San José State University

Psychology 117: Psychological Tests and Measures

Summer 2011

Instructor Information

Instructor: Valerie Hoffman
Office Location: DMH 324
Telephone: (408) 924-5648
Email: Valerie.Hoffman@SJSU.edu or prof_hoff@yahoo.com
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 4:15-5:00 pm
Class Days/Time: Tuesday, Thursday 5:00-6:55 pm
Classroom: DMH 149A
Prerequisites: STAT 95
GE/SJSU Studies Category:

Course Description

Test and questionnaire construction, evaluation and interpretation applied to intelligence and ability tests, personality and adjustment questionnaires, ratings and behavioral observation techniques.

Contacting Instructor:

1. **Through Desire2Learn (D2L) mail function.** Best for questions and comments that you wish to remain private.

2. **Through regular email.** If you’ve tried contacting me via Desire2Learn (D2L) but have not received a reply in a reasonable amount of time (2 – 3 days), or if you need to contact me quickly, please use my regular email account: prof_hoff@yahoo.com

3. **Office hours:** Please take advantage of my office hours before class! You should stop in even if you don’t have a specific question. You should meet with me to discuss your paper topic and presentation! You can just stop in to chat too!
Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- **LO1** Understand the uses of psychological measures and tests.
- **LO2** Understand concepts of reliability and validity as applied to psychological tests.
- **LO3** Know about the legal and ethical issues related to the use of psychological tests.
- **LO4** Know the characteristics and uses of tests of intelligence, abilities, aptitudes, and personality.
- **LO5** Be familiar with tests commonly used in standardized assessment, clinical and counseling, the military, personnel, and health care.
- **LO6** Be able to understand basic statistical concepts related to psychological testing.

Required Texts/Readings

**Textbook**


Additional readings may be assigned. You are also responsible for handouts and information posted on D2L.

I know the textbook is expensive! You will need the book to do well in this class. You might try to get the book through interlibrary loan (it is summer!) through the King Library or even local libraries. If you decide to use an earlier edition, you need to check it against the latest edition. I don’t think buying the electronic version of the book is a good idea for this class. The book is used in many testing classes and there are usually used copies available. Also, the publisher has many useful resources online that will help you with the class. There are practice quizzes over each chapter, flash cards, and puzzles! Go to [www.cengage.com](http://www.cengage.com).

Course Desire2Learn (D2L) site

The course Desire2Learn (D2L) site is an online resource supplement for this course. Use of this site and the information provided is not a substitute for attending lectures. The site will be updated regularly throughout the semester. This site contains:

- Handouts and articles
- Lecture slides (should be a supplement, not a substitute for coming to class).
- News and announcements about class.

Accessing Course Desire2Learn (D2L) site

To access the site go to [http://sjsu.desire2learn.com](http://sjsu.desire2learn.com)
Username = firstname.lastname, but may have an appended number (e.g., joshua.doe2)

Password = Your initial D2L password is your 9 digit SJSU ID number.

See the online tutorial for additional login and usage information:
Desire2Learn Student Tutorial: http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/students/D2L_students/

Turnitin.com

Turnitin.com is a website that checks for plagiarism. You will be required to submit your paper to this website. You should aim for an originality score of below 20%. You will be able to resubmit your paper to lower your score. You need to allow plenty of extra time to submit your paper to Turnitin. You may have problems using the site. If so, let me know. Information on how to use turnitin.com and passwords will be provided later in the semester.

Classroom protocol

I intend to make the subject of psychological testing as interesting and accessible as possible. I expect you to read the assignments before class and attend class regularly. You should contribute to discussions, demonstrations, and group activities. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from another student.

Attendance Policy

Students should attend all meetings of the class, not only because they are responsible for material discussed therein but also because active participation is frequently essential to insure maximum benefit for all members of the classes. This is important for the assignments. Also people who attend regularly usually get higher grades!

Read the syllabus!

You are responsible for knowing the details in the syllabus. I am happy to answer questions about the course as they arise, but I expect you will make some effort to find the answers in the syllabus and class materials. Also note that the dates and assignments are subject to change. You will be told in advance if there is a change and it will be posted on D2L.

Laptops

In-class laptop use is restricted to course-related activities (e.g., taking notes). Other activities (e.g., web surfing) distract the other students and will not be tolerated. You will be asked to turn off your laptop is you are engaged in non-class activities. The second time, you will be not be allowed to bring your laptop use for the duration of the course.

Cell Phones

Please be certain to turn off all cell phones, pagers, and other devices before class!

