San José State University

Psychology 117: Psychological Tests and Measures (Section 3)

Fall 2012

Instructor Information

Instructor: Valerie Hoffman
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Email: Valerie.Hoffman@SJSU.edu or vhoffmanphd@gmail.com
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:00 pm
Class Days/Time: Tuesday, Thursday 3:00-4:15 pm
Classroom: DMH 356
Prerequisites: STAT 95

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: valerie.hoffman@sjsu.edu

3. Office hours: Please take advantage of my office hours! I want to get to know you. 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!
Learning Outcomes

Overview

Learning Outcomes (LOs) are specific, measurable goals and objectives that students have demonstrated upon successful completion of the course.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs). These are outcomes for this specific course. For Psychology 100W, Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) are the discipline-specific ways in which the general GE/SJSU learning outcomes (LOs) for 100W (Area Z) will be fulfilled. The specific CLOs for this course contribute to the overall experience, learning opportunities, and Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) students are exposed to when completing the SJSU Psychology Major.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs). These outcomes refer to the broad goals of the SJSU Psychology Major program. The SJSU Psychology Major is designed to address 5 broad PLOs. These PLOs are outcomes students should be able to demonstrate after having successfully completed the Psychology Major.

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

CLO1 Understand the uses and applications of psychological measures and tests.

CLO2 Understand statistical concepts including reliability and validity as applied to psychological testing.

CLO3 Know about the legal and ethical issues related to the use of psychological tests.

CLO4 Know the characteristics and uses of tests of intelligence, abilities, aptitudes, and personality.

CLO 5 Be knowledgeable about tests commonly used in standardized assessment, clinical and counseling, the military, personnel, and health care.

CLO 6 Gain experience in writing test items in different formats, constructing surveys, and designing measures.

Program Learning Outcomes (PLO)

Upon successful completion of the psychology major requirements...

PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – Students will be able to identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.

PLO2 – Research Methods in Psychology – Students will be able to design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations.

PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology – Students will be able to use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes.
PLO4 – Application of Psychology – Students will be able to apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues.

PLO5 – Values in Psychology – Students will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

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

You must read the book for this class. You may use the 2009 edition, but you need to check it against the latest edition. I will put a copy on reserve at the King Library. You might try to get the 2009 edition through interlibrary loan through the King Library or even local libraries. Kaplan and Saccuzzo’s Psychological Testing has been used for many years. There are usually used copies available. If you find even an older version of the book, please see me. It might be useful for some of the material but later chapters have been changed. In addition, there is a workbook that accompanies the earlier (2009) version of the book. You can find very inexpensive copies the workbook online! If you find one (for one cent or so… except for shipping) I suggest you get a copy! Also, the publisher Cengage has a website with resources online that will help you with the class. There are practice quizzes over each chapter, flash cards, and puzzles! The quizzes are very useful!

www.cengage.com

You may need to look at a statistics book for the topics we cover during the first part of the class. You need to know about frequency distributions, scattergrams, standard deviations, Z scores, and correlations. We will review these concepts and additional statistics during the first weeks of the class.

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. I post information about the class and assignments. You need to check the D2L site regularly. I also may email you through D2L.

Accessing Course Desire2Learn (D2L) site
To access the site go to 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/

The Dropbox
You may be asked to submit papers or assignments to the Dropbox on D2L. Papers submitted to the dropbox are checked for originality and plagiarism. Also, the dropbox is a convenient place to keep copies of your papers if the hard copy is lost. You will ALWAYS submit assignments and papers as hard copies. I will not accept emailed copies.

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. This material is difficult to understand. Also, you are responsible for what is discussed or handed out in class. There may be activities conducted in class and THESE CANNOT BE MADE UP. Do not ask me what we did in class! Do not assume that you can just download the slides instead of coming to class. Do get to know others in class so you can keep up if you need to miss class. I will only post the slides on D2L AFTER class. Your active participation will improve the quality of the course for everyone. Also, people who attend class 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 are changes to the syllabus, such as dates for exams and assignments and I will post changes 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 if you are engaged in non-class activities. The second time, you will 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! You must put your phone away during class. Obviously you may not text or check for messages during class. Note: Students who tried to read E copies of the textbook on their phones did not do well! I suggest you use the copy of the textbook on reserve.

**Late Arrival or Leaving Early**
If you must arrive late or leave early, please do so quietly and with a minimum of distraction. You do not need to tell me you will be leaving early or arriving late.

**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](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html) section at [http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html). Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/) web page located at [http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/](http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/). The [Late Drop Policy](http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/) is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/](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](http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/).

**Rules Regarding Recording of Class Lectures & Intellectual Property:** Common courtesy and professional behavior dictates that you notify someone when you are

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recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. This permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

-- A student must request the instructor’s permission in writing. A student must list the dates that he/she is requesting to record. The instructor would grant permission by signing the written request. The instructor will make a copy of the authorized request for his/her records and return the original request to the student to keep for his/her records.

-- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained orally as well.

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Exams: 500 POINTS

There are four midterms and a final exam. There is a lot of material in the textbook and having more exams reduces the amount you will need to study for each exam. Material from exams will be from the textbook, films shown in class, homework, and exercises and demonstrations in class, student presentations, and all readings and lectures. It is important you attend class to do well in this class! Material NOT presented will also be included. You will receive a study guide for the exam and we will have a review in class before each test. The final is required. The final is cumulative. There are no make-up exams! If you have an emergency, you must notify me 24 hours in advance and you need to provide documentation.

