

PSYC 318: Psychological Testing and Measurement

Spring 2007

Instructor: Dr. Julie Alvarez

OFFICE: 3035 Stern Hall
PHONE: 504-862-3304
E-MAIL: jalvar@tulane.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 1-2 pm, Tuesday 3:30-4:30 pm, and by appointment

CLASSROOM: 201 Hebert
CLASS TIME: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm
CLASS WEBSITE: <https://blackboard.tulane.edu>

Textbook: Hogan, T. P. (2007). *Psychological Testing, Second Edition*. John Wiley & Sons.

Teaching Assistants (TAs): Tim Luis (Office: 3012E Stern, Email: tluis@tulane.edu)
Angelique Trask (Office: 3015C Stern, Email: atrask@tulane.edu)

Lab Times and Rooms*: Psyc 318-41: Mondays, 10:00 am – 11:50 am, 202 Newcomb Hall
Psyc 318-42: Wednesdays, 12:00 pm – 1:50 pm, 202 Newcomb Hall
Psyc 318-43: Tuesdays, 5:00 pm – 6:50 pm, 3023 Stern Hall
Psyc 318-44: Thursdays, 5:00 pm – 6:50 pm, 3023 Stern Hall

* You MUST enroll in one of the lab sections.

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) be able to analyze and interpret data collected as part of a test administration, (3) be able to communicate results of your analyses to a wide audience, and (4) have an appreciation of the various types of tests available for commercial use. Because it fulfills the laboratory requirement of the major, the workload in this course is substantial.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This class is scheduled to meet for 75 minutes, 2 times each week. Although the class primarily is a lecture course, student participation and 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 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 this part of the course is to give you an opportunity to apply the concepts we discuss in the lecture portion of the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Reading Assignments

There are regular reading assignments from the textbook. These readings are expected to 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 be covering material in lecture that is not available in your textbook and, thus, missing class will result in lost points on exams. Typically, students who do not attend class do very poorly in the course. Attendance will be taken at random intervals during the semester and will have an impact on your grade (attendance is worth 5 points toward your final grade). One point will be deducted from your attendance grade each time you miss a class without an appropriate excuse (e.g., physical illness, Tulane athletic event, death of family member, religious holiday). Absences will be excused only with **proper documentation** (e.g., doctor's note, letter from your coach, etc.).

Note taking

Prior to the lecture, Dr. Alvarez will post an outline on Blackboard. This outline is meant to ensure you know the main ideas. It will not contain detailed information, so note taking is required. You should rework your notes after each class (i.e., twice a week) so that the overall organization of the ideas expressed in the lecture is clear. (The "Study Habits" document provides detailed information on how to rework your notes.) You also should review your notes **WEEKLY** (i.e., on a spaced trial interval schedule) in order to facilitate recall on tests. Students who rework and review their notes weekly tend to do very well in the course, while students who "cram" the week of the exam tend to do very poorly in the course.

Grading

Grades in this course will be based on your performance on three in-class exams, an optional final exam, and a set of lab projects. The exams will consist of multiple choice questions related to the course material, including material from class lectures and reading assignments. 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. Specific information regarding the projects will be discussed during your first lab meeting. The lab section of the course will begin the week of **Monday, January 22**. No labs will be held during the following three weeks: (1) February 19–23; (2) March 19–23; and (3) April 9–13.

Each of the three in-class exams will be worth 25% of your final grade. The final exam is cumulative and can be used to replace your lowest score on any of the three in-class exams. Your performance in the lab portion of this course will count for an additional 20% of your final grade (see course policy #2 below). The remaining 5% of the course grade is based on attendance.

