

Psychological Assessment (PSYC 350)

Syllabus & Course Calendar, Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. Heather Meggers-Wright (you can call me Dr. Meggers)

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Office: D224

Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-2:00

* I am only on campus on Thursdays and my availability is limited due to my clinic schedule during the week.

Please be advised that if you can't come to my office hours, then we may need to schedule a phone call on a weekend.

Readings

- Cohen, R.J., Swerdlik, M.E., & Sturman, E.D. (2013). Psychological Testing & Assessment: An Introduction to Tests and Measurement, 8th ed. New York, NY: McGraw Hill.
(recommended)
- Additional readings, as assigned, available on D2L (required)

Course Description

This course provides an overview of psychological assessment, including psychometrics, test construction, validation, clinical interviewing, and psychological tests. Specific categories of test covered include: intelligence tests, achievement tests, neuropsychological tests, psychosocial/behavioral instruments, career inventories, positive psychological instruments, personality inventories, and projective tests.

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. Specific objectives for the course include:

1. Students will be able to identify and analyze the basic psychometrics utilized in existing instruments and those required in test construction.
2. Students will be able to categorize and discriminate specific psychological tests and their primary uses.
3. Students will be able to analyze and interpret basic findings from psychological tests/instruments.
4. Students will be able to apply and synthesize data gathered from psychological tests/instruments to formulate a psychological report.

Course Assignments & Grading

Exams (200 pts)

There will be 2 non-cumulative exams in this course worth 100 points each. Please see the syllabus for examination dates. The exams will be a mix of multiple choice, matching, short answer, and/or essay. **I will not provide a detailed study guide for these exams**—they will cover the material from the book, assigned readings and the lecture notes accompanying those readings and that is what you should study.

Quizzes (60 pts)

There will be 4 in-class quizzes that between the exam periods to help you keep on track and focused between exams. The dates are on the calendar. They will be taken during the first 20 minutes of class, will be multiple choice, and will be worth 15 pts each. If you do not come to class *or are late*, you may not make up the quiz or receive extra time.

Article Worksheet (40 pts)

You will read a research article describing the development of a psychological test used in research understanding human behavior and fill out a worksheet that applies concepts learned in class about reliability, validity, and test development to the contents of the article.

Self-Assessment Report (100 pts)

Students will write one comprehensive self-assessment report to interpret testing results from self-administered tests in personality and career assessment using tools provided by the UWSP Career Services office online, and another web source. This assignment will involve researching the theory guiding the assigned assessments, and “interpreting” the results after taking the assessments. More details will come in class and on D2L.

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>	<u>Total Points to Final Grade:</u>	
Exam #1	100 pts	___	A = 370-400 (92.5-100%)	A- = 358-369 (89.5-92.4%)
Exam #2	100 pts	___	B+ = 346-357 (86.5-89.4%)	B = 330-345 (82.5-86.4%)
Quizzes (15 each)	60 pts	___	B- = 318-329 (79.5-82.4%)	C+ = 306-317 (76.5-79.4%)
Article Worksheet	40 pts	___	C = 290-305 (72.5-76.4%)	C- = 278-289(69.5-72.4%)
Self Assessment Report	100 pts	___	D+ = 266-277 (66.5-69.4%)	D = 238-265(59.5-66.4%)
Total:	400 pts	___	F = 0-237(0-59.4%)	

Class Policies:

Assignments: Assignments are to be turned in exactly as described below on the Due Date calendar. Read it and follow the directions. Also, make sure you read any supporting documents posted on D2L—I spend time on those to give you more information on HOW to do an assignment, as well as give information on how it will be evaluated. You are responsible for following the directions in these documents. Any deviation from these assignment directions that I have not personally permitted will result in a grade of zero points on the assignment.

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 (e.g. letter from physician) and b) schedule a make-up exam within one week of the missed exam, at a time that is convenient to the instructor. Failure to provide adequate rationale for missing an exam will result in a score of zero points for the exam.

Assignments must be turned in as assigned to receive full credit. In the case of expected absence or illness, you may submit your out-of-class assignment *prior* to class. Assignments not submitted by the designated due date and time will result in at least a 10% reduction in credit per day, with a late deduction day beginning one minute after the designated time due has passed.

