

Psychological Assessment (PSYC37H3 S LEC01)

COURSE SYLLABUS – SPRING 2012

Instructor: Dr. Anthony C. Ruocco

Class Time and Location: Tuesdays @ 9:00-11:00am in Science Research Building, Room 110

Office Hours and Location: Tuesdays @ 11:00am-1:00pm in Science Wing, Room 513

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Required Textbook: Gregory, R. J. (2011). *Psychological testing: History, principles, and applications* (6th Edition). Boston, MA: Pearson Education.

Please note: Course announcements will generally be made through Blackboard. Please monitor the course website regularly for important announcements.

Teaching Assistants:

Alex Daros, B.Sc. (T.A. for students with last names beginning Abu – Kuf)

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Office Hours and Location: Thursdays @ 2:00-3:00pm in Science Wing, Room 513

Jennifer Gutsell, M.A. (T.A. for students with last names beginning Kul – Zha)

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Office Hours and Location: Thursdays @ 12:00-1:00pm in Science Research building, Room SY162

Have you ever wondered how psychologists *actually* measure personality and intelligence, or arrive at a diagnosis for a patient with schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder or Alzheimer's disease? **Psychological Assessment** is a course specifically designed to familiarize you with the tools that psychologists use to assess personality and intellect, as well as identify and assess persons with mental illness. Understanding the conceptual issues and practical problems encountered by clinicians in their everyday practice of psychological assessment is essential for accurately gauging an individual's strengths and weaknesses, and to direct appropriate treatments for mentally ill patients based on their specific clinical diagnoses.

By the end of this course, you will have acquired the skills to do the following:

1. Describe the origins of psychological testing, how normative data and test standardization play a role in psychological assessment, and the concepts of reliability and validity as they relate to psychological measures;
2. Recognize the limitations of psychological assessments and identify unethical uses of psychological tests; and
3. Apply your understanding of psychological assessment methods and tools to interpret basic intellectual, personality and neuropsychological test findings.

Weekly Topics, Readings and Important Dates

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC
1	January 10	Introduction and review of syllabus
2	January 17	Applications and Consequences of Psychological Testing <i>Required Reading: Chapter 1</i>
3	January 24	The History of Psychological Testing <i>Required Reading: Chapter 2</i>
4	January 31	Norms and Reliability <i>Required Reading: Chapter 3</i>
5	February 7	Validity and Test Development <i>Required Reading: Chapter 4</i>
6	February 14	Theories and Individual Tests of Intelligence and Achievement; Test Bias and Other Controversies <i>Required Readings: Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 – Topic 6B only (pp. 245-272)</i>
	February 21	READING WEEK (NO CLASS)
7	February 28	Midterm Examination
8	March 6	Origins of Personality Testing <i>Required Reading: Chapter 8</i> *Assignment available for viewing on Blackboard
9	March 13	Assessment of Normality and Human Strengths <i>Required Reading: Chapter 9</i>
10	March 20	Neuropsychological Assessment and Screening <i>Required Reading: Chapter 10</i>
11	March 27	Forensic Applications of Assessment; Ethical Use of Psychological Tests in Canada <i>Required Readings: Chapter 11 – Topic 11B only (pp. 505-529) and Canadian Code of Ethics for Psychologists – 3rd Edition available on Blackboard (pdf document linked to under “Announcements”)</i>
12	April 3	Computerized Assessment and the Future of Testing <i>Required Reading: Chapter 12 – Topic 12B only (pp. 551-569)</i> PLUS: “Psychological Assessment Hands-On Day!” The second half of class is optional and devoted to letting you try out some of the psychological assessments discussed in class! *Due date for assignment submitted on Blackboard no later than April 3, 2012 at 11:59PM ET
	April 9	Last day of classes and last day for submission of term assignments in S courses.
	April 11	Last day to drop UTSC S courses and have them remain on the transcript with a grade of LWD indicating withdrawal without academic penalty. After this date grades are recorded on transcripts whether course work is completed or not (with a '0' assigned for Incomplete work) and they are calculated into GPAs.

