



**Psychological Assessment (PSYC37H3 S LEC01)**

**COURSE SYLLABUS – WINTER 2013**

**Instructor:** Dr. Anthony C. Ruocco

**Class Time and Location:** Tuesdays @ 3:00-5:00pm in Science Wing, Room 319

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

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**Office Phone:** (416) 208-2762

**Required Textbook:** Gregory, R. J. (2011). *Psychological testing: History, principles, and applications* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). Boston, MA: Pearson Education. (Note: *MyPsychLab* may be packaged with the textbook but it will not be used in this course at all.)

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

**Teaching Assistants:**

**Alex Daros, M.A.** (T.A. for students with last names beginning Aaa – Kha)

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Office Hours and Location: Mondays @ 1:00-2:00pm in Science Wing, Room 513

**Sarah A. McGee Ng, B.B.A.** (T.A. for students with last names beginning Koj – Zzz)

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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 intellectual abilities and personality traits, and to direct appropriate treatments for mentally ill patients based on accurate 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 ethical issues in the conduct of psychological testing; 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**

| <b>WEEK</b> | <b>DATE</b> | <b>TOPIC</b>  |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| <b>1</b>    | January 8   | Introduction and review of syllabus   |
| <b>2</b>    | January 15  | Applications and Consequences of Psychological Testing<br><i>Required Reading: Chapter 1</i><br><b>*Due date for Participation marks survey which must be submitted online no later than January 15, 2013 at 11:59PM EST</b>  |
| <b>3</b>    | January 22  | History of Psychological Testing<br><i>Required Reading: Chapter 2</i>  |
| <b>4</b>    | January 29  | Norms and Reliability<br><i>Required Reading: Chapter 3</i>   |
| <b>5</b>    | February 5  | Validity and Test Development<br><i>Required Reading: Chapter 4</i>   |
| <b>6</b>    | February 12 | Theories and Individual Tests of Intelligence and Achievement; Test Bias and Other Controversies<br><i>Required Readings: Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 – Topic 6B only (pp. 245-272)</i>   |
|             | February 19 | <b>READING WEEK (NO CLASS)</b>  |
| <b>7</b>    | February 26 | Midterm Examination (in class)  |
| <b>8</b>    | March 5     | Origins of Personality Testing<br><i>Required Reading: Chapter 8</i><br><b>*Assignment available for viewing on Blackboard</b>  |
| <b>9</b>    | March 12    | Assessment of Normality and Human Strengths<br><i>Required Reading: Chapter 9</i>   |
| <b>10</b>   | March 19    | Neuropsychological Assessment and Screening<br><i>Required Reading: Chapter 10</i>  |
| <b>11</b>   | March 26    | Forensic Applications of Assessment and Ethics in Psychological Assessment<br><i>Required Readings: Chapter 11 – Topic 11B only (pp. 505-529) and American Psychological Association’s Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, Standard 9: Assessment (<a href="http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx?item=12">http://www.apa.org/ethics/code/index.aspx?item=12</a>)</i>  |
| <b>12</b>   | April 2     | Computerized Assessment and the Future of Testing<br><i>Required Reading: Chapter 12 – Topic 12B only (pp. 551-569)</i><br><b>PLUS: “Psychological Assessment Hands-On Day!”</b><br><b>The second half of class is optional and devoted to letting you try out some of the psychological assessments we discussed in class!</b><br><b>*Due date for assignment to be submitted on Blackboard no later than April 2, 2013 at 11:59PM EST</b> |
|             | April 8     | Last day of classes and last day for submission of term assignments in S courses.   |
|             | April 14    | Last day to drop UTSC S courses (on eService only) 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%)** requires you to complete a self-report test of normal personality dimensions which must be submitted online at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PSYC37S2013>. The results will be used in subsequent classes to demonstrate important principles of psychological assessment. **Due date: Submitted at the above link no later than January 15, 2013 at 11:59PM EST.**

**Assignment (20%)** consists of a written interpretation of the results of a sample personality test. The assignment will be available to view on Blackboard during Week 8 (March 5, 2013) when the topic of personality testing is introduced. **Due date: Must be submitted on Blackboard no later than April 2, 2013 at 11:59PM EST. Assignments submitted via email or hard copy will not be graded.**

**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. The midterm examination will take place in class.

**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. This examination will be scheduled during the University examination period.

### **More information about examinations:**

Any and all materials included in the required readings and lectures may be tested on the midterm and final examinations, although the bulk of the content of these examinations will focus on topics emphasized during lectures as well as the application of essential psychological testing concepts to hypothetical situations which you might encounter in your everyday practice of psychological assessment. Each examination contains two sections: the first section consists of 60 multiple choice questions (one mark each) with four options and one correct answer, whereas the second section is made up of four different short answer questions and you are required to answer only two of these questions, which are worth 10 marks each (for a total of 20 marks). Each examination is therefore marked out of a total of 80 possible marks.

**Please Note: You must bring photo identification with you to each examination or you will not be permitted to write the examination – no exceptions will be made.**

### **Policies for Assignments and Examinations in this Course:**

**Grading:** Any complaint about grading on the assignment or examinations should be made in writing to your Teaching Assistant within one week of receiving the graded material or as soon as is reasonably possible and should detail the point of contention.

**Missed Midterm Examination:** Given the time constraints of this course, there will be NO make-up midterm examination. 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** or as soon as is reasonably possible.

**Late Assignment (including survey required for Participation marks):** If you do not have legitimate documentation for a late assignment, 10% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted for each late day (this includes *any time* after the deadline, so please be sure to submit your assignments well in advance of the specified deadlines). If you provide legitimate documentation for your late assignment (for example, UTSC Student Medical Certificate completed by your doctor), you must contact Dr. Ruocco within one week of the missed assignment deadline or as soon as is reasonably possible to discuss a new deadline for your late assignment(s). Please take note of the last day for submission of term assignments in S courses (as set by the University). If you wish to submit work to be graded beyond the last day for submission of term assignments, you must contact the Registrar's office to submit a petition (this is beyond the instructor's control).

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

[http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf\\_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf](http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/~registrar/resources/pdf_general/UTSCmedicalcertificate.pdf)

**Please Note: The UTSC Medical Certificate must be signed by a registered member in good standing with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario.**

### **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](mailto: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               |