

Psychological Tests and Measurements PSYC – 421 – 601, Fall 2021

Instructor: Andrew Jenkins, Ed.S.

Office: Alumni Hall, 0311

Office Hours: Fridays 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Email: andrjen@siue.edu

Class Location: Blackboard

Class Time: Asynchronous

Course Description

Psychological Tests and Measurements is a 3 credit hour course designed to provide students with an introduction to the field of psychological testing. Course coverage will include study of basic psychometric concepts (e.g., reliability, validity) as well as the functional considerations of psychological testing (e.g., development, administration). In addition, commonly used tests from a variety of psychological subfields will be introduced.

Required Text

Cohen, R.J., & Swerdlik, M.E., (2018). *Psychological testing and assessment: An introduction to tests & measurement* (9th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

*Additional readings and podcasts available on Blackboard

Course Objectives

By the completion of the course students will:

- Develop an understanding of various psychometric concepts (i.e. reliability and validity) related to tests and test construction.
- an understanding of new developments, ethical considerations, and controversies associated with psychological testing.
- an understanding of the varied purposes of psychological testing in addition to the various settings in which tests are employed.
- skills related to the critical evaluation of tests and assessment instruments.
- knowledge to enhance their writing and communication/presentation skills.

Assignment & Grading Policies

Exams (50 pts each) – Four (4) “closed book” exams will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will cover only the material since the last exam. As such, the final exam **is not comprehensive**. Each exam will cover both lecture topics and information from the assigned readings, and will include any combination of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or short-answer questions. **Be aware that all information presented in both the assigned readings and class lectures may appear on exams.**

Class Activities (CA; 100 pts) – Ten in-class activities will be conducted throughout the semester to enhance your learning of course material and assist with your group project. Please see course schedule for due dates. Each activity will be worth 10 points, specific activity requirements will be shared on Blackboard on the week they are assigned.

Test Development Project (TDP; 150 pts) - Working in teams of 5-6 students each, students will develop a test and examine some of its psychometric properties through data collection and analysis. Various aspects of this assignment will require group work and data entry into SPSS. As part of each

student's grade on this assignment, each student will be asked to the final individual paper and a group evaluation sheet that evaluates the work of all other team members. Grades will be given based on individual work within the group. Details of the assignment and a rubric will be posted on blackboard. **The test development assignment will be due on 11/22/21.**

Final Grades

Your grade is based on the total number of points you earn.

	Assignments	Final Grades (points)*
Exams	200 points	A: 405+
Class Activities (10 pts each)	100 points	B: 360 – 404
Test Development Project	150 points	C: 315 – 359
Total	450 points	D: 270 – 314 F: < 269

****Grades will not be rounded up or curved.***

Written Assignments

Any **written assignment** must be completed and submitted via Blackboard by the end of the lesson week. For example, an assignment assigned on Monday will be due the following Sunday by the end of the day (i.e., 11:59 pm). **The instructor reserves the right to determine the appropriate number of points to deduct from work turned in late.** Any late work will be subject to an initial point deduction off the total possible points to be earned (in the range of 5 to 10% of the total point value), and smaller subsequent point deductions will be applied for each day that the assignment is not turned in after the due date. Excused absences that occur early in the semester do not excuse tardiness in submitting work later in the semester. **Students are responsible for anticipating that technology can often fail and should be in communication with the instructor if necessary, PRIOR to the deadline.** Any assignments turned in via email past the end of the week that they are due will be considered late. You are encouraged to confirm that your assignment has been received via blackboard.

APA Format in Written Work

Students are expected to be familiar and/or to familiarize themselves with APA standards for citations and references, per the 7th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. Please ensure that you have access to this text at any time that you may need it during the semester. A lack of knowledge of appropriate citation and referencing format will not excuse you from point deductions from written assignments or disciplinary action in the case of plagiarism.

If you would like additional instruction in the use of APA format, please set up an appointment to see me, or seek out the resources described in the departmental writing policy, below.

