

Psychological Assessment (PSYC37H3 F LEC01)

Fall 2019 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Jessica Dere, Ph.D., C. Psych.

Class Time and Location: Mondays, 1:00-3:00pm, SW-143

Office Hours and Location:

Drop in: Mondays, 11:00am-12:00pm, SW-521

By appointment: Mondays, 10:00-11:00am, SW-521

Please email jdere@utsc.utoronto.ca at least 24 hours in advance for an appointment.

Email: psyc37.utsc@gmail.com

Office Phone: (416) 208-2999

Teaching Assistants: Tara Gralnick and Angela Sekely

TA Office Hours: Wednesdays, 12:00-1:00pm, in SW-406 with Tara Gralnick

A note on email communication: All questions regarding the course, lectures, readings, the assignment, exams, etc. must be sent to the course email address: **psyc37.utsc@gmail.com**. Questions that have already been answered in the course syllabus or on Quercus may not receive a response. Students are asked to contact Dr. Dere directly for personal or confidential matters, at jdere@utsc.utoronto.ca.

*** Please note: Course announcements will be made through Quercus. Students are responsible for monitoring the course website regularly for important announcements and updates. Class emails will also be sent through Quercus; please make sure your email address is correct. ***

Prerequisite: PSYB32H3 and [(PSYB01H3) or (PSYB04H3) or PSYB70H3] and [PSYB07H3 or STAB22H3 or STAB23H3]

Required Textbook: Kaplan, R. M., & Saccuzzo, D. P. (2018). *Psychological testing: Principles, applications, and issues* (9th ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Additional Material: Additional readings and/or other course material may be placed on the Quercus course page over the course of the semester, and will be announced in class. You will be responsible for any additional materials that are labeled as required course material.

Course description: This course deals with conceptual issues and practical problems of identification, assessment, and treatment of mental disorders and their psychological symptomatology. Students have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the psychological tests and the normative data used in mental health assessments. Lectures and demonstrations on test administration and interpretation will be provided.

Learning objectives: At the conclusion of the course, students should be able to ...

1. Describe the historical origins of psychological testing, as well as recent and future trends

2. Discuss key statistical concepts underlying psychological testing, and identify and describe the characteristics of valid and reliable psychological measures
3. Describe ethical principles and considerations involved in the practice of psychological assessment, and apply knowledge of these principles to hypothetical scenarios
4. Demonstrate understanding of key issues regarding psychological assessment in several clinical domains, including intellectual, personality, and neuropsychological testing, and discuss common assessment methods and tools in these domains
5. Recognize and critically discuss limitations of psychological testing, including sources of bias and cultural issues in assessment

Class structure

The format of the course will consist primarily of lectures, but will also include video and other methods to help illustrate course material. The material covered in lectures will generally correspond to the material in the textbook and other readings, but will serve to supplement the readings rather than simply duplicate their contents. Therefore, I will assume that you have read the relevant readings prior to coming to class, and having done so will make the learning experience more enjoyable and productive for everyone. I will also present material that is not included in the readings; therefore, class attendance is very important and strongly encouraged. We will also have guest presentations from graduate students in the clinical psychology program based at UTSC, which will draw upon these students' training experiences in various clinical settings. **You will be responsible for all material covered in class and in the required readings.** I will make lecture slides available on Quercus, but these will not be sufficient to understand everything that was covered in class.

“Half-time questions”: I will regularly ask students to reflect upon material covered in class. In order to help promote student discussion and peer-supported learning, I will ask that students discuss the most pressing question that they have in pairs or small groups, prior to taking our break around the 1-hour mark. This brief discussion may help to answer your question. If there are remaining questions, students are encouraged to write their questions down and give them to me during the break. I will do my best to address a few of these “half-time questions” following the break, before moving on to new material. If I feel I need more time to provide an answer, I may post the question and answer on Quercus or address it during the following class.

