

San José State University
Department of Psychology
PSYC 117: Tests & Measures Section 01
Summer 2020

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor:	Sandra Trafalis, Ph.D.
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Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesdays 7:00am-8:00am, 12:15-1:15, or by appointment, via Zoom

Course Information

Classroom	Online
Class Days/Time:	Monday & Wednesdays 8:00AM – 12:15PM
Prerequisites	STAT 095 or equivalent

Format

The class will be taught both synchronously and asynchronously with all video recordings posted to CANVAS. All students are encouraged to attend class; with lectures, activities, and assessments posted to CANVAS.

Course Description

The goal of this class is for you to understand the ways in which testing is conducted, how to evaluate a test, principles of test construction, application of statistical concepts to test construction scoring and evaluation, and the ethical and legal aspects of testing. We will explore testing in clinical, organizational, and educational settings.

From the catalog: Test and questionnaire construction, evaluation and interpretation applied to intelligence and ability tests, personality and adjustment questionnaires, ratings and behavioral observation techniques. Prerequisite: STAT 095.

Learning Outcomes

Program Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the requirements for a major in psychology, students will be able to:

- PLO1 – Knowledge Base of Psychology – identify, describe, and communicate the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology
- PLO2 – Research Methods in Psychology – design, implement, and communicate basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretations
- PLO3 – Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology – use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and a scientific approach to address issues related to behavior and mental processes
- PLO4 – Application of Psychology – apply psychological principles to individual, interpersonal, group, and societal issues
- PLO5 – Values in Psychology – value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and recognize their role and responsibility as a member of society

Course Learning Outcomes

The objective of this course is to provide you with a solid introduction to psychological research. We will examine the logic and strategies of scientific research and learn how to use statistics to draw conclusions from data. You will learn what research methods are available, when to use specific research methods, and how to interpret research results.

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

- CLO1 – Recognize the major uses of psychological measurement procedures.
- CLO2 - Recognize principles of administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological measures.
- CLO3 - Understand basic descriptive statistics as applied in psychological measurement.
- CLO4 - Identify and differentiate among the major ways of estimating reliability and validity.
- CLO5 - Recognize the major characteristics, advantages, limitations, and proper uses of tests of intelligence, tests of abilities and aptitudes, objective clinical measures, projective clinical measures, observational methods, and rating scales
- CLO6 – Recognize and understand basic concepts of test bias and the impact of test bias to individuals and organizations.

The learning objectives will be assessed via written assignments and exam questions.

Required Materials

Canvas, Zoom, and E-Mail

Unless otherwise announced in class, all graded assignments will be accepted only in electronic form using the Canvas learning management system assignments page ([Canvas](#) is available at <https://sjsu.instructure.com/>). Having access to the Internet is your responsibility, so have backup plans in case you have problems with your primary computer.

Supplementary course material will be made available on Canvas regularly. Communication regarding the course will be sent via the e-mail address linked to your MySJSU account or posted to Canvas. It is your responsibility to make sure you are enrolled in Canvas and receiving my e-mails.

Here is the link for Zoom Help: <https://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/zoom/> You do not need a zoom account to participate in any online sessions, only a link from me. Information on how to access Zoom meetings can be found here zoom here: <https://sjsu.zoom.us/my/zoomlinksjsu>

The link to our zoom meeting for our class is found in CANVAS.

Required Textbook

Miller & Lovler. (2020), Foundations of Psychological Testing: A Practical Approach. (6th Ed). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

- Print ISBN: 9781506396408, 1506396402
- eText ISBN: 9781506396392, 1506396399

Required Materials

Please download and install SPSS which is available free for SJSU students. Information on how to download is here: <https://www.sjsu.edu/it/services/collaboration/software/instructions.php>

Grading Policy

How to be Successful in this Course (UPDATED)

It is essential that you make time before every class meeting to:

§ Review the current week's module (Click "Modules" on Canvas)

§ Read all material assigned in the module

§ Complete all activities and assignments assigned in the module

§ Complete quizzes and exams as assigned on Canvas; exams will take place during the scheduled class time

§ Check Canvas and your e-mail for course announcements and changes

§ Check this syllabus for due dates and upcoming assignments

§ Ask questions in class via discussion post

§ Email me if you have questions or would like to set up a time to meet during my office hours or by appointment.

