

Syllabus
Psychological Assessment and Measurement
PSY 572/SPED 572
Fall 2015

Online Class

Instructor: Devin Pierce, Ph.D

Email: Devin.Pierce@tamuc.edu

Required Text

Cohen, J. C., Swerdlik, M.E., & Sturman, E.D. (2013). *Psychological Testing and Assessment: An Introduction to Tests and Measurement* (8th ed.). New York McGraw-Hill.

Catalogue Description

This course is the first required course in the sequence of assessment courses and is planned to provide a framework for the development of assessment practices. Attention will be given to issues of measurement, identifying appropriate sources of diagnostic information, reliability, validity, identifying and selecting test instruments, conducting the assessment process in an ethical and considerate manner, interpreting norm references and criterion-referenced test scores.

Online Class Expectations

This class is a web-based class. Online courses are a lot of work due to their fast pace. You have to be disciplined to be successful. If you are not, this may not be the course for you. Do not get behind in this course. If you do, you will not succeed.

Computer Competencies

To participate in this course, you will need to have access to a computer that is connected to the internet. The university can also act as an ISP for students that are in the DFW area or live near Commerce, but there are some limitations to this service (primarily, on-line time limits). Students should know how to send and receive email, access the internet, send and receive files, and use software needed to produce papers and instructional presentations. You must also possess the

computer skills necessary to attach Word documents into the Dropbox, access websites, navigate eCollege, and spend the time needed to complete all assignments. If you are having technical difficulties, you need to get it corrected ASAP. Do not wait until the last minute to complete your assignments, as you will not be able to do an adequate job. In addition to the chapters, we will also be looking at other multimedia selections. Please refer to the course shell for those links. Lastly,

Support Services for On-line Students

A help desk is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please call 1-866-656-5511 or email helpdesk@online.tamuc.edu.

Learning Objectives:

- a. Historical perspectives concerning the nature and meaning of assessment.
- b. Basic concepts of standardized and nonstandardized testing and other assessment techniques including norm-referenced and criterion-referenced assessment, environmental assessment, performance assessment, individual and group test and inventory methods, behavioral observations, and computer-managed and computer-assisted methods.
- c. Statistical concepts, including scales of measurement, measures of central tendency, indices of variability, shapes and types of distributions, and correlations.
- d. Reliability (i.e., theory of measurement error, models of reliability, and the use of reliability information).
- e. Validity (i.e., evidence of validity, types of validity, and the relationship between reliability and validity).
- f. Age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, language, disability, culture, spirituality, and other factors related to the assessment and evaluation of individuals, groups, and specific populations.
- g. Strategies for selecting, administering, and interpreting assessment and evaluation instruments and techniques in counseling.
- h. An understanding of general principles and methods of case conceptualization, assessment, and/or diagnosis of mental and emotional status.

- i. Ethical and legal considerations.

Course Requirements

Exams. There will be two exams during the semester, a midterm and final. You are responsible for all materials covered in this course. Exams may be rescheduled, without penalty, only when arrangements have been made in advance of the testing date. I expect people to come to me within the first week of class if they have conflicts with the exam dates. Make-ups will only be given in the case of verifiable medical or legal excuses. Verifiable means that written documentation is provided (e.g., signed doctors' notes, court appearance tickets, newspaper obituaries). The final decision concerning make-up exams rests with the instructor.

Article Critique. Each student will select an empirical research article related to content covered in the course and write a 3-4 page critique. Specific details regarding this task will be provided on a separate handout that will be uploaded to the DocSharing component of eCollege. Critiques submitted late will not be accepted.

Presentations. Each student will create one PowerPoint presentation that needs to be uploaded to eCollege under shared documents. The topic of the presentations should relate to the field of assessment. Examples might include: multicultural issues in assessment, controversies in assessment, or the use of a specific instrument (provide a brief overview of its intended use as well as its technical features). I encourage you to pursue a topic that is of interest to you. If you are unsure about the appropriateness of a topic, just ask.

Discussions. These will be required as described in the Discussion tab of eCollege. Your comments should be substantive and civil, as different viewpoints will be expected and encouraged. Posts that are not civil, per my judgment, will receive a score of 0. You will be asked to post your comments in the threaded discussion section. The purpose of the discussion post is to get you focused on the content. Your posts will be graded for depth of understanding/thought and detail. For each discussion you will post a response to the discussion question and respond to another student's posted response.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm	30%
Final Exam	30%
Article Critique	10%
Discussions	20%
Presentation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Final grades are based on the total number of points earned during the term in accordance, generally, with the following levels of proficiency: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = below 60.

Course and University Procedures/Policies

Academic Honesty. Texas A&M University - Commerce has explicit rules and regulations governing academic dishonesty and academic misconduct. These policies are stated in detail in the Students Guide Handbook. Each student is expected to read the documents at the address and abide by the contained policies. These university policies will be followed in this class. The minimum penalty for an act of academic dishonesty will be the assignment of a grade of 0 on the relevant assignment.

Assignment of an Incomplete Grade. A grade of Incomplete is reserved for only those special cases where a student has completed a significant portion of the semester's work and an unavoidable circumstance prevents him or her from completing the course. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Leo Mail and eCollege. All Students should activate and regularly check their Leo Mail (e-mail account) and eCollege accounts associated with this class. All assignments will be turned in on eCollege (when applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course. All class communication will be done through Leo Mail/eCollege. I **WILL NOT** send communication about the class to personal email accounts.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading
1 (8/31)	Introductions	Syllabus
2 (9/7)	Psychological Testing and Assessment	Ch 1
3 (9/14)	Historical, Cultural, and Legal/Ethical Considerations	Ch2
4 (9/21)	Statistics Refresher	Ch3
5 (9/28)	Tests and Testing Reliability	Ch 4 Ch 5
6 (10/5)	Validity	Ch 6
7 (10/12)	Test Development	Ch 8
8 (10/19)	Midterm	None
9 (10/26)	Intelligence and its Measurement	Ch 9
10 (11/2)	Tests of Intelligence	Ch 10
11 (11/9)	Assessment for Education	Ch 11

12 (11/16)	Personality Assessment: An overview	Ch 12
13 (11/23)	Personality Assessment: Methods	Ch 13
14 (11/30)	Clinical and Counseling Assessment	Ch 14
15 (12/7)	Neuropsychological Assessment Presentations Due	Ch 15
16 (12/14)	Final Exam Article Critiques Due	

Please note that any changes to the schedule will be announced during lecture.