitate student learning.

II. Prerequisites

This is an advanced course in psychology. Students are required to have accrued six credit hours of psychology courses and attain junior status prior to enrollment in PSYC 350.

III. Required Text

Kaplan, R. M. & Saccuzzo, D. P. (2013). *Psychological Testing: Principles, Applications, & Issues* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Note: Additional readings may be assigned throughout the course. Such readings will be handed out in class, made available on-line or through e-mail, and/or put on library reserve with advance notice.

IV. Course Objectives

The main goals for this course are to have an understanding of psychological assessment, mainly psychometrics, test construction, clinical interviewing, and the broad categories of psychological tests and their primary uses. By the end of the course, students will be able to accomplish the following objectives:

1. Understand basic psychometrics of existing instruments and those required in test construction.
2. Categorize and discriminate specific psychological tests and their primary uses.
3. Analyze and interpret basic findings from psychological tests/instruments.
4. Apply and synthesize data gathered from psychological assessments to create a formal report.

V. Class Expectations

- Attend *every* class. Lectures include material not covered in the text.
- READ the material *before* each class. REVIEW material *after* class.
- Be *respectful* of others. Failure to do so may result in the student being asked to leave class.
- Approach class and assignments as a *professional*. Be present, awake, attentive, and engaged.
- Do not cause distractions. If your cell phone rings during class, I have the right to answer it.
- Complete assignments and exams *as scheduled*, and keep the instructor informed of any barriers to doing so as soon as possible.

VI. Course Materials

The syllabus and grades will be available on Desire 2 Learn (D2L): <http://www.uwsp.edu/d2l/> Announcements, assignments, articles, study guides and powerpoint presentations may also be posted. Please consult the instructor if you cannot access this website.

VII. Evaluation of Performance

Evaluation of student performance will be based on scheduled exams, quizzes, group projects, and participation). These will total 550 possible points, and final grades will be calculated as a percentage of total points earned.

Exams: There will be four exams over the course of the semester. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. Each will be worth 100 points. The final exam will NOT be cumulative, and be just like the previous exams. Exams will be closed-book and monitored. Any student caught cheating will receive a score of zero on the exam, as per the academic integrity policy listed below. Students will not be allowed to enter the classroom once the exam has started. Instead a score of zero will be provided for late arrival on exam days.

Quizzes: To place value on the importance of timely attendance to class and keeping up with the readings BEFORE class, 5 unannounced quizzes will occur throughout the semester, starting immediately at 2:00. Ten minutes will be allowed for each quiz. If you are late to class you will not receive ten minutes to complete. If you do not attend, there will not be the opportunity to make up these quizzes at a later time. These quizzes will focus on information from the previous class AND information from the material that should have been read prior to class. An attempt will be made to make quizzes fairly simple so as to boost the grade of those that do have timely attendance to class and have made an effort to read material prior to coming to class. Each quiz will be worth 10 points.

Group Project: Each student will work in a group of approximately 4 students in order to research, summarize, and present to the class on a specific psychological assessment measure. This measure will be determined randomly in class. Details of this project will be included on D2L, but the overall goal of the project is for the group NOT to describe the measure from the textbook, but to identify a research article on the assessment measure, read and summarize these findings, and present to the class on this literature. Grades will largely reflect accurate use of APA style and the utilization and understanding of research in the field to advance knowledge in psychological assessment. Each group project will be worth 70 points.

Participation: By university policy, regular attendance is expected and required. Thus, I will not give points for simple attendance; you are simply expected to be in class, both in body and mind. However, you will receive a participation grade, worth 30 points. This grade includes my estimation of your preparedness, your asking and answering of questions in lecture, your participation during discussion sessions, and your general attitude in the classroom. Participation grades will be lowered due to use of phones or other electronic devices for purposes outside of class, talking with others in side conversations, working on material not pertaining to the class, sleeping, or exhibiting other inappropriate classroom behavior. While exact points are determined at the end of the class, the following guidelines will be used.