Important dates:

Monday, September 9: First class

Monday, September 23: **Submit creativity questionnaire item** on Quercus by 11:59pm EST for participation mark

Friday, October 4: **Complete three questionnaires** on Quercus by 11:59pm EST for participation marks

Week of October 7: **Quiz 1** on Quercus (specific timing TBA)

October 28: **Mid-term** exam

Monday, November 11: Integrative assignment made available on Quercus

Week of November 25: **Quiz 2** on Quercus (specific timing TBA)

Monday, December 2: Final class

Last day for bonus mark submissions

Integrative assignment due by 11:59pm EST, via Quercus

Class schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Notes
September 9 (Lecture 1)	Introduction to the course		
September 16 (Lecture 2)	The past and future of psychological testing Ethics in assessment	Ch. 1, Ch. 21 (pp. 596-602) Ch. 21 (pp. 588-596) and APA ethics reading	
September 23 (Lecture 3)	Norms and basic statistics	Ch. 2	<i>Creativity questionnaire item due</i>
September 30 (Lecture 4)	Reliability and validity	Ch. 4 and Ch. 5	<i>Complete three questionnaires by <u>October 4</u></i>
October 7 (Lecture 5)	Test administration <i>Guest presentations</i>	Ch. 7 and Lee et al. (2003) article	<i>Quercus Quiz 1 this week</i>
READING WEEK			
October 21 (Lecture 6)	Interviewing techniques	Ch. 8 and Sommers-Flanagan & Bequette (2013) article	
October 28	* Mid-term exam * during class time		
November 4 (Lecture 7)	Intelligence testing	Ch. 9 and Ch. 10	
November 11 (Lecture 8)	Clinical and counseling settings – Emphasis on personality testing <i>Guest presentation</i>	Ch. 13	<i>Integrative assignment posted this week</i>
November 18 (Lecture 9)	Health psychology and health care – Emphasis on neuropsychological testing <i>Guest presentation</i>	Ch. 17	
November 25 (Lecture 10)	Test bias and cultural issues in assessment	Ch. 19 and Suzuki et al. (2013) chapter	<i>Quercus Quiz 2 this week</i>
December 2 (Lecture 11)	Communicating test results Synthesis and review	Harvey (2013) chapter	<i>Integrative assignment due</i>

Please note: The class schedule is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Evaluation

- Participation: 3%
- Online quizzes via Quercus (two): 8% (4% each)
- Mid-term examination: 34%
- Integrative assignment: 20%
- Final examination: 35%
- Bonus mark opportunity: 1%
 - o “In the News” submission (see below)

Please note that there are no opportunities for extra credit to improve your grade at any time during the course or after the course is over.

Participation (3%): In order to receive participation marks, you will be asked to participate in the creation and completion of self-report questionnaires during the first few weeks of the semester. As a class, we will be attempting to create a questionnaire to measure creativity. Each student must submit one item to contribute to this creativity questionnaire, for 1 participation mark. These items will then be culled and compiled into a questionnaire to be completed on Quercus, along with two versions of an established personality measure. Completion of these three questionnaires will be worth 2 participation marks. Anonymized data from these questionnaires will be used in subsequent lectures to help illustrate course concepts. You do not need to answer honestly if you are uncomfortable doing so; an alternative is to think of someone you know well, or a fictional character, and answer as you think that person would. When completing these tasks, I encourage you to reflect upon the process of questionnaire creation as well as the experience of filling out self-report psychological measures.

Due dates:

- o Submit one item to include in our creativity questionnaire, by **September 23rd at 11:59pm**. Submission via Quercus. Further details will be discussed in class.
- o Complete three questionnaires on Quercus by Friday, **October 4th at 11:59pm**.
 - Complete two versions of the Big Five Inventory (BFI), a measure of personality; one version has 44 items, the other has 10 items. You must complete BOTH versions to receive 1 participation mark
 - Complete the creativity questionnaire based on students’ submitted items, for 1 participation mark

Please note: No extensions will be granted for any component of the participation mark.