- If you would like additional instruction in the use of APA format, please see me during office hours, or seek out the resources described below.
- Students who require additional assistance in writing in the areas of grammar and/or organization are strongly encouraged to seek out additional assistance. University-based services for assisting students with professional writing include the Writing Center (<http://www.siue.edu/lss/writing/index.shtml>), which also provides workshops in APA style.

*****A lack of knowledge of appropriate citation and referencing format will not excuse you from point deductions from written assignments due to errors, or from disciplinary action in the case of plagiarism.*****

Department of Psychology Writing Policy

As a student in this course, you will be expected to display university-level writing, which includes completing course assignments that meet the following basic writing criteria. Specifically, all written assignments completed for this course should include:

- clear transitions from sentence to sentence and idea to idea (e.g., paper is organized/flows well);
- verb tense consistency;
- clear and unambiguous sentences and ideas;
- writing that is free of typos, spelling errors, and major grammatical errors;
- properly formatted paper including headings, citations and references, per the 7th edition of the APA manual.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of basic writing skills, but will give you an idea of what we are looking for in our papers. If you feel you need help with your writing, you are encouraged to seek assistance from the writing center on campus (<http://www.siue.edu/is/writing>) or utilize one of the many online resources they have identified to help students (<http://www.siue.edu/lss/writing/resources.shtml>). If your graded written assignments fail to meet the basic writing requirements listed above (and any others found to be appropriate by your instructor), the instructor will stop the grading process and return the paper to you (see below for the specific policy for this class).

The penalty for unacceptable writing in this class is as follows: if a paper violates any of the above stipulations or is otherwise inconsistent with the stated expectations for a written assignment, it will be returned to you for resubmission, and 25% of the total available points will be deducted.

Course Policies & Procedures

Attendance

There is not attendance policy for this class. However, it is your responsibility to obtain lecture material, review the course content online, participate in any online discussion and/or other class activity, and submit course assignments on time. If you need clarification on any of the material, I would be happy to meet with you during office hours (or other appointment times).

Technology

This course will use Blackboard (<https://bb.siue.edu>) as the primary vehicle for disseminating class materials. Announcements, updates, grades, and other important course information will be posted to Blackboard. It is your responsibility to regularly check this course's Blackboard website throughout the semester. All assignments will be turned in on Blackboard (when applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course.

Communication and Email

All Students should activate and regularly check their SIUE e-mail account and Blackboard accounts associated with this class. All class communication will be done through these two platforms. I **WILL NOT** send communication about the class to personal email accounts. When emailing please put the Course Number in the Subject Line of the Email, for example PSYC 421: Question about Assignment. All emails will be returned in 48 hours unless I notify you otherwise. ****See Email Policy at the end of the Syllabus**

Professional Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves as mature and responsible adults while enrolled in this course. Be cognizant that side conversations in class can be distracting to the instructor and your classmates. Please show respect for others when they speak. Behavior meant to demean or belittle a class member will not be tolerated. Also, student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated.

Academic Integrity

Students are reminded that the expectations and academic standards outlined in the Student Academic Code (3C2) apply to all courses, field experiences and educational experiences at the University, regardless of modality or location. The full text of the policy can be found here:

<https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>.

The Psychology Department's Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism includes presenting someone else's words without quotation marks (even if you cite the source), presenting someone else's ideas without citing that source, or presenting one's own previous work as though it were new. When paraphrasing from another source or your own work, at the very least, the student should change the wording, sentence syntax, and order of ideas presented in the paper. Additionally, you should not submit a paper, or parts of a paper, written to fulfill the requirements of one class for the requirements in another class without prior approval of the current instructor and appropriate citation. Ideally, the student will integrate ideas from multiple sources while providing critical commentary on the topic in a way that clearly identifies whether words and ideas are those of the student or are from another source. Plagiarism is one type of academic misconduct described in SIUE's Student Academic Code (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/3c2.shtml>). University policy states that "Normally a student who plagiarizes shall receive a grade of F in the course in which the act occurs. The offense shall also be reported to the Provost." (<http://www.siue.edu/policies/1i6.shtml>). The University policy discusses additional academic sanctions including suspension and expulsion from the University.