30: Good to excellent: Spontaneous asking or answering of questions during lecture and discussions; showing evidence as a group leader and active contributor in group work; demonstrating preparedness

20: Some class participation but lacking in spontaneous asking/answering questions; Participation in group project but not as a leader; typically just doing the minimum of what is required.

10: Never to rarely speaking in group discussions or asking/answering questions in lecture; exhibiting a poor attitude toward learning or regularly a distraction in class

VIII. Point Distribution

Point distribution for this course is as follows. Use this chart to keep track of your progress throughout the semester.

<u>Point Distribution:</u>	<u>Possible</u>	<u>My score</u>
Exam #1	100 pts	_____
Exam #2	100 pts	_____
Exam #3	100 pts	_____
Exam #4	100 pts	_____
Quiz #1	10 pts	_____
Quiz #2	10 pts	_____
Quiz #3	10 pts	_____
Quiz #4	10 pts	_____
Quiz #5	10 pts	_____
Group Project:	70 pts	_____
Participation 1 st half:	15 pts	_____
Participation 2 nd half:	15 pts	_____
<hr/>		
Total:	550 points	_____

<u>Total Points to Final Grade:</u>	
A	= 509-550 (92.5-100%)
A-	= 493-510 (89.5-92.4%)
B+	= 476-492 (86.5-89.4%)
B	= 454-475 (82.5-86.4%)
B-	= 438-453 (79.5-82.4%)
C+	= 421-437 (76.5-79.4%)
C	= 399-420 (72.5-76.4%)
C-	= 383-398 (69.5-72.4%)
D+	= 366-382 (66.5-69.4%)
D	= 328-365 (59.5-66.4%)
F	= 0-327 (0-59.4%)

Note: Extra credit will NOT be available in this course.

Final grades of "Incomplete" will be given only under extreme circumstances. An Incomplete is not an option for students who feel overwhelmed by academics, work schedules, or extracurricular activities. Typically, an Incomplete must be completed within one semester otherwise an "F" will result.

IX. Make-up Exams and Late Assignments

Make-up exams will be offered only under extreme circumstances (e.g., death in family, accident, medical emergency) decided on a case-by-case basis. In order to qualify for a make-up exam, students must: a) provide a valid excuse for missing the exam and b) schedule a make-up exam within one week of the missed exam. Failure to provide adequate rationale for missing an exam will result in a score of zero points for the exam. Final grades of “incomplete” will be determined in the same way.

Hard copies of all assignments are required to receive full credit (Do not email assignments). In the case of expected absence, you may submit your paper *prior* to class. Assignments not submitted during or prior to class will result in at least a 10% reduction in credit per day.

Unless you are taking an exam through the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, all make-up exams will be proctored through the Department of Psychology during one of the official times. I will notify you of available times, and you will be expected to schedule during one of these times. Make-up exams should be completed within one week of the original exam date.

X. Students’ Rights & Responsibilities

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, the University has developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the *Rights and Responsibilities* document (link provided on D2L), and is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP.

XI. Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education, particularly to UWSP. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism. Plagiarism includes copying or paraphrasing other students’ work, and copying or paraphrasing material from sources (e.g., internet, articles, books) without using quotations or citations. Plagiarism will result in an immediate rejection of the work. Any student who engages in plagiarism will be given the opportunity to repeat the work and have it graded appropriately. Consistent with university policy, a written reprimand will be placed in the student’s disciplinary file. “Accidental plagiarism” – naiveté about what constitutes plagiarism – will not be accepted as a legitimate excuse.

Violation of academic integrity is left to the discretion of the professor of this course. The minimum penalty is a zero for the exam/assignment. For more information, see the UWSP “Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures” section of the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, Chapter 14. A link to this document is provided on D2L.