Assignments: 50-100 points: TO BE DETERMINED

There will be 5-10 assignments. Some assignments are worth more points than others. Some assignments will be done in groups or individually during class. Others are for you to complete individually outside of class. You cannot make-up the assignments! You must be present in class to receive full credit. The assignments might need to be redone if they do not meet minimum standards. The assignments also may increase in difficulty as the semester progresses. It is your responsibility to turn in assignments before the next class meeting unless another due date is announced. No exceptions! The purpose of these assignments is to give you hands-on experience with testing. Copies of assignments must be printed. No emails or excuses! If you miss class and an assignment was given out it is your responsibility to contact a class member and get a copy!

Presentation and Paper: 100 points!

You will give a presentation on a measure from the textbook. The presentation is individual. You will present with people who are reporting on tests within the same chapter or on similar topics. I will distribute a sign-up sheet that will list the measures for the presentations. I will schedule your presentation to coincide discussion of chapters 11-
18. I may agree to let you choose a topic from Chapter 15 on the use of computers in testing or Chapter 20: Testing and the Law.

Your goal is to “bring life” to the topic or measure. Your presentation should be interesting and memorable. Use videos, Powerpoint slides, and/or handouts, and provide examples of items from the test. You may even find a test manual. You can plan an interactive activity for the class. Material from presentations will be on exams! We will schedule presentations after the first exam.

You will indicate references that you used as part of your presentation. You can use material from the book but you need to provide the page number and source. However, you are expected to go beyond the book and find research studies that may have used the test. You might find a review article or a critique. Some measures may be controversial, dated, or not appropriate for some populations. Some projective personality tests have been criticized. You might find an article that compares your test with other measures of the same construct. You need to briefly summarize your sources and information in 1-2 pages. Assume that I know about the measure and focus on writing a critical paper. Conclude you paper with a critique of the test and provide suggestions for how you could use it for a research project. Attach a copy of your slides and handouts, and write an exam multiple-choice question for a midterm. You will distribute handouts and the exam question to the class. Your handout needs to have your name on it! Also you should use the name of the measure for your title. I will provide a grading rubric for the paper.

We will not have time to have a library tutorial on how to conduct a literature search. There are tutorials on the King Library webpage. You may also consult with the librarian for Social Sciences: Bernd Becker, Bernd.Becker@sjsu.edu. Use APA style! If you have not learned APA style see me immediately. You need a title page! If you are having trouble finding articles or finding a topic please see me!

About topics: Some of you are majors in Child Development, Justice Studies, Health Science, etc. You may want to examine a topic that is not in the textbook. If you are interested in Organizational or Health Psychology you may need to look beyond the book to find tests and measures.

You must ask for permission to use a test or measure that is not described in the book. Again, your goal is to highlight a test and going beyond the textbook. Students cannot choose the same measures, so choose your topic soon! Your presentation will be graded on content, use of references, engagement with class, energy, humor, eye contact, and style. Use of other materials and comfort with the topic will also be assessed.
Grades

Your final grade in the course will be based on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm #1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm #2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm #3</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Midterm #4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Paper +</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presentation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assignments</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Final Exam</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total</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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 – 93</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92.9 – 90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89.9 – 87.6</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>87.5 – 83</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82.9 – 80</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>79.9 – 77.6</td>
<td>C+</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>77.5 – 73</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.9 - 70</td>
<td>C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69.9 -67.6</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67.5- 63</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.9 - 60</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>59.9 &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**

**Fall 2012, 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>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Th 8/23</td>
<td>Introduction, Zimbardo film</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>T 8/28, Th 8/30</td>
<td>History-Redo of stat quiz due Statistics, Correlations, Norms</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>T 9/4, Th 9/6</td>
<td>Reliability Reliability. Writing test items</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>T 9/11, Th 9/13</td>
<td>Review for midterm #1 Homework: Write three questions and distribute to class <strong>Midterm #1 Chapters 1-4, 6</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>T 9/18, Th 9/20</td>
<td>Validity Validity</td>
<td>5, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>T 9/25, Th 9/27</td>
<td>Bias Bias, Testing and the Law</td>
<td>19, 19, 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>T 10/2, Th 10/4</td>
<td>Testing and the Law, Ethics Ethics, Review for exam</td>
<td>20, 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>T 10/9, Th 10/11</td>
<td><strong>Midterm #2 Chapters 5, 19, 20, 21</strong> Test Administration</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>T 10/16, Th 10/18</td>
<td>Interviewing Theories of Intelligence</td>
<td>8, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>T 10/23, Th 10/25</td>
<td>Theories of Intelligence Binet, WAIS WISC, WPPSI</td>
<td>9, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>T 10/30, Th 11/1</td>
<td>WAIS WISC, WPPSI <strong>Midterm #3 (Chapters 7-10)</strong></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>T 11/6, Th 11/8</td>
<td>Presentations*: Applications in Clinical/ Counseling Presentations: Projective Tests: Rorschach, TAT</td>
<td>13, 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Week | Dates | Topics, Assignments, Deadlines | Chapter |
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 |  | Civil Service, Group tests | 12 |
14 | T 11/20 Th 11/22 | **Midterm #4 (11-14)**  
**Thanksgiving-No Class!** | |
15 | T 11/27 Th 11/29 | Presentations: Counseling  
Presentations: Testing in Health Care | 16-17 |
16 | T 12/4 Th 12/6 | Computers and Testing, Industrial and Business Testing  
Review for Final | 15, 18 |
TH 12/13 | **Final Exam 14:45-17:00** | | |

*Schedule for presentations will be available after first midterm*

Date of final exam to be announced.