

Grand Valley State University
Tests and Measurement
PSY 510

Instructor Information:

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Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10-11

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:

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 (30 pts total)

Throughout the semester, I will assign brief activities and assignments where you must apply and practice content from class. These assignments are typically worth 3-5 pts each. As these assignments are assigned in-class, you must be present during lecture to receive credit. No make-up application assignments are permitted, even if the absence is "excused".

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 (30 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
Application Assignments	30
Test Critique	50
Team Taught Cass	30
Total	260

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	Assignment
Week 1 8/31, 9/2	Introduction to Assessment and Testing	Review Syllabus Salvia Ch. 1 & 2	
Week 2 9/7, 9/9	Statistics Review Test scores	Salvia, Ch. 4 (35 -39) BP: Foundations, Ch 22 AERA Ch. 5	
Week 3 9/14, 9/16	Test scores cont. Developing Local Norms	Salvia Ch. 4 (39+) BP: Foundations, Ch 23	
Week 4 9/21, 9/23	Reliability	AERA Ch. 2 Salvia Ch. 5 (54 -61)	
Week 5 9/28, 9/30	Validity	AERA Ch. 1 Salvia Ch. 5 (61+) Messick 1998	Exam 1: 9/28
Week 6 10/5, 10/7	Validity cont.		
Week 7 10/12, 10/14	Test Development	AERA Ch. 4 Salvia, Ch 7	
Week 8 10/19, 10/21	Test Fairness	BP: Foundations, Ch. 5 AERA Ch. 3 Salvia Ch. 22	
Week 9 10/26, 10/28	Legal and Ethical Issues	AERA Ch. 8, 9 SPP: Episode 99	No Class: 10/26 10/29: last day to drop with a "W"
Week 10 11/2, 11/4	Screening Measures	TBD	Exam 2: 11/2

Week 11 11/9, 11/11	Rating Scale Development	BP: Data Based, Ch 19 Salvia Ch 17	Team taught class: 11/11 (group 1 and 2)
Week 12 11/16, 11/18	Measures of Intelligence	Salvia Ch. 15 SPP: Episode 60, 63, 64	
Week 13 11/23, 11/25	Measures of Achievement	Salvia Ch. 11-14	Thanksgiving Break: 11/25
Week 14 11/30, 12/2	Measure of Achievement Other measures	Salvia Ch. 18, 19, 20	Team taught class: 12/2 (group 3 and 4)
Week 15 12/7, 12/9	Test Accommodations and Adaptations	Salvia Ch. 21 BP: Foundations, Ch. 9 SPP: Episode 113	Test critique due: 12/7
Final Exam	Tuesday, 12/14: 12:00 – 1:50pm		