



PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

PSYC 350 – Section 1

Fall 2023 Tu & Th 11:00 – 12:15 § Sci B328 § University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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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.

Prerequisites

In this advanced psychology course, students must have taken PSYC 110 and either PSYC 300 or MATH 355 prior to enrollment in PSYC 350 or with instructor approval

Required Text

Kaplan, R. M. & Saccuzzo, D. P. (2013). *Psychological Testing: Principles, Applications, & Issues* (8th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning. Specific page numbers are specified for each chapter.

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.

Course Objectives

The main goals for this course focus on an improved understanding of what psychological assessment entails, and how the appropriate and responsible use of psychological assessments can have great utility in our everyday lives. 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. Summarize the historical context behind the development of various assessments
3. Categorize and discriminate specific psychological tests and their primary uses.
4. Analyze and interpret basic findings from psychological tests/instruments.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic components of a full comprehensive assessment

Class Expectations

- Attend *every* class and be *punctual*. 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. Side discussions between students, even in the back of the class, are very disruptive to others.
- Approach class and assignments as a *professional*. Be present, awake, attentive, and engaged.
- Do not cause distractions. Please make a habit of turning off ringers before class.
- Complete assignments and exams *as scheduled*. Communicate effectively regarding barriers.
- Take responsibility for your own learning *throughout* the semester. Don't expect extra opportunities at the end to raise your grade. Over-study at the beginning to ensure a good start.

Course Resources

The syllabus and grades will be available on Canvas: <http://www.canvas.uwsp.edu> - Announcements, assignments, articles, study guides and PowerPoint presentations may also be posted. Please consult the instructor if you cannot access this website.

Attendance - University Policy is that all students will attend class (see <http://www.uwsp.edu/reg-rec/Attendance.aspx>). Failure to attend class will result in missed information vital to all grading aspects of the course.

Late turn-in policy - The policy for this unlikely event will be a 10% reduction in your score for each day the paper is late. Any exceptional circumstances that may result in an unforeseen late submission (e.g., hospitalization, emergency absence) will be coordinated with your instructor. Missed exams may be rescheduled **within a week** of returning to class. Papers **are due when noted** in the syllabus unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Cell Phones and Electronic Recording Devices - All cell phones are to be silenced. Should a phone ring in class, I will be more than happy to answer that phone and talk to the caller. Anticipated emergency phone calls can be pre-arranged with the instructor, but the call must be answered outside of the classroom. Electronic recording devices for recording lectures must be pre-approved by the instructor.

Student's Rights and Responsibilities – Understanding your rights and responsibilities as students is an important aspect of your education here at UWSP. Your instructor expects you to understand and adhere to these rights and responsibilities in accordance with UWSP policy. Accordingly, students are encouraged to visit the Community Rights and Responsibilities document on-line at the listed URL below:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/perkins/Pages/Rights-and-Responsibilities.aspx>

Course Withdrawal - Students must withdraw from class in a timely manner in accordance with published deadlines. Failure to do so could result in a failing grade or the loss of reimbursable tuition fees. The published deadlines can be found at:

<https://www.uwsp.edu/SFS/Pages/Cancellations-Drops-and-Withdrawals.aspx>

Academic Honesty – If I suspect that a violation of academic honesty has occurred, I will pursue disciplinary sanction in accordance with UWS/UWSP 14, “Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures,” of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, Rules of the Board of Regents of the University of

Wisconsin System. Copies of UWS/UWSP Chapter 14 are located in paper form at The Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities, each residence hall, the Reserve Desk of the Learning Resources Center, the University Center Information Center, and the office of each academic dean.

Emergency Response Guidance:

Medical Emergency. Call 911 or use Red Emergency Phone (List Location). Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide Emergency Responders to victim.

Tornado Warning. Proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure at _____. (List primary location for shelter closest to class). 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.

Fire Alarm. Evacuate the building in a calm manner. Meet at west end of Gym (Swimming pool side). Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter: Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of Emergency Responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at www.uwsp.edu/rmgt for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.”

Title IX. *Under several federal and state laws, and according to several university guidelines, I am required to report acts of a criminal or offensive nature. 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.*

Evaluation of Performance

Evaluation of student performance will be based on four exams, four quizzes, and two papers. These will total 540 possible points. Final grades will be calculated as a percentage of total points earned.

Exams (150 points each, 600 Total- 60%): There will be four exams over the course of the semester. Exams will consist of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. The final exam will NOT be cumulative. 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. Without a documented and pre-approved excuse, 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.

