

**Course Syllabus for PSCH 4308: Theories and Principles of
Psychological Testing and Assessment**
Fall 2015

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Office Hours:
M-TH 5-6 pm
M-TH 10-11am online
Or available by appointment.

Contacting the Professor

The most effective way to contact the instructor is by email at tculver@sulross.edu. On weekdays, reply will be swift, usually within the day. To protect student privacy, send from your Sul Ross or Blackboard-registered email account.

Email etiquette requires that you sign your name in *every* email you send and specify the particular course or issue to which you are referring. Do not expect to get a response unless you extend this courtesy.

Contacting Technical Support

If you have a problem with technical issues such as downloading a file or taking an exam, contact an Office of Information Technology (OIT) staffer for assistance or call the OIT Helpdesk. The Helpdesk is available seven days of the week.

- From on-campus, call 8765.
- From off-campus, call (888) 691-5071.

Required Texts

Aiken, & Groth – Marnat (2006). *Psychological testing and assessment (12th ed.)*.
Boston: Allyn and Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-45742-8

Illegal copies of textbooks are not allowed at any time in class or the testing labs.

Meeting Time and Location

The course is an online course. All instructional material will be found on blackboard.

Program Student Learning Outcomes

The graduating student will demonstrate the capacity to:

1. Recognize the central concepts, theories, and empirical findings in the department's main areas of focus: abnormal psychology; social & personality psychology, and developmental psychology.
2. Recognize and apply basic psychological research methods, including: the experiment; the case study; the survey; and correlation.

3. Communicate effectively in written assignments and oral presentations.
4. Demonstrate insight into the behavior and psychological processes of oneself and others.

Learning Objectives

The objectives of this course are to:

- Understand psychometric principles
- Understand the history of psychological assessment
- Review the ethical, legal, cultural, and social considerations of testing and assessment
- Critically evaluate psychological tests
- Examine a variety of approaches to assessment and testing including self-report measures, standardized tests, projective tests, and other techniques.

Assessment Mechanisms

I. Exams

There will be 4 exams administered through Blackboard. One exam grade will be dropped. A limited amount of time will be allowed for test completion.

Penalties will be assessed for going overtime on Blackboard exams (the value of 1 item per minute or fraction of a minute). If you go over your time by five minutes, you will automatically receive a “0.” There will be NO resets on exams. If you experience a blackboard issue, you will need to consider this exam your one drop grade. Do not purposely skip an exam and assume you will use it as your drop grade. It is likely that you will need that drop grade if you experience blackboard problems. All exams are mandatory and will be worth 100 points.

II. Test Reviews

In collaboration with me, and subject to my approval, select two (2) appraisal instruments (or techniques) for critical review. I record and monitor instruments (or techniques) to be reviewed so as to be able to reduce duplicate reviews. Therefore, it is to your advantage to present your desired selections to me as early in the course as possible. Two (2) of the following five major categories of appraisal categories must be represented in the selections: (a) aptitude, (b) intelligence, (c) achievement, (d) interest, or (e) personality. That is, both reviews *cannot* be of tests from a single category. Construct your critical review to address the elements listed on the "Appraisal Instrument Review Elements" page presented near the end of this syllabus. Each Test Review **MUST** be submitted in APA format, 6th edition. This will require a title page and reference page. Problems with APA will result in a deduction of points. The due date for the test reviews is indicated on the class schedule. Each review will be worth 50 points for a total of 100 points (50 * 2 critiques = 100).

Additional information on this assignment can be found on the last few pages of this syllabus. If you are confused about how to do this assignment, PLEASE contact me asap. This is actually an easy assignment.

Grades for each assignment, and for the course itself, are calculated as follows:

Regular Exams: 300 (100 points each)
Test Reviews: 100 points
(50 points each)
Final Exam: 100

Total: 500

- A: 90% or above
- B: 80% - 89%
- C: 70% - 79%
- D: 60% - 69%
- F: 0% - 59%

To determine your grade, simply add up your points and divide by 500. Then multiply by 100.

Calendar

The times and dates when assignments are due and when evaluations are given will not be altered to fit your schedule. You will be expected to alter your schedule to fit class responsibilities. There are no exceptions to this policy.

<u>Date</u>	
9/8	Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3)
9/28	Exam 2 (Chapters 4, 5, 6)
10/9	Test Review 1 Due
10/16	Exam 3 (Chapters 7, 8, 9)
11/2	Test Review 2 Due
11/9	Exam 4 (Chapters 10, 11, 12)
12/7	Final Exam

Late Work

There will be NO late work accepted. If you have an emergency and miss turning in an assignment, you must bring a valid excuse (some form of documentation) within **five business days** in order to turn in your work or makeup an excuse. If you do not have

documentation, you will not be allowed to makeup the work you missed. If you turn in your excuse after the fifth working day after your absence, you will not be allowed to make up the work.

What to do in order to obtain an excused make-up for a missed exam/not turning in a paper/not presenting:

1. Make every effort to notify the instructor ahead of time. Send a message to tculver@sulross.edu as soon as possible, and absolutely no later than the day you first return to class.
2. In the message, fully explain the nature of the emergency and why it prevented you from taking the exam/turning in work/presenting
3. Provide a source or sources that will allow the professor to verify your story. This MUST be done within five days of your absence
4. Expect further questioning from the professor before an excuse is granted.

