

Psychological Measurement

Psychology 121

Fall 2002 Syllabus

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General Information

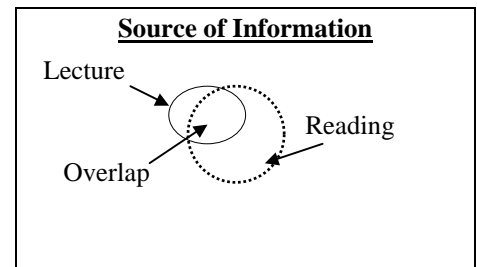
This course meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-3:15p in Broida 1640. It introduces basic concepts of psychological measurement and major tests. The course consists primarily of readings and lectures. The content of lectures, readings, and other assignments overlap partially. Exams cover material presented in each, stressing concepts covered in both (i.e., the overlap).

Reading assignments should be completed PRIOR to the date listed in the Course Calendar. Lectures presuppose the reading has been completed; they will be difficult to understand or keep up with if it has not. The workload should require most students to dedicate an average of 12 hours per week to this course: 2.5 hours in lecture, and 9.5 hours reading, homework, and reviewing.

Readings

Kaplan, Robert M, & Saccuzzo, Dennis P. *Psychological Testing: Principles, Applications, and Issues*. 5th ed. Wadsworth Thomson Learning Belmont, CA, 2000.

Overheads and notes are posted on the internet. We recommend purchasing the book, and bringing overhead copies to lecture for note taking.



Exams

Bring a couple of #2 pencils, and a Parscore® scoring sheet to each exam. We often have a larger, or additional, room for exams, as will be announced in class and posted on the class webpage.

- Midterm #1: chapters 1-5 & lectures, 40-50 multiple-choice questions.
- Midterm #2: chapters 6-13, 19 & lectures, 40-50 multiple-choice questions.
- Final: cumulative, covering all lectures, readings, and assignments, 80-100 multiple-choice questions.

Grading Policies

- ◇ Option 1: Midterm #1 = 25%, Midterm #2 = 25%, Final = 50%.
- ◇ Option 2: Satisfactory Optional Paper (or project), low Midterm = 0%, higher Midterm = 50%, Final = 50%.
- ◇ Final scores will be raised up to 5% if all homework is completed on time
- ◇ All students are expected to complete readings and homework on time, participate in lectures, and take the exams.
- ◇ **No make-up exams** will be given; **No assignments accepted late**. Exceptions are rare.
- ◇ **Class participation raises marginal grades**. When course grades are marginal, e.g. between B+ and A-, the higher grade will be given to students who contributed to the course by participating in class. To receive credit for class participation, email the instructor *within 24 hours* of your comment. State your name, perm number, and briefly describe what you said. Use **121 participation** as the subject of your message.
- ◇ **Grades** will be based on a curve, consistent with Department standards (mean grade = B-, approximately 25% A, 30% B, 30% C, etc.). Exam scores and grades will be posted on our webpage (see below), using pseudonyms to protect privacy. We try to post scores within 24 hours of each test.

Email Accounts Required

Students are required to have email accounts, and they are available to all students. If you need to contact the instructor, or he needs to contact you, check your email. Use your email account, not someone else's. It's ok to use a non-UCSB email account, but please use one consistently so our messages don't get "lost."

Internet/Worldwide Web Class Homepage

The web page for this class can be found at <http://mentor.lscf.ucsb.edu/course/fall/psych121> (**DrHal.com** gets there with less typing). Copies of the syllabus, overheads used in lectures, lecture notes, and other useful information will be posted there. Check there for timely updates and announcements. Homework assignments requiring www access will be announced in class and on the web page.

Homework: Strong Interest Inventory, Sensation Seeking Scale, & other "Meet the Test" Assignments

The Strong Interest Inventory (SII) is frequently utilized in university counseling centers to help students identify careers consistent with their personal style and preferences. It is a popular, well-validated, norm referenced, self-report measure. You will take the SII, receive a computerized interpretation of the results, and (optionally) write a short summary of the findings. Taking the SII and receiving the interpretation are course requirements; only the paper is optional. Alternative assignments require prior approval by the instructor. Take the test at the UCSB Career & Counseling Center. Tell the receptionist you're a Psychology 121 Student, and need to take the SII in the Career Resource Room; your "Reg card" will be required, and approximately \$10 will be deducted from your BARC account to pay for the testing and scoring.

