

# PSYC 318: Psychological Testing and Measurement

Fall 2008

**Instructor: Dr. Julie Alvarez**

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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 pm, Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 pm, and by appointment
<b>CLASSROOM:</b>	102 Jones Hall
<b>CLASS TIME:</b>	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30 pm – 4:45 pm
<b>CLASS WEBSITE:</b>	<a href="http://tulane.blackboard.com">http://tulane.blackboard.com</a>
<b>PREREQUISITES:</b>	Psyc 100 and Psyc 209 (or 212)
<b>TEXTBOOK:</b>	Hogan, T. P. (2007). <i>Psychological Testing, Second Edition</i> . John Wiley & Sons.
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	Charles Corprew (3018 Stern, <a href="mailto:ccorprew@tulane.edu">ccorprew@tulane.edu</a> , 504-862-3326)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Thursdays 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm, and by appointment
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	Sara Redahan (3012E Stern, <a href="mailto:sredahan@tulane.edu">sredahan@tulane.edu</a> , 415-420-4130)
<b>Lab Time/Room*</b>	Psyc 318-42: Wednesdays 9:00 am – 10:50 am, 202 Newcomb Hall
<b>Lab Time/Room*</b>	Psyc 318-44: Wednesdays 3:00 pm – 4:50 pm, 202 Newcomb Hall
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	Angelique Trask-Tate (3015C Stern, <a href="mailto:atrask@tulane.edu">atrask@tulane.edu</a> , 504-236-8096)
<b>Lab Time/Room*</b>	Psyc 318-41: Tuesdays 11:00 am – 12:50 pm, 202 Newcomb Hall
<b>Lab Time/Room*</b>	Psyc 318-43: Wednesdays 11:00 am – 12:50 pm, 202 Newcomb Hall

\* You **MUST** enroll in one of the lab sections.

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## COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide you with exposure to the process of test development and analysis. The primary goal is to provide you with a solid foundation in the area of psychological measurement. Specifically, after completion of this course, you should: (1) have an understanding of what psychological tests are and the criteria used to evaluate them, (2) have an appreciation of the various types of tests available for commercial use, (3) be able to analyze and interpret data collected as part of a test administration, and (4) be able to communicate results of your analyses to a wide audience. Because it fulfills the laboratory requirement of the major, the workload in this course is substantial.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will understand and apply psychological principles to the measurement of psychological constructs (e.g., intelligence, personality).
- Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychological assessment, including statistical and measurement concepts (e.g., reliability, validity), test development and item analysis, theories and tests of intelligence, neuropsychological assessment, objective personality tests, projective techniques, clinical instruments and methods, behavioral assessment, measurement of interests and attitudes, and ethical and legal issues in psychological assessment.

## COURSE STRUCTURE

The class is scheduled to meet for 75 minutes, 2 times each week. Although the class primarily is a lecture course, student involvement is valued and strongly encouraged. To this end, there will be an open atmosphere in the class, which depends on unequivocal respect for the opinions and concerns of everyone in the classroom. While questions are encouraged, you should ask only pertinent questions during the lecture (i.e., for clarification of material). Because this is a large lecture course, avoid deep discussion of the material (save that for an office visit with the TA or Dr. Alvarez). Laboratory sections accompany this course and are held once each week for 2 hours. During lab sessions, time will be spent on issues such as test development and administration, data entry, analyses, and write-up of results. The primary purpose of the lab is to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts we discuss in the lecture portion of the course.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Reading Assignments

There are regular reading assignments from the textbook. These readings should be completed **BEFORE** the class for which they are assigned.

### Attendance

Attendance at **ALL** class meetings is **REQUIRED**. Exams are weighted heavily toward lecture material. I will cover material in lecture that is not available in your textbook and, thus, missing class will result in lost points on exams.

### Note Taking, Exam Preparation, and Exam Performance Evaluation

The night before each lecture, I will post a lecture outline on Blackboard. This outline will **not** contain all of the information on the slides, so **note taking** is **required**. You should rework your notes **after each class** so that the overall organization of the ideas expressed in the lecture is clear, and you should review your notes **WEEKLY** (i.e., on a spaced interval schedule) in order to facilitate recall on tests. Students who rework and review their notes tend to do very well in the course, while students who “cram” the night before exams tend to do very poorly in the course. Please attempt to work with the course TA, Charles Corprew, concerning lecture content, exam preparation, and evaluation of your exam performance before approaching Dr. Alvarez. I will be available for consultation, if needed, after you have met with the TA. Charles will store your exams in his office during the semester and, therefore, you will not be able to discuss your exam performance with me until you have reviewed your exam(s) with him.

## COURSES POLICIES

1. Tulane University expects the highest level of academic honesty and integrity. Accordingly, all students enrolled at Tulane University must abide by the principles of the Honor Code. This code states that all academic work is the result of the student's own efforts and that if a student has any doubts about how a particular assignment is affected by the honor code, it is his or her responsibility to consult the instructor for clarification. Please be aware that academic dishonesty of any kind will **not** be tolerated in this course. For example, cheating on an exam or receiving assistance on a lab project are honor code violations. Such incidents will be reported to the Honor Board in accordance with the Code of Academic Conduct (<http://college.tulane.edu/code.htm>). Students should be aware that a conviction of an Honor Code violation is a serious offence with grave consequences. Conviction of a first offence usually results in a WF for that course, a period of disciplinary probation, and notation on the student's permanent record. Conviction of a second honor board offense typically results in expulsion from the University.

