

**Psychometrics  
Psychology 5330  
Spring 2009  
M 5:15 PM – 7:45 PM**

- Professor:** Dr. Christopher Johnson  
**Office:** Social Sciences 207-D (Snow College Campus)  
**Office Hours:** W 8:00PM – 10:00PM (held online via Blackboard/Wimba)  
**Phone:** (435) 633-3211 (mobile)  
**Email:** [christopher.johnson@usu.edu](mailto:christopher.johnson@usu.edu)  
**Contact Policy:** I am as accessible to my students as possible through phone, email, and online video chat.
- You may contact me: (a) at any time via email and (b) from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM Mon. – Fri. by phone.
  - Regarding email, I prefer that you contact me at [christopher.johnson@usu.edu](mailto:christopher.johnson@usu.edu) rather than using the email features in Blackboard. You will receive a more timely response. Begin each email message with a salutation and end with a complimentary closing.
  - Additionally, regular weekly chat and video chat sessions are held online via Blackboard/Wimba to clarify any questions that you may have during the semester.
  - I encourage you to seek help or bring to my attention any issues that arise during the semester. I am committed to your intellectual development and scholarly success!

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Required Reading:**

1. Cohen, R. J., & Swerdlik, M. E. *Psychological Testing and Assessment: An Introduction to Tests and Measurement* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.  
ISBN-13: 978-0-07-288767-9
2. Cohen, R. J. *Exercises in Psychological Testing and Assessment* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.  
ISBN-13: 978-0-07-312910-5

**Additional Readings:** Additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester and will be available via Blackboard (<http://bb.usu.edu>).

**Course Description & Objectives:**

This course will cover the theory, terminology, concepts, and methods used to conduct psychological assessment. Students will: (a) gain an understanding of psychometric instruments and their application, (b) learn how to critically evaluate the quality, validity, and utility of psychometric instruments, (c) review general approaches and domains of psychological testing, and (d) make informed decisions regarding instrument choice and interpretation of outcomes.

I have set the following primary objectives for you this semester:

1. Gain a working knowledge of psychometrics as used in the social and behavioral sciences
2. Be able to describe and distinguish concepts such as validity, reliability, classical test theory, and test administration
3. Develop critical thinking skills that enable responsible evaluation of assessment results
4. Become familiar with a variety of instruments and their theoretical foundations
5. Gain a working vocabulary and understanding of the key concepts important to understanding psychological assessment
6. Develop a proficiency in working with computerized databases to identify scientific articles and reports
7. Understand how psychology is a ***scientific*** approach to exploring the many facets of human thought, behavior, and social interactions

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Your grade for this course will be calculated from several areas, as detailed below. Your final evaluation will be comprised of exams (contributing 65% to your final grade), and quizzes and/or assignments (contributing 35% to your final grade). Final grades will be determined by the number of points earned during the course and assigned a letter grade according to the scale shown in the table.

Percentage	Grade
94 - 100	A
90 - 93.99	A-
87 - 89.99	B+
83 - 86.99	B
80 - 82.99	B-
77 - 79.99	C+
73 - 76.99	C
70 - 72.99	C-
67 - 69.99	D+

**1. EXAMS (65%):**

One pretest (5%) and two exams (60%) will be given throughout the semester. Make-up exams will NOT be given unless arrangements are made in advance. Your total exam average counts towards 65% of your final

course grade. Exams are based on material from your readings as well as lecture material. My lectures draw from various resources and may only partially overlap with the book. ANY material that is covered in lecture or class discussion may be on the exams. Thus, attending lecture is HIGHLY recommended. Exam items may be multiple-choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank, short answer, or essay.

Exams will be administered outside of regular class time. Exams will be completed online via Blackboard and therefore can be taken at your convenience. In most cases, you will have 90 minutes to complete each exam once you have begun.

**PRETEST:** You are required to take a pretest for this class during the first week of classes. You will NOT be penalized in any way for having a low score or a high score. You will receive credit equating to 5% of your grade just for taking the exam, no matter what your score. Do the best that you can—you are not expected to know everything covered on the pretest. Your grade will NOT be affected in any way by the difference between the pretest and the other exams.

