

Grand Valley State University
Tests and Measurement
PSY 510

Instructor Information:

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Office: 331-2409
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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:30 – 12:45

Course Information

CRN: 22562
LSH 229
T, Th: 1:00 – 2:15

Course Description:

In this course, a survey of test construction principles and psychological-educational measurement will be covered with an emphasis on principles of normative data, reliability, and validity. Commonly used tests will be reviewed and evaluated along with discussion of issues involving the appropriate and ethical use of tests.

Pre-requisites:

PSY 510: Admission to the school psychology program or instructor permission.

Required Textbook:

Ysseldyke, Chaparro, & VanDerHayden (2022). Assessment in Special and Inclusive Education – 14th edition. Pro-ed

2014 AERA Standards of Educational and Psychological Testing (PDF on Blackboard)

Additional Readings will be placed on blackboard.

Grading:

94% and above	A
90% - 92%	A-
87% - 89%	B+
83% - 86%	B
80% - 82%	B-
77% - 79%	C+
73% - 76%	C
70% - 72%	C-
67% - 69%	D+
60% - 67%	D
60% and below	F

Course Objectives

Critically evaluate a wide range of tools for measuring educational and psychological constructs.
Demonstrate and apply knowledge of basic statistical concepts to test administration, scoring, and interpretation.
Demonstrate and apply knowledge of measurement concepts (including reliability and validity) in selecting appropriate assessment tools.
Construct a reliable, valid assessment tool
Compare and contrast a variety of assessment tools (achievement, cognitive, interest inventories, personality assessment, life skill assessments, etc.) in terms of strengths and weaknesses.
Determine which types of assessments are appropriate for assessing specific areas.
Demonstrate knowledge about the importance of adhering to ethical and legal standards related to assessment
Demonstrate knowledge and apply appropriate guidelines for assessing culturally and linguistically diverse individuals

Course Requirements:

Exams (3 @ 50 pts, 150 pts total)

There will be a total of 3 exams in this class. All students will take the same exams. Exams will consist of a variety of forced choice questions, short-answer, and applied problems. You will have the entire class period to complete the exam (1 hour and 15 minutes). Exams will include content from the assigned readings and lecture. The third exam will take place on the final exam date, and will be cumulative.

Application Assignments (40 pts total)

There are 4 application assignments during the semester. These assignments are meant to help you apply concepts that you have learned in class. You will have time to work on these assignments during class (in small groups). The majority of the work will be done in class, but you may need to finish them at home.

Test Critique (50pts total)

You will review and critique a commonly used rating scale, intellectual assessment, or standardized achievement test. You must submit a final report (5-7 pages). More information will be provide during class.

Team Taught Class: Testing Application (40 pts total)

Working in groups of 2-3, you will present a concept in the field of tests and measurement to the class. Topics will be selected by the instructor. In addition to the presentation, you must provide a handout and reference page to the class.

Points Available

Exams	150
Assignments	40
Test Critique	50
Team Taught Cass	40
Total	280

Course Policies

Attendance: Attendance at all lecture sections is expected. Attendance is essential for doing well in this course, as much of the test content will be taken from lecture. In addition, you will have several guest lecture during the semester. You are responsible for the content delivered during those presentations, and you may or may not have lecture notes available. If excessive absences occur (more than 3), I reserve the right to reduce your final grade.

Exams: Make-up exams are discouraged, and will only be given in extenuating circumstances. This includes: serious illness, funeral, or an unavoidable situation. In all situations, you must: (1) contact me ASAP, (2) provide documentation of the event, and (3) take the make-up exam within 48 hours of the scheduled exam time. In addition, I reserve the right to reduce a make-up exam grade by 10%. If you fail to complete any of steps listed above, you will receive a “0” on the exam.

Computer Use: Laptops/tablets may be used during class time for taking notes, or other class-related activities (doing research for an in-class activity, etc.). Please refrain from engaging in non-class related activities during lecture. It is distracting to me and your fellow classmates. If computer use becomes problematic during lecture, I may implement a “no electronics” policy. In addition, please turn off cell phones during class.

Lecture Notes: Lecture notes will be posted on Blackboard before class starts. Please be aware that this may not occur until the morning before class starts. I will make every effort to post notes the evening before class, but it is likely that they will not become available until the morning before class. Lecture notes are a privilege, not a right. Also, the lecture notes do not contain all of the relevant information – please take additional notes.