2. When you come to class, please turn off your cell phone! I expect that you will show respect to your classmates and to me by refraining from any behavior (e.g., talking, sleeping, reading, text messaging, arriving late, leaving early) that will serve to interfere with the class session. **YOU MUST COME TO CLASS ON TIME AND YOU MAY NOT LEAVE CLASS EARLY!!!**
3. You **MUST** earn a passing grade (i.e., 60 or above) in the laboratory portion of the course in order to earn a passing grade for the class!!! Failure to complete the laboratory work successfully will result in a failing grade for the course irrespective of your exam grades.
4. All examinations will take place as scheduled on page 4 of the syllabus. Please adjust your schedule accordingly. **NO EARLY EXAMS OR MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!!** Also, you must come to the exams **ON TIME!!!**
5. All examinations will cover information from lectures **AND** assigned readings. Usually, the information I think is really important will be covered in both. However, there are some important topics that the textbook doesn't discuss. For those topics, the information presented in lectures will be the primary basis for exam questions. Similarly, some topics are covered quite well by the textbook and we won't spend much time on them in class. Again, these topics are "fair game" for exam questions.
6. To request accommodations for a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 504-862-8433. If you already have registered with ODS and have academic accommodations through the Center for Educational Resources and Counseling (ERC) that you would like to use in this class, please schedule a meeting with Dr. Alvarez as soon as possible (preferably during the **first two weeks** of the semester) to discuss the nature of the accommodation(s). You must provide Dr. Alvarez with a completed copy of the official **Course Accommodation Form** for the **Fall 2008** semester. Remember, it is *your* responsibility to inform Dr. Alvarez *prior to each examination* that you will be taking the exam in the ERC. Failure to do so may result in your inability to take the exam in the ERC.

## GRADING

Grades in this course will be based on your performance on three midterm exams, a set of lab projects, and an optional final exam. Each of the midterms will be worth 25% of your final grade. The exams will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions covering material from class lectures, videos, and reading assignments. The final exam is *optional* – it is cumulative in format and can be used to *replace* your *lowest* score on any of the three midterm exams. The lab projects will be completed in conjunction with the lab section of the course and will involve data analysis, interpretation, and written explanations of results. The lab section of the course will begin on **Tuesday, September 16**. Your performance in the lab will count for 25% of your final grade (see course policy #3 above).

Final grades will be assigned according to the following distribution, with *no curve*:

<b>Exam 1</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b><u>Points Earned</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>	<b><u>Points Earned</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>
<b>Exam 2</b>	<b>25%</b>	92-100	A	72-77.9	C
<b>Exam 3</b>	<b>25%</b>	90-91.9	A-	70-71.9	C-
<b><u>Lab Performance</u></b>	<b>25%</b>	88-89.9	B+	68-69.9	D+
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>100%</b>	82-87.9	B	62-67.9	D
		80-81.9	B-	60-61.9	D-
		78-79.9	C+	Below 60	F

**SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS\***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
Thu 8/28	Introduction and Course Overview	Syllabus
<b>Tue 9/2</b>	<b>NO CLASS - HURRICANE GUSTAV EVACUATION</b>	
<b>Thu 9/4</b>	<b>NO CLASS - HURRICANE GUSTAV EVACUATION</b>	
Tue 9/9	Psychological Testing / Sources of Information about Tests	Chapters 1-2 (pp. 3-62)
Thu 9/11	Test Norms / Statistical & Measurement Concepts	Chapter 3 (pp. 63-77)
Tue 9/16	Test Norms / Statistical & Measurement Concepts continued	Chapter 3 (pp. 77-109)
Thu 9/18	Reliability	Chapter 4 (pp. 111-153)
Tue 9/23	Validity	Chapter 5 (pp. 155-180)
Thu 9/25	Validity continued	Chapter 5 (pp. 181-204)
Tue 9/30	Exam 1 Review Day	
<b>Thu 10/2</b>	<b>EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-5): 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm</b>	
Tue 10/7	Review results of Exam 1 / Test Development and Item Analysis	Chapter 6 (pp. 205-252)
<b>Thu 10/9</b>	<b>NO CLASS - YOM KIPPUR</b>	
Tue 10/14	Intelligence: Theories and Issues	Chapter 7 (pp. 255-288)
Thu 10/16	Individual Tests of Intelligence	Chapter 8 (pp. 289-338)
Tue 10/21	Group Tests of Mental Ability	Chapter 9 (pp. 339-382)
Thu 10/23	Neuropsychological Assessment	Chapter 10 (pp. 383-396)
Tue 10/28	Neuropsychological Assessment continued	Chapter 10 (pp. 396-416)
Thu 10/30	Exam 2 Review Day	
<b>Tue 11/4</b>	<b>EXAM 2 (Chapters 6-10): 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm</b>	
Thu 11/6	Review results of Exam 2 / Objective Personality Tests	Chapter 12 (pp. 445-479)
Tue 11/11	Clinical Instruments and Methods	Chapter 13 (pp. 481-510)
Thu 11/13	Behavioral Assessment / Zimbardo Learning video	Chapter 13 (pp. 510-517)
Tue 11/18	Projective Techniques	Chapter 14 (pp. 519-547)
Thu 11/20	Interests and Attitudes	Chapter 15 (pp. 549-581)
Tue 11/25	Ethical and Legal Issues	Chapter 16 (pp. 583-619)
<b>Thu 11/27</b>	<b>NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</b>	
Tue 12/2	End of the Semester Review Day / Course Evaluations	
<b>Thu 12/4</b>	<b>EXAM 3 (Chapters 12-16): 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm</b>	
<b>Tue 12/9</b>	<b>OPTIONAL CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM: 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm</b>	

\* Note: I reserve the right to modify this schedule.