Recordings of Class Content

Faculty recordings of lectures and/or other course materials are meant to facilitate student learning and to help facilitate a student catching up who has missed class due to illness or quarantine. As such, students are reminded that the recording, as well as replicating or sharing of any course content and/or course materials without the express permission of the instructor of record, is not permitted, and may be considered a violation of the University's Student Conduct Code (3C1), linked here:

<https://www.siue.edu/policies/3c1.shtml>.

Department of Psychology Policy on Incomplete Grades and Withdrawal

All withdrawals must be completed by the end of the 13th week of classes during fall and spring, and by a similarly late date (i.e., before 82% of class meetings have occurred) in any summer term. Grades that apply to students who initiate a withdrawal and grades that apply when a student fails to officially withdraw within established deadlines are determined by university policy (see <http://www.siue.edu/policies/1j1.shtml>). The granting of a grade of I (Incomplete) is not automatic. It is available only in cases when a student has completed most of the work required for a class but is prevented by a medical or similar emergency from completing a small portion of the coursework before the deadline for grade submission. An I must be approved by the instructor with appropriate documentation provided by the student. If an instructor agrees to give a student an I, the instructor will fill out a Memorandum of Incomplete Grade to be kept with the student's records. If the work is not completed by the time specified on the Memorandum, the student's grade will be changed from I to F.

Health and Safety

The measures outlined below are required and any student who does not comply may be in violation of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy*, as well as the University's *Student Code of Conduct*.

The full text of the *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* can be found here:

<https://www.siue.edu/policies/Covid.shtml>

Classrooms, Labs, Studios, and Other Academic Spaces

While in the classroom, lab, studio, or other academic spaces, students (regardless of vaccination status) shall wear face coverings that fully cover the nose and mouth and practice physical distancing measures to the extent practicable based on the specific classroom capacity and pedagogy. Classroom furniture should not be rearranged, and furniture that has been taped off or covered should not be used.

Students who forget to wear a face covering will be reminded of their obligation to comply with SIUE's *COVID-19 People-Focused Health and Safety Policy* and temporarily asked to leave the class until they are able to conform to the policy. Students who forget or lose their face coverings may be able to obtain replacements from a friend, a faculty member, or a nearby departmental office. Face coverings are also available for purchase in the Cougar Store (MUC).

Students who refuse to wear a face covering will be asked to leave the classroom and referred to the Dean of Students for non-compliance with community health and safety protocols. Repeated non-compliance may result in disciplinary actions, including the student being administratively dropped from an on-ground/face-to-face course or courses without refund if no alternative course format is available. If a student has a documented health condition which makes wearing a face covering medically intolerable, that student should contact ACCESS to explore options with the understanding that ACCESS will not grant accommodations which excuse the need for a face covering while on campus or in the classroom. ACCESS will work with qualifying individuals to find reasonable alternatives, whenever such solutions are available. Please call or contact the ACCESS Office via email to schedule an online appointment to discuss potential alternatives. ACCESS office (Student Success Center, Room 1203, 618-650-3726, and myaccess@siue.edu).

General Health Measures

At all times, students should engage in recommended health and safety measures, which include:

- Conducting a daily health assessment. If you have [COVID-19 symptoms](#), but not yet tested positive, have had COVID-19 close contact exposure, or are COVID-19 diagnosed as presumptive or confirmed positive, stay home and contact your health provider or SIUE Health Service at cougarcare@siue.edu or 618-650-2842. More information on reporting procedures is available [here](#).
- Frequent washing or disinfecting of hands.
- Physical distancing.
- Face masks or face coverings that cover the nose and mouth are required in indoor public spaces regardless of the ability to maintain physical distance. Indoor public spaces include common spaces or community settings that anyone can access, such as reception areas with walk-in access, restrooms, hallways, classrooms, teaching and research laboratories, as well as common spaces in residence halls, conference rooms, lobbies, and break rooms.
- If present, adhere to directional signs and traffic flow patterns in buildings and offices. In many spaces, doors for entering and exiting buildings are designated.