Canceled Classes: If I have to cancel a class, I will notify you ASAP via email. If classes are canceled at the university, this class will not meet. Please check your university email regularly, as I may have directions for an alternative activity.

Classroom Expectations: Please engage in respectful behavior while in this class. This includes: arriving on-time, engaging with the content, and waiting to pack up your items until after I have completed the lecture. In addition, please refrain from sidebar conversations, and remain on-task during small group activities.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact me or Disability Support Services (DSS) at 331-2490. Although students with disabilities are held to the same academic standards as all other students, accommodations will be provided for you, as appropriate. Where warranted, accommodations will also be provided to students without a diagnosed disability if that student discusses the specific need with me and the accommodation appears to be justified. Furthermore, if you have a disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please make me aware so I can develop a plan to assist you.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to adhere to the university's policies on Academic Honesty. These policies are described in the catalog and in the Student Code. Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with as per the procedures described in the Student Code.

Plagiarism: As described in Section 223.01 of the Student Code, "any ideas or material taken from another source for either written or oral presentation must be fully acknowledged. Offering the work of someone else as one's own is plagiarism. The language or ideas taken from another may range from isolated formulas, sentences, or paragraphs to entire articles copied from books, periodicals, speeches or the writings of other students ... Any student who fails to give credit in written or oral work for the ideas or materials that have been taken from another is guilty of plagiarism." In sum, copying the work of any other individual, whether that of another student, researcher, author or editor is considered plagiarism. This is not acceptable and will be dealt with according to the policies set forth in the Student Code, which may include receiving a 0 on the assignment, failing the course, and/or other university consequences.

If you have questions regarding the appropriate use of citations and plagiarism, please contact the instructor BEFORE turning the assignment in. Please note that taking extensive content word-for-word from a journal, book or website is considered plagiarism.

	Topics	Readings	-Assignments
Week 1 8/31, 9/2	Introduction to Assessment and Testing	Review Syllabus Ysseldyke Ch. 2	
Week 2 9/7, 9/9	Statistics Review Test scores	Ysselydyke, Ch. 4 AERA Ch. 5	Complete Kahn Academy modules if you need a review of basic statistics (on BB)
Week 3 9/14, 9/16	Test scores cont. Developing Local Norms	Ysseldyke Ch. 4 BP: Foundations, Ch 23	Assignment: Developing Local Norms
Week 4 9/20, 9/22	Reliability Validity	AERA Ch. 2 Ysseldyke Ch 5	
Week 5 9/27, 9/29	Validity Test Fairness	AERA Ch. 1 Messick 1998 Ysseldyke Ch 5, 6	Exam 1: 9/29
Week 6 10/4, 10/6	Test Fairness	Ysseldyke Ch. 6 BP: Foundations, Ch. 5 SPP: Episode 69	
Week 7 10/11, 10/13	Reviewing Tests	Ysseldyke Ch. 9	Assignment: Group Test Critique
Week 8 10/18, 10/20	Legal and Ethical Issues	AERA Ch. 8, 9 Ysseldyke Ch. 3 SPP: Episode 99	
Week 9 10/25, 10/27	Interview and Observations	Riley-Tillman Ch 2 BP DBDM: Ch 21	No Class: 10/25 10/29: last day to drop with a "W"
Week 10 11/1 11/3	Screening Measures	Ysseldyke Ch. 10	Exam 2: 11/3

Week 11 11/8, 11/10	Behavior Rating Scales	BP: DBDM, Ch 19 Ysseldyke Ch. 18	Team taught class: 11/10 (group 1 and 2) Case Study Assignment
Week 12 11/15, 11/17	Measures of Intelligence	Ysseldyke Ch. 17 SPP: Episode 63, 64	Team taught class: 11/17 (group 3)
Week 13 11/22, 11/24	Measures of Achievement	Ysseldyke Ch. 12	Thanksgiving Break: 11/24
Week 14 11/29, 12/1	Measure of Achievement	Ysseldyke 13-15	Team taught class: 12/1 (group 4 and 5)
Week 15 12/6, 12/8	Test Accommodations and Adaptations	Salvia Ch. 21 BP: Foundations, Ch. 9 SPP: Episode 113	Test critique due: 12/8 Case Study Assignment
Final Exam	Tuesday, 12/14: 12:00 – 1:50pm		