Description of Course Evaluations

Course Evaluation:

5%	Participation
20%	Assignment
35%	Midterm Examination
40%	Final Examination

Participation (5%) will take place within the first two weeks of classes by completing an objective, self-report test of normal personality dimensions online. The results will be used in subsequent classes to demonstrate some critical principles of psychological assessment.

Assignment (20%) consists of a written interpretation of sample personality test results. The assignment will be available to view on Blackboard in Week 8 (March 6, 2012) when the topic of personality testing is introduced. **Due date: Submitted on Blackboard no later than April 3, 2012 at 11:59PM ET, after which time the assignment will no longer accept new submissions.**

Midterm Examination (35%) is a multiple-choice and short answer examination that covers all of the required readings from Weeks 1-6 as well as content discussed in lectures which is not presented in the textbook. **You must bring photo identification or you will not be permitted to write the examination – no exceptions will be made.**

Final Examination (40%) is a non-cumulative multiple-choice and short answer examination that covers all of the required readings from Weeks 8-12 as well as content discussed in lectures which is not presented in the textbook. **You must bring photo identification or you will not be permitted to write the examination – no exceptions will be made.** This exam will be scheduled during the University examination period.

Examination Policies for this Course:

Grading: Any complaint about grading on the examination should be made in writing to your Teaching Assistant within one week of receiving the graded material and should detail the point of contention.

Missed Midterm Examination: Given the time constraints of this course, there will be NO make-up examinations. If you miss the mid-term examination without legitimate documentation, you will receive a mark of zero for that examination. If you have provided legitimate documentation for your missed examination (for example, UTSC Student Medical Certificate completed by your doctor), the final examination will therefore be worth 75% of your grade in this course. Any medical documentation that you provide must indicate the dates that you needed to be excused from course work, which must include the date of the test that you missed. You are advised to see your physician within one day of the missed examination. You must contact the course instructor within one week of a missed examination.

The form for medical documentation can be found at the following link:

http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf

UTSC Missed Final Examination Policy:

From the UTSC Registrar's Office: "Students are expected to write their final examinations at the end of their courses and are strongly discouraged from missing a final examination. Very occasionally, students encounter circumstances where it is impossible for them to write a final examination; for example, because of a serious illness or the death of a close family member. If you are ill or other circumstances absolutely prevent you from attending a final examination, you may petition (with supporting documentation) for permission to defer writing it until a later date. In most cases deferred exams will be written in the next final examination period or in the study break that immediately precedes it. However, students should be aware that deferred exams can be scheduled at any time during the following session."

Video and Auditory Recording

For reasons of privacy as well as protection of copyright, unauthorized video or audio recording in classrooms is prohibited. This is outlined in the Provost's guidelines on *Appropriate Use of Information and Communication Technology*. Note, however, that these guidelines include the provision that students may obtain consent to record lectures and, "in the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent must not be unreasonably withheld."

Accessibility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Services Office as soon as possible. I will work with you and AccessAbility Services to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The UTSC AccessAbility Services staff (located in S302) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations (416) 287-7560 or ability@utsc.utoronto.ca.

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is essential to the pursuit of learning and scholarship in a university, and to ensuring that a degree from the University of Toronto is a strong signal of each student's individual academic achievement. As a result, the University treats cases of cheating and plagiarism very seriously. The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) outlines the behaviours that constitute academic dishonesty and the processes for addressing academic offences. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing unauthorized aids.
- Looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test.
- Misrepresenting your identity.

In academic work:

- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including (but not limited to) doctor's notes.

All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following procedures outlined in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters. If you have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, you are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from your instructor or from other institutional resources (see <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>).

Grade Scale

NUMERICAL MARKS	LETTER GRADE	GRADE POINT VALUE
90 - 100%	A+	4.0
85 - 89%	A	4.0
80 - 84%	A-	3.7
77 - 79%	B+	3.3
73 - 76%	B	3.0
70 - 72%	B-	2.7
67 - 69%	C+	2.3
63 - 66%	C	2.0
60 - 62%	C-	1.7
57 - 59%	D+	1.3
53 - 56%	D	1.0
50 - 52%	D-	0.7
0 - 49%	F	0.0