Final grades

All final course grades will be posted on the Web for Students. Do not *call me, email me, or speak to me* about grades during the final exams period. Finals time is hectic for all, so please respect the privacy of all your professors during that period. Access to assignment grades and other course content will also be available.

Grades in this course are based on performance alone. They will not be rounded upwards. It is important for every student to understand that evaluation is not based ultimately on how hard someone has studied to get the grade desired, or whether someone needs this course to graduate. Grades are not based on personal & family needs, or on personal conceptions about what seems to be fair. All grades, including your final course grade, will be based *solely* on your academic work in this course, according to the criteria described in this syllabus.

Academic Dishonesty and the Honor Code

Academic dishonesty and the penalties pertaining to it are described in the SRSU student handbook. In this course, all communication among students while taking exams is prohibited. Communicating material included on an exam with or in the presence of someone who has not yet taken that exam is also prohibited.

No student may print or copy any material from any exam. Failure to follow these instructions will, at a minimum, result in a zero for the exam.

Students may not share books, notes, or any other form of communication during exams. Do NOT sit next to another student who is taking the same test in the lab. If no other seats are available in the lab, just wait! Do not sit by another student taking the exam. Do NOT get together at home or any other place with another student while taking the exam!

Plagiarism involves taking the work of others and claiming it as your own. It will not be tolerated. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, excellent guidelines can be found online at www.turnitin.com.

Using an illegal copy of a textbook constitutes academic dishonesty. If a student is found to be using an illegally copied text during an open-book exam, the penalty will be failure of the exam. In addition, the student will have the choice of immediately surrendering the illegal copy to SRSU faculty/staff or receiving a failing grade for the course.

You and you alone are responsible for understanding and avoiding academic dishonesty in all your work. The penalty for serious academic dishonesty is severe: a student who turns in a plagiarized paper or cheats on an exam may receive an F for the entire course. A plagiarized paper will be given a failing grade on academic grounds alone, yet the student may face the additional disciplinary penalties for academic dishonesty.

As members of the academic community, no student should tolerate cheating. It is the responsibility of each and every student to report suspected cheating. The confidentiality and anonymity of students who report suspected cheating will be respected.

Intellectual Tolerance and Academic Freedom

Psychology is a field of inquiry that touches upon many controversial issues, including sexuality, evolution, gender, race, ethnicity, individual differences, parenting, divorce, crime and public policy, drug use, religion, and multicultural issues, among others. Professors and students often have strong opinions and make forceful arguments concerning these phenomena. It is often educationally productive to address and debate these matters in the context of classroom instruction and course assignments. Social taboos discouraging open discussion are inappropriate in this context and must be laid aside in the interest of intellectual inquiry.

Your grade will not be influenced in any way by expressing points of view that are in disagreement with the professor's. If time permits, students are encouraged to express their opinions and arguments whenever relevant to the subject material. The professor is free to do likewise.

Appraisal Instrument Review Elements

The following elements should be included in each review (but not necessarily in the order listed). If information for an element is unavailable or not applicable, note it in the review. However, **be sure** that the information* is unavailable or not applicable before you so note it in the review.

You may keep this information numbered in your paper. It is NOT necessary to write out the information in paragraph form.

1. Exact name of the instrument (or technique)
2. Author (person, organization, or company)
3. Publisher
4. Copyright date(s)
 - a. date first published
 - b. date(s) of revision(s)
 - c. date of version being reviewed
5. Purpose and recommended use
6. Appropriate respondent characteristics (e.g., age, grade, reading level, mental abilities, or physical characteristics)
7. Available forms
8. Current cost information
9. Content
 - a. categories assessed/measured
 - b. types of items used
 - c. type(s) of responses required
10. Administration procedures and requirements
11. Time factors and considerations
12. Administrator qualifications
13. Interpreter/user qualifications

How Do I Find This Information (Sources)?

The information you need to complete your review can be found in reference books. These books are books that **MUST** stay in the library, but you are free to make copies. The reference books you need can be found all the Southwest Texas Junior College Campuses. You can locate the information you need to complete your assignment in any of the three ways below:

1. Mental Measurements Yearbook (reference book in library or online database)
2. Tests in Print (reference book in library)

There are several editions of these reference books. You must look up your test in the back and find the reference books your information is located in. If you have difficulty, ask a librarian. These reviews are free, but if you want a copy you must pay for that.

3. <http://buros.org/tests-print> (this is probably the easiest way)
You can find reviews on this website; however, you will have to spend \$15 to get the review.
Follow these steps to access your test review:
 1. Go to the website above
 2. Then click on “Test Reviews and Information”
 3. Scroll down and click on “Test Reviews online”
 4. Click on “category search”
 5. Look at the list of categories on the left side
 6. Pick one you think is interesting
 7. Then click on the test that you like
 8. You must then pay the \$15 for the test review
 9. All the info you need to complete the assignment will be found the info your purchased

Each paper needs a title page and reference page in APA style 6th edition. The information in your paper can be numbered. It does not need to be in a narrative format.

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university’s academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students’ identities and to protect students’ information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.