Classroom Attendance & Participation (CAP) Points (200 points – 20%)

CAP points account for 20% of a student’s grade in the course. These points result from a calculation at the end of the semester based on how well and how often a student participates in the class or provides items of interest (e.g., articles, cartoons, videos) to the instructor that can assist in another student’s learning. These points may also come from pop quizzes or unlisted outside assignments. Should students fail to participate in class, they can expect to receive no better than 90 of 125 points. Active oral participation is essential to do well in this portion of the grading. You can also expect a downgrade in this area for more than two absences. Two absences or less will result in a 100 out of 100 points for attendance. Attendance is recorded. The student participation

score results daily based on the following scale (0-Slept in class/did not attend, 1-Failed to participate/refused to answer question when called upon or was late to class, 2-participated when called upon, 3-active, voluntary participation). The participation portion of the grade will be calculated using an instructor-derived formula based on your daily score total.

Ethics Discussion (50 points): Each student will be provided one ethical dilemma vignette. The assignment is to use supplemental readings to identify which ethical guideline(s) are relevant, and then to discuss considerations and conclusions as if you were part of an ethical review board. Details of this project will be included on Canvas, but the overall goal is to gain understanding and insight into the ethical dilemmas that exist within assessment and to discuss with others in class to determine what actions should be taken based on the situation. **Students should write a brief paper that should be brought to class on 10/31/2023.** This paper will not be graded, but is meant to guide your participation in discussion. **Your grade will be based on presence and participation in the discussion.**

Mental Measurements Yearbook Comparison Paper (150 points): A very well-known and utilized resource in Psychological Assessment is the Buros Center for Testing's Mental Measurements Yearbook. This assignment is intended to introduce you to this resource as a fairly accessible way to understand the psychometrics, purpose, and use of a large number of assessment measures. Again, details of this paper will be included on Canvas, but the goal is to summarize, compare, and contrast two tests listed in the yearbook that are meant to assess a similar construct. **Due Dec 7, 2023.**

Bonus Points (15 Points maximum)

To encourage an in-depth reading and review of this syllabus and other course material, this instructor will award any student 1 point (up to a maximum of 15 points-1.5% of your grade) for any error that s/he discovers in any of the instructor's written documents. Only the first individual who notifies the instructor of the error will receive the point. So as not to interrupt the class, students are to notify the instructor before or after class via email. E-mail is the acceptable method of notification as this provides this instructor with a traceable record for assigning the bonus points. Only students who email the error will get credit. Verbal notification is not enough. However, if two students should have the same error listed, I will use the date/time of the message to indicate who was first. The instructor will keep a master copy of the student's name for each error for each document. Since I strive to produce the best product possible, this approach will help me reach my goal of zero errors in my materials. Should a student also receive a verbal bonus point in class, that student must again email the instructor reminding him of that bonus point awarded on that day. Delayed or Non-notification results in loss of the bonus point.

Course Grading Summary

CAP	200	20%
Exams1-4 (150 points each)	600	60%
Ethics Paper	50	5%
<u>MMY Paper</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>15%</u>
Total	1000	100%

XI. Students' Rights & Responsibilities

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. 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 Canvas) and is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP.

XII. 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 Canvas.

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.

XIII. 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 Canvas.

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 Canvas.

XIV. 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 the ADA in the Psychology Department, 715-346-2883).

Course Calendar – Fall 2023

Wk	Date	Topic (s)	Reading	Assignment/Quiz
1	Tu 9/05 Th 9/07	Syllabus and Intro to Psych 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 (CH 1-3) Reliability	EXAM DAY Chapter 4	
5	Tu 10/3 Th 10/5	Finish Reliability/Begin Validity Finish Validity	Chapter 4/5 Chapter 5	
6	Tu 10/10 Th 10/12	Test Development	Chapter 6	
7	Tu 10/17 Th 10/19	Test Administration	Chapter 7	
8	Tu 10/24 Th 10/26	Exam #2 (CH 4-7) Ethics in Assessment	EXAM DAY Supplemental	
9	Tu 10/31 Th 11/02	Ethical guidelines (Grade will be based on participation in discussion) Intro to Intelligence Assessment	Supplemental Chapter 9	10/31: Ethics paper due
10	Tu 11/07 Th 11/09	Binet Intelligence Scales Wechsler Intelligence Scales	Chapter 9 Chapter 10	
11	Tu 11/14 Th 11/16	Wechsler Intelligence Scales Personality Assessment	Chapter 10 Chapter 13	
12	Tu 11/21	Clinical/Counseling Assessment Have a Great Thanksgiving Day	Chapter 13	
13	Tu 11/28 Th 11/30	Exam #3 (CH 9, 10, 13) Neuropsychological Assessment	EXAM DAY Chapter 17	
13	Tu 12/05 Th 12/07	Neuropsychological Assessment		12/07: MMY Paper Due
14	Tu 12/12 Th 12/14	Educational Assessment	Chapter 11	
15	Th 12/21	Final (10:15-12:15) Exam #4	Chapters 11, 17	

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