Quizzes (8%): Students will be asked to complete two online quizzes via Quercus, worth 4% each. These are designed to encourage students to stay up-to-date with the course material and to check in on their knowledge prior to the mid-term and final exam. Further details will be provided in class and on Quercus.

- **Quiz 1:** Will take place during the week of October 7th, 2019 (exact timing TBA)
 - o Will cover Lectures 1 through 5 and accompanying readings
- **Quiz 2:** Will take place during the week of November 25th, 2019 (exact timing TBA)
 - o Will cover Lectures 7 through 10 and accompanying readings

Quiz 1 covers one lecture less than the mid-term so that I can discuss results of the quiz with the class prior to the mid-term exam. Similarly, Quiz 2 covers one lecture less than the final exam so that I can discuss results of that quiz in our final class together.

Please note: No extensions or make-ups will be granted for the quizzes. If you do not complete Quiz 1, the 4% will be transferred to your midterm (i.e., your midterm will be worth 38% of your final grade). If you do not complete Quiz 2, the 4% will be transferred to your final exam (i.e., your final exam will be worth 39% of your final grade). Students should not submit missed term work requests for the quizzes.

Mid-term examination (34%): The mid-term exam will cover all required readings and in-class material from Lecture 1 to Lecture 6 (inclusive). The exam will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions. Further details will be provided in class.

Integrative assignment (20%): The assignment will require you to integrate course concepts through written responses to a series of structured questions about a brief case vignette. The vignette and assignment instructions will be made available to view on Quercus during the week of November 11th. Further details will be provided closer to that date.

- **Due date: Submit via Quercus no later than December 2nd, 2019 at 11:59pm.** No email or hard copy submissions will be accepted. The assignment will be reviewed for plagiarism using Turnitin.com directly through Quercus. Any students with concerns regarding Turnitin.com must speak with me during the first three weeks of the semester.
- **Statement regarding Turnitin.com:** Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Final examination (35%): The final exam will not be cumulative. It will cover all required readings and lecture material from Lecture 7 to Lecture 11 (inclusive). The exam will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions, and will be scheduled during the University examination period.

Bonus mark – “In the News” submission (1%): Students can obtain 1 bonus mark, which will be added to their final course grade. In order to obtain this bonus mark, students must do the following: Look out for news/popular media stories that link to concepts recently covered in the course. Examples might include stories about standardized testing in schools, personality testing in the workplace, IQ testing, etc. When you spot a story that links to recent course material, email a link or pdf containing the story to the course email address (**psyc37.utsc@gmail.com**) with “IN THE NEWS” in the subject line. In your email, you must include a brief description (i.e., 3 to 5 sentences) of how you feel the story links to course material. This description should be specific, and explain why the story was selected. When possible, submitted stories will then be discussed in class and integrated with lecture material (the student who submitted the story will remain anonymous). Each student can submit one story for the bonus mark. The final date to submit items is Monday, December 2nd, 2019. No stories submitted after that date will be accepted.

Policies for Assignments and Examinations in this Course

Please Note: You must bring **photo identification** with you to each examination or you will not be permitted to write the examination.

Missed Mid-term Examination: A make-up mid-term exam will be held approximately two weeks following the date of the mid-term. Students will be permitted to take the make-up exam only if they were absent on the date of the mid-term exam due to a verified illness, a serious family emergency (e.g., death of a close family member), or religious observances. Students must follow the departmental policy outlined below when submitting relevant documentation. Only those students who follow this process will be considered for writing the make-up mid-term. Students who do not submit their documentation on time, whose documents are not accepted, or who do not appear for the make-up mid-term, will receive a grade of zero on the mid-term exam.

