

EDP 380P: MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION (3 CREDITS)

FALL 2014 (Unique #: 10800)

General Information

Lecture meeting time: Monday, 1:00pm – 3:45pm.

Location: George I. Sanchez Building (SZB), Room 432

Instructor: Jodi Casabianca, Ph.D.

Email: jcasabianca@austin.utexas.edu

Office Location: SZB, Room 538G

Office hours: Monday, 10:00am – 12:00pm, and by appointment as necessary

Teaching Assistant: Christopher Runyon, M.A.

Email: runyon.christopher@gmail.com

Office: Learning Technology Center (LTC; SZB, Room 536)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 – 11:00am, and by appointment as necessary

Course Description

In this course students will learn the means by which tests are developed, administered, scored and evaluated; explanations of the nature of test scores and their interpretation; test reliability and validity; and in particular, they will understand the interactions of these variables (e.g., the importance of proper test administration for proper test interpretation). We will also discuss topics such as ethics and fairness in testing. The course will involve a combination of lecture and group discussion and activities.

Learning Goals

After completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe different conceptual approaches to educational and psychological testing and types of tests;
2. Demonstrate knowledge and a good critical understanding of the main theories of psychometric theory and assessment, including reliability, validity, and fairness;
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how tests are used and be able to discuss both their uses and their limitations;
4. Describe and discuss the design, construction, and the validation of items and tests;
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the practical uses of tests in applied areas of psychology and education.

Required Textbook

Textbook. There is one required textbook for the course and it is available at the reserve desk at the PCL.

Reynolds, C. R., & Livingston, R. B. (2013). *Mastering modern psychological testing: Theory & methods*. Pearson Higher Education. (ISBN: 978-0205483501)

The text provides information not covered in class and similarly some material is covered in class that might not be mentioned in the text. You are responsible for material covered in class. You may choose to read the selections either before or after the class sessions, whichever better helps you solidify your learning. I highly suggest at least scanning the readings before the class

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session to prepare yourself for what will be presented in class. Everyone learns differently, but from my own experience, doing a full reading *before* and *after* class should almost guarantee your success in understanding the concepts.

Class Handouts. Class handouts matching the slides used by the instructor will be made available on Canvas (<http://canvas.utexas.edu>) to students by 10:30pm on the day before class. I update slides to match class progress and thus cannot offer them any earlier. Please do not ask me to post them earlier!!

Reading the slides does not provide the student with the learning experiences nor the materials equivalent to those obtained by attending class. The handouts provide a skeleton of what is being covered each day and will thus be an incomplete version of the material actually covered.

Calculator. You will be required to calculate many of the statistics by hand to master the use (and interpretation) of the relevant formulae. Therefore, you will need your own calculator to perform relevant mathematical functions (such as taking the natural log, the exponent, square root, etc.) during class and exams. Because you will need your calculator during exams, do not intend to share calculators or use your cell phone's calculator function/app.

Assessments

Your course grade will be a combination of your performance on homework assignments (10%) and three in-class examinations (90%).

Homework Assignments. A portion of your course grade will be based on your performance on homework assignments which will include problems to help you practice some of the concepts we learn during class. Homework assignments and due dates are given out during class. Dates are selected based on class progress. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date specified with the assignment. If a student cannot attend on the days when an assignment is due, then the student is responsible for notifying the instructor in advance and arranging timely delivery of the assignment. ***Emailed assignments will not be accepted.***

Only in exceptional circumstances (including a verifiable medical excuse) and only with prior permission from the instructor will students be able to hand in an assignment late. Without this permission, the student will be penalized for late work. For each 24-hour period that the assignment is delayed, 10% will be deducted from the assignment's score. Because assignments are due at the beginning of class, each 24-hour period will start coincidentally with the class's beginning. Thus if an assignment is due, for example, at 1:00pm on Monday, 10/6 but is handed in at 12:59pm on Thursday, 10/9, then 30% will automatically be deducted from the student's score on the assignment. There will be no exceptions to this penalty.

If a student becomes ill on the day that an assignment is due, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and to arrange delivery of the assignment by the time it is due. In this case, if the assignment is not complete, then the student will receive credit only for what was attempted. It is important to complete assignments before the day on which they are due.

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Exams. Three examinations will consist of conceptual, computational, and application questions. The dates of these exams (shown below) will not change.

Exam dates

Exam 1: September 29 (Take-home exam; distributed on 9/22; content from lectures 9/8-9/22)

Exam 2: November 3 (In-class exam; content from lectures 9/29-10/27)

Exam 3: December 1 (In-class exam; content from lectures 11/3-11/24)

Take-home Exam. The take-home examination is due at the beginning of class on the due date specified. If a student cannot attend on the day when the take-home examination is due, then the student is responsible for notifying the instructor in advance and arranging timely delivery of the examination. **Emailed take-home examinations will not be accepted.**

Only in exceptional circumstances (including a verifiable medical excuse) and only with prior permission from the instructor will students be able to hand in the take-home examination late. Without this permission, the student will be penalized for late work in the same way homework assignments will be penalized (see previous section on *Homework Assignments*).