To maintain the integrity of in-class exams, the use of electronic devices will not be permitted during exams without prior documented approval from the Disability Services office or other pertinent offices on campus. This includes, but is not limited to, requests to use cellular or wireless network-enabled mobile devices for foreign language translation assistance. Students who are found using these devices will be dismissed and receive a zero for their exams.

XII. Accommodations and Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. A link to UWSP’s policy is provided on D2L.

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, if you have not done so already, and then contact the professor at the beginning of the course. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center. A link to the Center's webpage is provided on D2L.

XIII. Extra Assistance or Tutoring

If you would like extra assistance related to course materials or have any questions related to your performance in the course, please come by my office hours or set up an appointment. If you would prefer help from a student, you can contact the UWSP Tutoring Learning Center (018 LRC, 715-346-3568) or utilize the Psychology Tutoring Center (contact Kay in the Psychology Department, 715-346-2883).

XIV. Title IX Disclaimer

Given the nature of this course, any disclosure of unreported neglect, physical, or sexual abuse of a child made to a University instructor must be reported to the appropriate administrative or law enforcement officials. Instances of the sexual assault of an adult must also be reported to the University under the Clery Act.

XV. Mandatory Reporting of Illegal Acts

Under several federal and state laws, and according to several university guidelines, I am required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature that occur both within and outside of class. This includes acts of sexual harassment and assault, bias and hate crimes, illicit drug use, and acts of violence. Any disclosure or description of these incidents – both current and in the past – may be reported to the Dean of Students office (<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/>) or the local authorities.

XVI. Emergency Responding

In the event of a medical emergency call 911 or use Red Emergency Phone (located outside D230 Science). Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide all emergency responders to the person in need.

In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure. See <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans.aspx> for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings.

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner and meet on the north side of the Science Building (by the Health Enhancement Center). Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

In the event of an Active Shooter – Run/Escapes, Hide, Fight. If trapped in a room, you should hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out, and remain quiet. Follow instructions of Emergency Responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at <http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt> for details on all emergency response procedures at UW-Stevens Point.

Tentative Course Calendar – Fall, 2017

Wk	Date	Topic (s)	Reading	Presentations
1	Tu 9/5 Th 9/7	Syllabus and Intro to Psychological Assessment	Chapter 1	
2	Tu 9/12 Th 9/14	Norms and Basic Statistics for Testing	Chapter 2	
3	Tu 9/19 Th 9/21	Correlation and Regression	Chapter 3	
4	Tu 9/26 Th 9/28	Exam #1 Reliability	EXAM DAY Chapter 4	
5	Tu 10/3 Th 10/5	Validity	Chapter 5	
6	Tu 10/10 Th 10/12	Writing and Evaluating Test Items	Chapter 6	
7	Tu 10/17 Th 10/19	Test Administration Exam #2	Chapter 7 EXAM DAY	
8	Tu 10/24 Th 10/26	Interviewing Techniques	Chapter 8	Group 1
9	Tu 10/31 Th 11/2	Theories of Intelligence	Chapter 9	Group 2 Group 3
10	Tu 11/7 Th 11/9	Wechsler Intelligence Scales	Chapter 10	Group 4 Group 5
11	Tu 11/14 Th 11/16	Standardized Tests in Ed/Civil/Military Exam #3	Chapter 12	Group 6
12	Tu 11/21 Th 11/23	Applications in Clinical and Counseling NO CLASSES – THANKSGIVING	Chapter 13	
13	Tu 11/28 Th 11/30	Applications in Clinical and Counseling Settings	Chapter 13	Group 7 Group 8
14	Tu 12/5 Th 12/7	Testing in Health Psychology and Health Care	Chapter 17	Group 9 Group 10
15	Tu 12/12 Th 12/14	Ethics and the Future of Psychological Testing	Chapter 21	Group 11
Exam #4 (Final) WED 12/20 from 2:45-4:45pm CCC 234				

*This calendar is subject to change based on the instructor's discretion. All modifications will be announced in class and placed on D2L. It is the responsibility of the student to stay informed of changes.