Late submission of the integrative assignment: Unless you have legitimate documentation for a late assignment, 10% of the total value of the assignment will be deducted for each day that it is late. An assignment is considered late as soon as the due date and time passes (i.e., one minute past 11:59 EST), so you are strongly encouraged to submit your assignments early in order to avoid any technical delays. Difficulties with the Quercus portal will not be accepted as a legitimate reason for a late assignment. If you have legitimate documentation to explain your late assignment, you must follow the departmental policy outlined below. Please note that late term work cannot be accepted any later than five business days after the last day of class.

Please note: Late submissions will not be accepted for the bonus mark opportunity, nor for any component of the participation mark.

Missed Term Work due to Medical Illness or Other Emergency:

All students citing a documented reason for missed term work must submit their request for accommodations **within three (3) business days** of the deadline for the missed work.

Students must submit **BOTH** of the following:

- (1.) A completed **Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form** (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), and
- (2.) **Appropriate documentation** to verify your illness or emergency, as described below.

Appropriate documentation:

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with an **original** copy of the official UTSC Verification of Illness Form (uoft.me/UTSC-Verification-Of-Illness-Form) or an **original** copy of the record of visitation to a hospital emergency room. Forms are to be completed in full, clearly indicating the start date, anticipated end date, and severity of illness. The physician's registration number and business stamp are required.
- Note: If an end date of "ongoing" is specified, the medical note will be assumed to cover a period of two weeks. If no end date / an "unknown" end date is specified, the note will be assumed to cover a period of three business days (starting from illness start date.)

For missed **TERM TESTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- Meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ILLNESS**:

- Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with a **hardcopy** of the Self-Declaration of Student Illness Form (uoft.me/PSY-self-declare-form).

For missed **ASSIGNMENTS** due to **ACCESSABILITY REASONS**:

- If your desired accommodation is **within the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” and you need 3 days), submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>) and attach a copy of your letter. **Specify how many days extension you are requesting** on the request form.
- If your desired accommodation is **outside the scope** of your Accommodation Letter (ex. your letter includes “extensions of up to 7 days” but you need more time than that) you will need to meet with your **AccessAbility consultant** and have them email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) detailing the accommodations required.

For missed term tests or assignments in **OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES**:

Submit the Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form (<http://uoft.me/PSY-MTW>), along with:

- In the case of a **death of a family member or friend**, please provide a copy of a death certificate.
- For U of T varsity-level or professional **athletic commitments**, an email from your coach or varsity administrator should be sent directly to Keely Hicks (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work, detailing the dates and nature of the commitment.
- For **religious accommodations**, please email (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) **well in advance** of the missed work.
- For circumstances **outside of these guidelines**, please email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) on or before the date of the test / assignment deadline to describe your circumstances and ask what documentation would be appropriate

Documents covering the following situations are NOT acceptable: medical prescriptions, personal travel, weddings/personal/work commitments.

Procedure:

Submit your (1.) [request form](#) and (2.) [medical/self-declaration](#)/other documents in person **WITHIN 3 BUSINESS DAYS** of the missed term test or assignment.

Submit to: Keely Hicks, Room SW420B, Monday – Friday, 9 AM – 4 PM. (Slide forms under door if out of office.)

After submitting your documentation, within approximately one to five business days, you will receive a response from your instructor detailing the accommodations to be made (if any).

You are responsible for checking your official U of T email and Quercus course announcements daily, as accommodations may be time-critical.

You should continue to work on your assignments to the best of your ability, as extension accommodations may be as short as one business day, depending on the nature of the illness/emergency.

If an accommodation has been granted but you are unable to meet the conditions of the accommodation (ex. you need a longer extension, or you missed a make-up test), you will need to repeat the missed term work procedure and submit additional forms to request further accommodation. Note that in the case of a missed make-up test, an opportunity to write a second make-up test may not be provided.

Completion of this form does NOT guarantee that accommodations will be made. The course instructor reserves the right to decide what accommodations (if any) will be made. Failure to adhere to any aspect of this policy may result in a denial of your request for accommodation.