If a student becomes ill on the day that a take-home examination is due, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and to arrange delivery of the assignment by the time it is due. In this case, if the take-home examination is incomplete, then the student will receive credit only for what was attempted. It is important to complete take-home examination before the day on which they are due.

In-class Exams. Exams cannot be made-up unless your absence is excused via doctor's note or prior arrangement because of religious holiday observance. If the student becomes ill on the day of an exam, then it is the student's responsibility to ensure the instructor is contacted to notify them, provide them with a doctor's note and to re-schedule the exam. In the case of a religious holiday observance, University policy requires students to notify each of their instructors as far in advance of the absence as possible so that arrangements can be made.

Grading Policy

Your final course grade will be assigned based on the conversion from numeric course grade to letter grade as shown in the below table. Unless there was a computational error in your grade computation, grades will not be changed after the end of the semester.

A :	≥ 93	C+:	77-79
A-:	90-92	C:	73-76
B+:	87-89	C-:	70-72
B:	83-86	D:	60-69
B-:	80-82	F:	< 60

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Canvas

All electronic materials used for this course will be available on Canvas. Grades for all examinations will also be available on Canvas. Please access the training for students (<http://edutech.ctl.utexas.edu/students/>) for help with setting up your account and navigating the system. You will also be responsible for checking the Canvas course site regularly for announcements, handouts (slides), and additional readings. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions, so plan accordingly. **DO NOT EMAIL ME OR CHRIS IN CANVAS. Please use the UT email system.**

Communication Policy

All students should become familiar with the University's official email student notification policy. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your email address are available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/help/utmail/1564>.

Students are expected to check email on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. In this course, email will be used as the primary means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work and announcements. I check email several times a day on weekdays (during regular working hours).

Email communication is to be used for scheduling meetings and asking “quick” yes/no questions. **Please do not email me or Chris with questions that require more than a quick yes or no answer.** Please reserve your deeper questions for office hours, as face-to-face communication is the best method for extensive explanations.

Attendance Policy

You are responsible for being present in class and for all lecture and written material covered in class, even if you miss a class. If a student misses a class, then regardless of the reason for class being missed the **student is responsible** for obtaining both the course material that was missed as well as any class announcements from his/her classmates. While attendance is not part of your grade, you will be better prepared to complete assignments and examinations if you regularly attend class.

Accommodations for Religious Holidays

Notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, an assignment in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Documented Disability Statement

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at (512) 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone). Faculty are not required to provide accommodations without an official accommodation letter from SSD. Also please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is not accessible (e.g., text on presentation slides too small, etc.).

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Policy on Academic Integrity

University of Texas Honor Code

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

A fundamental principle for any educational institution, academic integrity is highly valued and seriously regarded at The University of Texas at Austin. More specifically, you and other students are expected to maintain absolute integrity and a high standard of individual honor in scholastic work undertaken at the University. This is a very basic expectation that is further reinforced by the University's Honor Code. At a minimum, you should complete any assignments, exams, and other scholastic endeavors with the utmost honesty, which requires you to:

- acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;
- follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- avoid engaging in any form of academic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

On Take-home Exams and Assignments. You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in class with other students. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else. **Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the take-home examination or homework assignment.**

As a graduate student at UT Austin, you should be familiar with plagiarism (http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint_plagiarism.php). Plagiarism includes using exact text or simply paraphrasing text from sources such as books, articles, websites and course materials, including my slides. If there is reason to believe that your work was borrowed from an external source, and it was not properly acknowledged using quotations and/or the proper American Psychological Association (APA) citations, I will run it through a plagiarism checker. **If you plagiarize, you will automatically receive a zero for the take-home examination or homework assignment. Note that penalty for violation of these policies can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.**

On In-class Exams. During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam, and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

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Tentative Course Schedule and Required Readings

This schedule may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected. Exam dates will not change.

Note that most readings come from the textbook, however, readings from other sources will be posted on Canvas. These readings are labeled “TBP” for “to-be-posted” on Canvas.

Date	Session Topics and Readings
9/8/2014	Course Introduction Introduction to Measurement and Testing: pp. 8-32 Test Administration and Scoring: TBP Legal and Ethical Issues: pp. 524-538; TBP
9/15/2014	Testing in Educational Settings: pp. 245-252; 254-260; 266; 269; 274-276; 279-282; 287-293 Testing Special Populations/Accommodations: pp. 503-520
9/22/2014	Basic Descriptive Statistics: pp. 37-55 Scores and Norms: pp. 72-104
9/29/2014	Take-home Exam 1 due Correlation and Regression: pp. 55-67
10/6/2014	Reliability: pp. 110-134
10/13/2014	Reliability (continued): pp. 134-147; TBP
10/20/2014	Validity: pp. 155-183; TBP
10/27/2014	Validity (continued) Review for Exam 2
11/3/2014	Exam 2 Test Development: pp. 542-567 Item Writing/Development: pp. 187-214; 217-218
11/10/2014	Item Writing/Development (continued) Item Analysis: pp. 222-236
11/17/2014	Item Analysis (continued) Fairness/Bias in Testing: pp. 485-497; TBP
11/24/2014	Fairness/Bias in Testing (continued) Review for Exam 3
12/1/2014	Exam 3