Respect: Students enrolled in this class are expected to be respectful of each other and the professor. Right now your job is to be a student, and a professional student is one who comes to class on time and ready to work.

Stay off your phone, don't carry on side conversations, give your fellow students your attention when they speak, and otherwise treat class time like it is your job.

Attendance: While attendance is not mandatory, it is in your best interest to attend class given that information presented in class (not necessarily covered in the reading) is potential exam material. Also, in-class assignments and presentations are only completed in class (unless there is an emergency) and *videos are only shown in class* (no exceptions), which is also potential exam material. If you are unable to attend class, *it is your responsibility to obtain lecture notes and review any missed activities or videos with your classmates.* It is recommended you exchange contact information with at least a couple of your classmates in case you need material you missed.

Extra Credit & Rounding Policy:

IF extra credit is awarded in the class, final grades will not be rounded. An 89.99% will be a B+, not an A-. If there is no opportunity for extra credit, the instructor may choose to round within a half-percentage point. Excessive rounding contributes to grade inflation and will not be awarded under any circumstances. Extra credit is not up for individual negotiation. *The only guaranteed way to receive the grade you want for the course is to earn it through your performance on regular course assignments.*

Incompletes: Incompletes will only be given in extreme circumstances (e.g., medical emergency) with proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note). An incomplete is not an option for students who feel overwhelmed by academics, work schedules, or extracurricular activities. Typically, incompletes must be completed within one semester, otherwise an "F" will result.

Campus-Wide Policies:

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, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP.

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. You may not collaborate with other students on exams or homework assignments for this course. Violation of academic integrity is left to the discretion of the professor of this course. The minimum penalty is a zero for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" section of the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, Chapter 14, which can be accessed from: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>.

Accommodations: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, see: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>. 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. I am happy to help in any way I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center. You can also find more information at: http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability_

Extra Assistance: If you would like extra assistance related to course materials or if you 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 office, 715-346-2883).

Emergency Response: In the event of a medical emergency call 911 or use the Red Emergency Phone outside of room D230 Science Building. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide Emergency Responders to victims. In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure or the hallways outside of our classroom. See 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. Meet underneath the athletic sign outside the HEC across from the Science Building. Notify the instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals. In the event of an active shooter – Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped, hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out, and remain quiet. Follow instructions of the Emergency Responders. See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.

Tentative Course Calendar

All of the contents are subject to change by the instructor, including topics, readings, due dates and exam dates.

Dates	Thursdays 2:00-4:30	Other Info
Jan 26	Introduction to Psychological Testing and Statistics Review - Read Chapter 1, 3 (pg 98-114)	For best performance, print out lecture materials and take the time to fill in details, examples, extra bits of info I talk about in class as exams go beyond PP slides.
Feb 2	Norms and the Use of Comparison Groups + Introduction to Intelligence Testing - Read Chapter 4 & 9	
Feb 9	Intelligence Testing Read Chapter 10 & 2	In-Class Quiz (lecture material covered through last class)
Feb 16	Intelligence Testing + Ethics and Legal Cases (Cont)	
Feb 23	Cont/Catch-up class	
Mar 2	Neuropsychological Assessment Chapter 15	In Class Quiz (lecture material covered through the last class- cumulative)
Mar 9	Exam 1	Exam 1 covers all in-class and assigned materials from 1-26 through 3-2
Mar 16	Reliability & Validity in Testing Read Chapter 5 & 6	
Mar 23	No Class Spring Break	
Mar 30	Guest Speaker- career locker	Article Worksheet due on D2L by 5:00 p.m.
Apr 6	Test Development	
Apr 13	Personality Testing - Read Chapter 12 & 13	
Apr 20	Personality Testing	In-Class Quiz (lecture and online article/worksheet from 10-20 through last class)
Apr 27	Clinical & Counselling Assessment Chapter 14	
May 4	Assessments in Careers & Business - Chapter 16	In-Class Quiz (lecture material covered from Oct 20 through last class- cumulative)
May 11	Exam 2	Exam 2 covers all in-class and assigned materials since 3-16
Final Exam Period	Tuesday May 16th	Career & Personality Self-Assessment Due by the end of the day- upload to D2L