

PSYC35  
ADVANCED  
PERSONALITY PSYCHOLOGY  
Prof. Marc A. Fournier

This course is intended to introduce advanced undergraduates to the theories and methods of personality assessment. The psychodynamic, multivariate, and social-cognitive approaches to personality assessment will be discussed.

Class Times: Mondays from 10am to 12pm in the Science Wing—S-319.

Office Hours: Mondays from 1pm to 2pm or by appointment.

Office: S-513. Telephone: (416) 287-7548.

E-mail: [marc.fournier@utoronto.ca](mailto:marc.fournier@utoronto.ca)

T.A.: Bonnie Cheng.

Office (S-513) Hours: TBA.

E-mail: [bonnie.cheng@utoronto.ca](mailto:bonnie.cheng@utoronto.ca)

READINGS:

(Weeks 1-6) Shultz, K. S., & Whitney, D. J. (2005). *Measurement theory in action: Case studies and exercises*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

(Weeks 7-12) Selected readings (TBA) on reserve in the library.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Group Project (due Dec 5, 2005)—20%.

Midterm Exam (weeks 1-6, lectures and readings)—40%.

Noncumulative Final Exam (weeks 7-12, lectures and readings)—40%.

Both exams will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions (50% lectures, 50% readings).

PLEASE NOTE that students will only be allowed to write a deferred exam if they provide valid medical documentation on a UTSC Student Medical certificate.

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>READING</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Week 1	S & W Modules 1 & 2	Introduction
Week 2	S & W Modules 3 & 4	Steps in Test Construction
Week 3	S & W Modules 5 & 6	The Internal Structure of Tests
Week 4	S & W Modules 7 & 8	Content—Criterion—Construct Validation
Week 5	S & W Modules 15 & 16	Test Specifications & Styles of Responding
Week 6	—	Summary of Part I & Review for Midterm Exam
Week 7	Reserve Reading A	Traditional Psychodynamic Personality Assessment
Week 8	Reserve Reading B	Multivariate Assessment—Part I: The Rational Strategy
Week 9	Reserve Reading C	Multivariate Assessment—Part II: The Factor-Analytic Strategy
Week 10	Reserve Reading D	Multivariate Assessment—Part III: The Empirical Strategy
Week 11	Reserve Reading E	Contemporary Social-Cognitive Personality Assessment
Week 12	—	Summary of Part II & Review for Final Exam

# PSYC35

## GROUP PROJECT

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The purpose of this project is to gain understanding of the psychometric properties of psychological tests, and to become familiar with the issues and concepts surrounding test construction as discussed in class. In groups of four, you will choose a construct that is measured by a legitimate psychological scale. You will critique the scale in terms of whether or not it accurately measures the construct, the advantages and disadvantages of the scale, how the scale can be improved, and other relevant issues. Based on your critique of the test, you will attempt to improve the assessment of the construct by making changes to the test and discussing why these changes have been made; i.e., why you think that these changes will benefit the overall assessment of the construct. Your final written report will include four sections:

**SECTION I:** Introduction stating which construct you chose and the scale you chose that measures this construct, describing all of the necessary information pertinent to a good manual; i.e., a clear definition of the construct, a discussion of how the instrument used to assess the construct was developed, the psychometric properties of the instrument (reliability/validity), the population(s) for which the instrument is intended, and other relevant issues.

**SECTION II:** Critical analysis of the scale through a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of the scale, limitations to its effectiveness, how it can be improved, and other relevant issues.

**SECTION III:** Discussion on how you would attempt to improve the assessment of the construct, the changes you would make to the test, to the items, etc. Discuss why you think these changes would benefit the overall scale and why you decided to change these particular things.

**SECTION IV:** Critical analysis of your improvement of the test. Discuss any concerns about your changes, how you think the improved test would fare relative to the established scale, and other relevant issues. Conclude by wrapping up the other sections.

Your final report should be should be 12-15 pages in length and written in APA style. You will be evaluated in terms of the quality of your arguments, the level of detail to your analysis, the originality of your ideas, and the overall professionalism and quality of your writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation, composition, etc.).

This project is due in-class Monday, December 5, 2005. Late submissions will not be accepted as you will have all semester to work on the project and any group member can hand in the project. The project accounts for 20% of your final grade and all group members will receive the same grade, so make sure you are all contributing to the group's efforts. You will not receive any class time to work on the project, so make sure you co-ordinate with your group members when you will be working on the project throughout the semester.

Note that plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any evidence of a student copying from any source without full and appropriate citation will result in a failing grade on the paper. If there is any suspicion of plagiarism you will be asked to produce all of your sources.