Determination of Grades

Grades will be available to you on Canvas throughout the course. Grades are assigned based on your final point total out of 1000 points for the course:

A	917 to 1,000 points
A	916 to 916points
A-	896 to 915 points
B+	866 to 895 points
B	816 to 865 points
B-	796 to 815 points
C+	766 to 795 points
C	716 to 765 points
C-	696 to 715 points
D+	666 to 695 points
D	616 to 665 points
D-	595 to 615 points
F	< 595 points

Rounding is Included in the Grading Scale

The point totals reflect rounding up to the nearest *percentage*. For example, an A- would normally require 900 points (or 90% of 1000 points). With rounding, it only requires 896 points (or 89.6% of 1000 points). Because rounding is built in to the grading scale, your grade will be based on your final

point total, rounded to the nearest whole *point* (so, 895.6 points is an A-, but 895.4 points is a B+). To be fair to everyone in the class, these are firm cutoffs.

Make-Up and Extension Policy

Make-ups or extensions for any graded assignment will only be given when:

- You notify me immediately after you become aware of the circumstances requiring a make-up
- The reason is exceptional, unforeseen, and unavoidable. Examples of exceptional circumstances are getting sick, health emergencies, religious obligations, and military service.

Late work will be reduced by 10% unless excused by the instructor because of the reasons listed above.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Activities

Activities are 40% of your final grade.

Activities are worth 40% of your grade. Typically, our second part of the class will be dedicated to completing an activity. The activities are designed to give you hands-on practice with the techniques discussed in the lecture and handouts. You will receive points for completing all required parts of the assignment as described in the assignment instructions. There will be an activity in each module.

Exams & Quizzes

Exams & Quizzes are 60% of your final grade.

Each exam will focus on applying the knowledge learned in the previous part of the course. The third exam is a cumulative final exam. Your cumulative final exam grade will replace any lower grade on previous exams.

There will be weekly quizzes and a midterm and final exam. Quizzes will make up 20% of your grade, and Exams will make-up 40% of your grade. There will be one final exam in the class, and there will be weekly quizzes.

Classroom Protocol

We will meet by zoom as a class and all lectures will be recorded and posted to CANVAS for that week. Recorded lectures will be posted by Wednesday of each week.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>

You must obtain the instructor's permission to make any audio or video recordings in this class. Posted recordings by the professor are copyrighted and may not be used for any other purpose related to the course. They may not be reposted or transmitted electronically for any use.

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Academic Integrity

Please don't cheat. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty in my courses. You can expect me to follow all University policies and protocols regarding the handling of suspected academic dishonesty. Penalties may include expulsion from SJSU. Software and statistical analysis may be used to detect academic dishonesty.

About Diversity

Consistent with the mission of San José State University, I welcome persons of differing backgrounds and experiences including but not limited to age, disability and health status, ethnicity and race, family structure, geographic region, language, religious/spiritual and secular beliefs, resident status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, and socioeconomic status.

My goal is to foster an academic and classroom environment in which diversity is recognized and embraced, and every person is included and treated with dignity, respect, and justice.

Course Schedule

The course schedule is tentative and likely to change; modifications will be posted to Canvas.

Week	Module Dates	Module	Reading	Activity
1	6/1 to 6/7	Overview of Psychological Testing	Chapters 1 to 3 in Miller & Lovler	Unit 1 Quiz Activity Due by Midnight of last day of Module Date
2	6/8 to 6/14	Psychometric Principles	Chapters 4 to 8 in Miller & Lovler	Unit 2 Quiz Activity Due by Midnight of last day of Module
3	6/15 to 6/22	Developing and Piloting Surveys and Psychological Tests	Chapters 9 to 11 Miller & Lovler	Unit 3 Quiz Activity Due by Midnight of last day of Module
4	6/22 to 6/28	Using Tests in Different Settings	Chapters 12 to 14 Miller & Lovler	Unit 4 Quiz Activity Due by Midnight of last day of Module
5	6/29 to 7/2	6/29-Wrap up & Review 7/2 Final Exam	None	Final Exam is due on 7/3 by Midnight