Potential for Changes in Course Schedule or Modality

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, there remains a possibility that planned classroom activities will need to be adjusted. Depending on circumstances and following state-issued recommendations, potential changes include changes in course modality (e.g., transition from face-to-face to online) or in course scheduled meetings. These changes would be implemented to ensure the successful completion of the course. In these cases, students will be provided with an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version.

Services for Students Needing Accommodations

It is the policy and practice of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or to accurate assessment of achievement—such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content or the use of non-captioned videos—please contact Accessible Campus Community and Equitable Student Support (ACCESS) as soon as possible. In order to properly determine reasonable accommodations, students must register with ACCESS either online at siue.edu/access or in person in the Student Success Center, Room 1203. You can also reach the office by emailing us at myaccess@siue.edu or by calling [618-650-3726](tel:618-650-3726).

If you feel you would need additional help in the event of an emergency situation, please notify your instructor to be shown the evacuation route and discuss specific needs for assistance.

Diversity and Inclusion

SIUE is committed to respecting everyone's dignity at all times. In order to learn, exchange ideas, and support one another, our virtual and physical classrooms must be places where students and teachers feel safe and supported. Systems of oppression permeate our institutions and our classrooms. All students and faculty have the responsibility to co-create a classroom that affirms inclusion, equity, and social justice, where racism, sexism, classism, ableism, heterosexism, xenophobia, and other social pathologies are not tolerated. Violations of this policy will be enforced in line with the SIUE Student Conduct Code. The Hub <https://www.siue.edu/csdi> is an excellent resource for students for support and community. Any person who believes they have experienced or witnessed discrimination or harassment can contact Ms. Jamie Ball, Director in the Office of Equal Opportunity, Access and Title IX Coordination at (618) 650-2333 or jball@siue.edu. There is also an online form for reporting bias incidents at https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?SIUEdwardsville&layout_id=10.

Email Policy

The ability to send a brief, on-topic email is a professional skill that you will likely use for the rest of your career. Here are a few illustrative examples of emails to which I will and will not respond.

Emails I will answer:

“Mr. Jenkins, I’m a little worried about getting my paper done in time for the deadline. I’m working 30 hours a week and I was planning on working on the paper this weekend, but my aunt just passed away and I’m going to have to go to Kansas City for the funeral this weekend. Can I come talk to you in office hours about this?” -Student”

“Mr. Jenkins, I know the paper is due tomorrow, but I am having trouble with getting my paper uploaded via blackboard. I have called the IT office, restarted my computer, and have asked a friend for help but am still having trouble getting it to work. Is this something I can send to you via email?
Thanks, Student”

“Mr. Jenkins, I’m sorry to have to do this, but I’m going to have miss class today. My car broke down this morning and I live in St. Louis, and I have no other way to get to campus. I know I can’t make up the quizzes that I missed today, but I have a few questions about the chapters we read today. Can I set up an appointment to talk with you?”
Sincerely- Student”

Emails I will NOT answer:

“hey, what do I need for the class activity/review/etc today?”

“Mr. Jenkins- I had a really bad fight with my roommate last night and I’ve been crying my eyes out all night. I just know that, even if I did come to class today, I wouldn’t even be paying attention anyway. To make it all worse, I’m totally stressed over my grad school applications, and I have three different meetings this week for my on-campus clubs, and I really need a mental health day! Anyway, I just can’t make it to class. Would you mind emailing me the slides for today’s lecture? I don’t want all this stress to affect my grade.”

There are several things “wrong” with this email, but the most concerning are the overwhelming divulgence of personal details and the lack of responsibility for oneself. That being said, any time you are facing an overwhelming number of life stressors, don’t hesitate to make your professors aware of the situation as professionally as possible, as well as seek out appropriate resources, such as Counseling Services - (618) 650-2842.

If you send me email that is inadequately punctuated, capitalized, incoherent, rude, otherwise unprofessional or is a question that has an answer clearly outlined in the syllabus, I won’t respond. If you don’t hear back from me within 48 hours, or by the end of the day on Monday if you emailed me over the weekend, assume that the email was improperly formatted, and try again.