The Sensation Seeking Scale (SSS) measures tendencies to pursue novel and stimulating experiences. This intriguing research scale will be used in lecture to illustrate various testing principles. Establish your email account, then go to our homepage on the Web and select the link called "Take the Sensation Seeking Scale." Be sure to answer **every** question! When you submit your answers, an outline describing the measure will appear. Look it over; we'll repeatedly refer to this scale as an example in class discussions. Your personal results will be returned via email.

Other measures may be introduced, with brief homework assignments, when possible. Pseudonyms will be used to protect privacy.

Optional Paper

Answer the following questions in 2-3 double-spaced, typed pages. Include a copy of the test scores supporting your conclusions. Papers are due on the day of the last lecture (NOT the final). However, the TA may grant extensions of up to 4 days at his/her discretion.

1. Indicate your current occupational choice.
 2. Which Basic Interest Scale is closest to your choice? Interpret your score.
 3. Which Occupational Scale is closest to your choice? Interpret your score.
 4. What patterns of interests are shown by your scores on the General Occupation Themes and Basic Interest Scales?
 5. What patterns appear in your Occupational Scale scores?
 6. Indicate three other occupations consistent with your pattern of interests.
 7. Discuss your experience with the SII, thoughts about its validity, etc.]
- Students who would rather write about a different test (e.g., SSS) should speak with the instructor during office hours before the paper is due

Course Calendar

Date	Class #	Day	Chapter(s) (read before lecture)	Topic
26-Sep	1	Thur		Introduction to Measurement & this course
1-Oct	2	Tue	1,2	Basic Statistics, Norms; complete the SSS online BEFORE this date
3-Oct	3	Thur	3	Correlation & Regression;
8-Oct	4	Tue	4	Reliability
10-Oct	5	Thur	5	Validity
15-Oct	6	Tue		Midterm #1 ; Strong Interest Inventories distributed after the exam
17-Oct	7	Thur	6,7	Test Construction & Selection
22-Oct	8	Tue	8,9	Test Administration & Interviewing; complete the Strong (SII) at C&CS on or before this date
24-Oct	9	Thur	10,11	Intelligence: Binet & Wechsler Scales
29-Oct	10	Tue	12,13	Achievement, Aptitude, & Ability Measures
31-Oct	11	Thur	19	Test Bias
5-Nov	12	Tue		Midterm #2
7-Nov	13	Thur	14	Typical Performance Measures: Objective Tests & Career Interests
12-Nov	14	Tue	15	Objective Tests: Strong Interest Inventory and the MMPI
14-Nov	15	Thur		Other structured tests (checklists ,CPI,16pf,EPPS,BDI,MCMI,etc)
19-Nov	16	Tue	16	Projective Techniques
21-Nov	17	Thur	17	Cognitive & Behavioral measures, computerized testing
26-Nov	18	Tue		Research Measures: Stress, State & Trait Anxiety, Neuropsychology
28-Nov		Thur	18	Thanksgiving Holiday ; no lecture
3-Dec	19	Tue	20,21	Legal & Ethical Issues
5-Dec	20	Thur		The Future of Psychological Measurement; optional paper due
12-Dec		Thur		Final (Thursday, 12/12, 4-7pm)

Other Important Dates

Oct. 2 Last day to add WITHOUT approval code
 Oct. 9 Last day to add, or change grading w/o fee
 Oct. 16 Add deadline
 Oct. 23 Drop deadline
 Nov. 15 Last day to change grading option

Notices

- Honors Contracts available. See the instructor.
- Disabled students should discuss accommodations with the instructor during office hours
- Our enrollment code is 41152
- *Changes to this syllabus will be announced in class and are usually posted on the class web page.*