Final grades will be assigned according to the following distribution:

Exam 1	25%	<u>Points Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points Earned</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Exam 2	25%	93-100	A	73-76.9	C
Exam 3	25%	90-92.9	A-	70-72.9	C-
Lab Performance	20%	87-89.9	B+	67-69.9	D+
Attendance	5%	83-86.9	B	63-66.9	D
[Optional Final Exam 25%]		80-82.9	B-	60-62.9	D-
TOTAL:	100%	77-79.9	C+	Below 60	F

COURSES POLICIES

1. When you come to class, please make sure you have turned off any electronic devices that may be disruptive (e.g., cell phones, pagers, PDAs). More generally, I expect that you will show respect to your classmates and to me by refraining from any behavior (e.g., talking, sleeping, text messaging) that will serve to interfere with the class session.
2. You **MUST** earn a passing grade 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.
3. 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 text and we won't spend much time on them in class. Again, these topics are "fair game" for exam questions.
4. All examinations will take place as scheduled. **NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR EARLY EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN!!!** Please make sure you adjust your schedule accordingly. Also, you must come to the exams on time. There will be no extra time given for students who arrive late.
5. If you require any assistance with library services, please contact Paul St-Pierre (Reference Services Librarian for the Sciences) at pstpierr@tulane.edu or 504-865-5643.
6. Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. For example, if you cheat on an exam or sign the attendance sheet for someone other than yourself, it is considered to be an honor code violation and the incident will be handled according to the Code of Academic Conduct, which can be found at <http://college.tulane.edu/code.htm>.
7. 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 me as soon as possible (preferably during the **first two weeks** of the semester) to discuss the nature of the accommodation(s). I also need a completed copy of the official Course Accommodation Form for the Spring 2007 semester. Remember, it is your responsibility to inform me 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 as scheduled.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND EXAMS*

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
Wed 1/17	Introduction and Course Overview	
Mon 1/22	LABORATORY SECTIONS BEGIN THIS WEEK	
Mon 1/22	The World of Psychological Testing	Chapter 1 (pp. 3-43)
Wed 1/24	Sources of Information about Tests	Chapter 2 (pp. 45-62)

Mon 1/29	Test Norms/Statistical & Measurement Concepts	Chapter 3 (pp. 63-77)
Wed 1/31	Test Norms/Statistical & Measurement Concepts continued	Chapter 3 (pp. 77-109)
Mon 2/5	Reliability	Chapter 4 (pp. 111-130)
Wed 2/7	Reliability continued	Chapter 4 (pp. 130-153)
Mon 2/12	NO CLASS	
Wed 2/14	Validity	Chapter 5 (pp. 155-180)
Mon 2/19	HAPPY MARDI GRAS!!! [NO CLASS TODAY]	
Wed 2/21	Validity continued	Chapter 5 (pp. 181-204)
Mon 2/26	EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-5)	
Wed 2/28	Test Development and Item Analysis	Chapter 6 (pp. 205-252)
Mon 3/5	Intelligence: Theories and Issues	Chapter 7 (pp. 255-270)
Wed 3/7	Intelligence: Theories and Issues continued	Chapter 7 (pp. 270-288)
Mon 3/12	Individual Tests of Intelligence	Chapter 8 (pp. 289-338)
Wed 3/14	Group Tests of Mental Ability	Chapter 9 (pp. 339-382)
3/19 - 3/21	SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS	
Mon 3/26	Neuropsychological Assessment	Chapter 10 (pp. 383-399)
Wed 3/28	Neuropsychological Assessment continued	Chapter 10 (pp. 400-416)
Mon 4/2	EXAM 2 (Chapters 6-10)	
Wed 4/4	Achievement Tests	Chapter 11 (pp. 417-444)
Mon 4/9	EASTER BREAK - NO CLASS	
Wed 4/11	Objective Personality Tests	Chapter 12 (pp. 445-479)
Mon 4/16	Clinical Instruments and Methods	Chapter 13 (pp. 481-517)
Wed 4/18	Projective Techniques	Chapter 14 (pp. 519-547)
Mon 4/23	Interests and Attitudes	Chapter 15 (pp. 549-581)
Wed 4/25	Ethical and Legal Issues	Chapter 16 (pp. 583-619)
Mon 4/30	EXAM 3 (Chapters 11-16)	
Sat 5/5	OPTIONAL CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAM: 8:00 am - 12:00 pm	Chapters 1-16

* Note: I reserve the right to modify this schedule depending on students' understanding of the material.