Late Arrival or Leaving Early

If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so quietly and with a minimum of distraction.
Missing Class

If you will be missing several classes, please let me know. Exams cannot be made up.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester’s Catalog Policies section at http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic calendar web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The Late Drop Policy is available at http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Exams: 75% of final grade

There are two midterms each worth 25% of your final grade and a final exam worth 25%. There are no make-up exams! If you have an emergency, you must let me know 24 hours in advance and it must be documented. The final is cumulative but will emphasize the material presented during the last third of the class.

Presentation and Paper: 20% of final grade 🔄 DUE: AUGUST 4

Choose a measure that interests you from the textbook. You are to find three studies that have been published in peer-reviewed journals that have used the measure. You will write a summary of the three different studies and discuss how the measure was used, the participants, the method, and the findings. **DO NOT DESCRIBE THE MEASURE! DO NOT USE THE BOOK AS A SOURCE!** Your paper should address the methodology and implications of the findings. Finally, suggest a research study you might design using the measure you’ve chosen. You should discuss the test you are considering for your paper with me first. Students cannot choose the same measure, so select something early in the semester. **Late papers will be penalized by dropping your grade one level for each day late.** The paper should be at least (4) pages (double-spaced), APA style.

We will not have time to have a library tutorial on how to conduct a search of the literature. However, the library has information online about how to write a paper and how to conduct a search. If you are having trouble finding articles or finding a topic please see me!

You will submit both an electronic copy to Turnitin.com and a paper copy to me. Papers with originality scores above 20% will not be accepted! It is your responsibility to lower
your originality score. You need to allow extra time for possibly rewriting your paper to lower your score. **Papers with high (over 20%) originality scores will result in an F on the paper! Do not email your paper to me!**

The presentation will be scheduled during the class session that covers the material that relates to your measure. We will schedule presentations after the first exam.

You will give a presentation on a measure from the textbook. The presentation is individual and you are graded individually. Your goal is to “bring life” to the measure. You should make your presentation interesting and memorable by using videos, Powerpoint slides, and/or handouts, and by providing examples of items from the test. Material from presentations will be on exams! Your presentation is different from your paper. You will receive a copy of the grading rubric before the presentations begin.

**Assignments: 5% of final grade**

There will be five assignments. These will be mostly done in class. You may need to use a computer for the assignments. It is your responsibility to turn in the assignment before the next class meeting. No exceptions! The purpose of these assignments is to give you hands-on experience with testing. You cannot make-up the assignments! **You must be present in class to receive full credit. If you need to hand in printed copies of assignments, you need to have it already printed! No emails or excuses!**

### Grades

Your final grade in the course will be based on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #1</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper + Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>75</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(15% paper + 5% presentation)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>25 (5 pts. each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td><strong>400 points</strong></td>
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Course grades will be based on the total percentage earned from exams, presentation, paper, and assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 – 93</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>77 – 73</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92 – 90</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>72 - 70</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 – 88</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>69 -68</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87 – 83</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>67 - 63</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82 – 80</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>62 - 60</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 - 78</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>59 &amp; below</td>
<td>F</td>
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University Policies

Academic Integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The University’s Academic Integrity policy, located at http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at http://www.drc.sjsu.edu/ to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

SJSU Writing Center

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Room 126 in Clark Hall. It is staffed by professional instructors and upper-division or graduate-level writing specialists from each of the seven SJSU colleges. Our writing specialists have met a rigorous GPA requirement, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. The Writing Center website is located at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter/about/staff/.
# PSYC 117 / Psychological Tests and Measures

## Summer 2011, Course Schedule

NOTE: Schedule is subject to change with fair notice and will be announced in class and on D2L.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
<th>Book Chapter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>Introduction, Zimbardo film</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>History of Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>June 14</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 16</td>
<td>Reliability</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>Reliability and Validity</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June 23</td>
<td>Validity</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>June 28</strong></td>
<td><strong>Midterm #1 Chapters 1-5</strong> Test Administration, Interviewing</td>
<td>7, 8</td>
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<td></td>
<td>June 30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>July 5</td>
<td>Theories of Intelligence Binet, WAIS</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>July 7</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>WISC, WPPSI</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>July 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Midterm #2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Presentations: Education &amp; Special Education, Military, Civil Service, Group tests</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 21</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>July 26</td>
<td>Presentations: MMPI, Personality Tests, Clinical Projective Tests: Rorschach, TAT</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July 28</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Aug. 2</td>
<td>Health PAPERS DUE! Must be handed in and also posted to Turnitin.com</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Aug. 4</strong></td>
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<td>16, 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Aug. 9</td>
<td>Forensic and Test Bias, Ethics Classes End August 12th</td>
<td>19, 20, 21</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Aug. 11</td>
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August 12th last day of classes Summer 10 week session.
Date of final exam to be announced.