Missed Accommodations

If an accommodation is granted but a continued illness/emergency prevents you from meeting the requirements of your accommodation, you must repeat the missed term work procedure to request additional accommodations.

(E.g.) If you miss a make-up midterm, you would need to submit another Request for Missed Term Work Accommodations form. If your original medical note / documentation included the date of the make-up midterm, then only the Request form is required. If the date of the make-up midterm fell outside of the dates indicated on your original medical note/other documentation, then a new medical note/other appropriate documentation must also be submitted.

Importance of Three Business Day window:

If you are unable to submit your documents in-person within the three business day window, **you must email Keely (keely.hicks@utoronto.ca) within the three business day window** to explain when you will be able to bring your documents in person. Exceptions to the documentation deadline will only be made under **exceptional circumstances**. Attach scans of your documentation, and be prepared to bring your documents to Keely in-person as soon as you are well. Late documents may not be accepted.

NOTE: Assignments due at end of term

Instructors cannot accept term work any later than five business days after the last day of class. Beyond this date, you would need to file a petition with the Registrar's Office (<https://www.uts.utoronto.ca/registrar/term-work>).

NOTE: Final Exams

This policy applies only to missed assignments and term tests. Missed final exams are handled by the Registrar's Office (<http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/registrar/missing-examination>).

Rights and Responsibilities

Copyright in Instructional Settings:

If a student wishes to tape-record, photograph, video-record or otherwise reproduce lectures, course notes/slides, or other similar materials provided by instructors, he or she must obtain the instructor's written consent beforehand. Without consent, all such reproduction is an infringement of copyright and is absolutely prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent will 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.

AccessAbility Services staff (located in Rm AA142, Arts and Administration Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations 416-287-7560 or email ability@utsc.utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

Academic Integrity:

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 in papers and assignments include 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 cheating includes using or possessing unauthorized aids, looking at someone else's answers during an exam or test, misrepresenting your identity, or 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 students have questions or concerns about what constitutes appropriate academic behaviour or appropriate research and citation methods, they are expected to seek out additional information on academic integrity from their instructors or from other institutional resources.

Note: You may see advertisements for services offering grammar help, essay editing and proof-reading. Be very careful. If these services take a draft of your work and significantly change the content and/or language, you may be committing an academic offence (unauthorized assistance) under the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*.

It is much better and safer to take your draft to the Writing Centre as early as you can. They will give you guidance you can trust. Students for whom English is not their first language should go to the English Language Development Centre.

If you decide to use these services in spite of this caution, you must keep a draft of your work and any notes you made before you got help and be prepared to give it to your instructor on request.

Religious Accommodation:

The University has a commitment concerning accommodation for religious observances. I will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations, or other compulsory activities on religious holy days not captured by statutory holidays. According to University Policy, if you anticipate being absent from class or missing a major course activity (like a test, or in-class assignment) due to a religious observance, please let me know as early in the course as possible, and with sufficient notice (at least two to three weeks), so that we can work together to make alternate arrangements.

Quercus Info:

This course uses the University's learning management system, Quercus, to post information about the course. This includes posting readings and other materials required to complete class activities and course assignments, as well as sharing important announcements and updates. The site is dynamic and new information and resources will be posted regularly as we move through the term, so please make it a habit to log in to the site on a regular, even daily, basis. To access the course website, go to the U of T Quercus log-in page at <https://q.utoronto.ca>. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, you should see the link or "card" for our course. You may need to scroll through other cards to find this. Click on the PSYD31 link to open our course area, view the latest announcements and access your course resources. There are Quercus help guides for students that you can access by clicking on the "?" icon in the left side column.

SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT GRADES POSTED ONLINE: Please also note that any grades posted are for your information only, so you can view and track your progress through the course. No grades are considered official, including any posted in Quercus at any point in the term, until they have been formally approved and posted on ACORN at the end of the course. Please contact me as soon as possible if you think there is an error in any grade posted on Quercus.