## **2. ASSIGNMENTS, HOMEWORK, AND QUIZZES (35%):**

Typically, quizzes will cover readings from the course material as well as any additional assigned readings. Assignments and homework will come from the Cohen *Exercises* manual or other sources. I will drop your lowest score and therefore no make-up assignments will be offered. Assignments will be announced during class and/or announcements posted on Blackboard. Quizzes will be administered online via Blackboard. Assignments will be turned in via email to [christopher.johnson@usu.edu](mailto:christopher.johnson@usu.edu). **Assignments turned in after the due date will not be accepted and will not receive credit.** Please turn your work in on time.

## **3. EXTRA CREDIT:**

Extra credit assignments will NOT be given under any circumstance. However, I may occasionally include bonus questions on your exams that will count as “extra credit” on that exam’s score.

## **4. CLASS ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Class will start promptly each day, barring any unforeseen and/or uncontrollable circumstance. I do not have an attendance policy (i.e., you will NOT get points “just for showing up”) for this course. However, I will take roll. Additionally, you will not do well if you miss class regularly. **This course is an INTERACTIVE course, not an online course.** Therefore, attending lectures/discussions is expected. If excessive absences (including arriving late or leaving early) become a problem, I will first notify you so

that you may make the appropriate efforts to attend class. If absenteeism remains a problem, I may refer you to the USU Administration or drop you from the course according to any existing USU policy.

Should circumstances result in your missing a class, it is YOUR responsibility to obtain information presented or materials distributed while you were absent. This is particularly important because lecture material will come from sources other than your textbook. Although I do not share my personal lecture notes or PowerPoint files, I am available to discuss any borrowed notes obtained from classmates that you may not fully understand.

### **TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN THIS COURSE**

1. Read BEFORE coming to class. This will improve your exam average as well as prepare you for intelligent class discussions. You will be called upon to participate during class.
2. Attend lecture and be punctual. Missing lectures and/or being late will disturb the instructor and your classmates. Please arrive on time.
3. Ask questions. This is an interactive course. Student participation is highly encouraged. Don't be afraid to ask questions where you need clarification or don't understand something.
4. Get to know your classmates. This will improve your learning as you discuss the material/course. Your classmates are also a good resource for getting lecture notes should you miss a class.
5. Stay up to date. Come to class prepared for discussion every day.
6. Study several times per week rather than cramming the night before an exam.
7. See the instructor should you have problems with the course or need special accommodations.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Please be courteous to your classmates and the instructor by TURNING OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS before coming to class.
2. Any instances of academic dishonesty are taken seriously. By participating in this course, you agree to abide by USU's Honor System and Honor Pledge as outlined in the Student Code (<http://www.usu.edu/student-services/pdf/StudentCode.pdf>).
3. In coordination with the Disability Resource Center, reasonable accommodation will be provided for qualified students with disabilities. Please contact the instructor during the first week of class to make arrangements.
4. You will work hard in this course, but you will also learn a lot!

## COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a **tentative** schedule for the course. **The schedule may change.** Because success in this class is partially dependent upon informed class discussion, it is critical to remain up to date with the reading.

Week	Date	Lecture Topic/**Exams	Reading
1	January 5, 2009	<b>**Pretest (to be completed on or before January 11)</b> Course Introduction	Ch. 1
2	<b>January 12, 2009</b>	Psychological Testing and Assessment	Ch. 2, Ch. 4
3	January 19, 2009	<b>NO CLASS - MLK HOLIDAY</b>	--
4	January 26, 2009	Legal/Ethical Considerations; Assumptions, Norms, Correlation, Inference	Ch. 3
5	February 2, 2009	Statistics	Ch. 5
6	February 9, 2009	Reliability	Ch. 6
7	February 17, 2009	<b>**NOTE: THIS CLASS MEETS ON TUESDAY</b> Validity	Ch. 7
8	February 23, 2009	Test Development	Ch. 8
9	March 2, 2009	<b>**Exam 1 (to be completed on or before March 8)</b> Intelligence and Its Measurement	Ch. 9
10	<b>March 9, 2009</b>	<b>NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK</b>	--
11	March 16, 2009	Tests of Intelligence	Ch. 10
12	March 23, 2009	Preschool and Educational Assessment	Ch. 11
13	March 30, 2009	Personality Assessment	Ch. 12
14	April 6, 2009	Personality Assessment Methods	Ch. 13
15	April 13, 2009	Clinical and Counseling Assessment	Ch. 15
16	April 20, 2009	Assessment of People with Disabilities; Assessment, Careers, and Business	Ch. 16
Finals Week	<b>April 27, 2009</b>	<b>**Exam 2 (to be completed during regular class time)</b>	--