

PSYC*4290, Course Outline: Winter 2025

General Information

Some courses are offered virtually and some face to face. This course is offered using the Face-to-Face format. The course has set day, time, and location of class.

Course Title: Psychological Measurement

Course Description:

This course focuses on training students how to conduct research such that measurement theory guides measure selection and construction. Consequences of measurement theory (reliability/validity) for the accuracy of research findings and interpretation of test scores are also covered. A variety of individual difference variables are examined with an emphasis on how measurement strategies differ depending on the nature of the construct.

Credit Weight: 0.5 credits

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology

Semester Offering: Winter

Class Schedule and Location: T/Th 8:30 AM - 9:50 AM, RICH, 2529 LEC

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Rebecca Pister (She/Her)

Instructor Email: rpister@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: Online (Zoom) [Wednesdays from 10-11am](#)

GTA Information

Students A-MI

GTA Name: Connor Hill (He/Him)

GTA Email: chill13@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: Online – Fridays 4-5pm – Link to be posted in announcements

Students MO-Z

GTA Name: Sierra Mihalco (She/Her)

GTA Email: smihalco@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: Fridays 11am-12pm – Link to be posted

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to help you meet several learning outcomes. By the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Recognize, experience, and critically assess commonly used psychological tests
2. Describe and explain the fundamental principles of psychological measurement and testing
3. Construct and evaluate psychological tests and measures
4. Assess the psychometric properties of test items and results using course concepts and SPSS
5. Articulate your understanding of different score formats (e.g., t-score, z-score etc.)
6. Identify and explain ethical and political issues related to psychological testing
7. Apply APA standards in written course assignments

Lecture Content

Week	Date	Topic	Materials	Assignments and Activities Due
1	Jan 7	Course Intro and The History of Testing	Ch. 1	
	Jan 9	Basic Statistics	Ch 2, 5	
2	Jan 14	Basic Statistics	Ch. 2, 5	
	Jan 16	Basic Statistics	Ch. 2, 5	
3	Jan 21	Correlation and Regression	Ch. 5	Stats Assignment 1 Score Transformations
	Jan 23	Reliability	Ch. 3	
	Jan 24	Not a class day		Stats Assignment 2 Correlations
4	Jan 28	Validity	Ch. 4	
	Jan 30	Group scale development		Initial Scale on Google Forms
	Jan 31	Not a class day		Stats Assignment 3 Reliability

5	Feb 4	Test Formats 1	Ch 6, 7, 8	Stats Assignment 4 Validity
	Feb 6	Test Formats 2	Ch. 6, 7, 8	
6	Feb 11	Data Analysis		
	Feb 13	Stats Test	Ch 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, course content	Stats Test
	Feb 14	Not a Class Day		Complete Assigned Scales
	Feb 18	Reading Week		
	Feb 20			
7	Feb 25	Group Data Analysis	N/A	
	Feb 27	Intelligence Testing	Online	
8	Mar 4	Intelligence Testing	Online resources	Intelligence Test
	Mar 6	Intelligence Testing/High Stakes Testing	Ch. 9	
9	Mar 11	High Stakes Testing	Ch. 9	Intelligence Test Reflection
	Mar 13	High stakes Testing	Ch 9, 8	
	Mar 15	Not a class day		Test Construction paper due
10	Mar 18	Personality	Ch. 8	
	Mar 20	Personality	Online resources	Personality Test
11	Mar 25	Personality	Ch. 10	
	Mar 27	Clinical Testing	Ch. 10	Clinical Test
12	April 1	Clinical Testing	Online resources	Personality Test Reflection
	April 3	Clinical Testing	N/A	
13	April 6	Not a class day	N/A	Clinical Test Reflection
	April 13	Not a class day	N/A	Scale Selection Paper

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Stats Assignments	#1 Jan 21 st #2 Jan 24 th #3 Jan 31 st #4 Feb 4 th	10% (2.5% per assignment)	2 and 5
Stats Test	February 13 th	20%	2 and 5
Test Construction and Evaluation	Scale development - (in class) Jan 30 th Scale completion – Feb 14 th Final paper – Mar 15 th	25%	2, 4, 5, 3, and 7
Test Inventories Reflections	#1 – Mar 4 th and 11 th #2 – Mar 20 th and April 1 st #3 – Mar 27 th and April 6 th	15% (5% each)	3, 4, 1, and 2
Test Selection and Interpretation	April 13 th	25%	1, 2, 4, 6, and 7
Scale Completion, class attendance and discussions	Second half of term only	5% 1% is from scale completion, 4% attendance	

Course Resources

Recommended Text:

Salkind, N.J. & Frey, B. B., (2022). Tests and Measurement for People Who (Think They) Hate Tests and Measurement (4th edition). SAGE Publications.

ISBN: 9781071817179

Cost of Texts:

The cost of the text for this course is \$108.00 at the campus bookstore. Students are welcome to use second-hand copies of the textbook or purchase the textbook from alternate locations. The 3rd edition of this text is also acceptable. The prices in other locations may differ from that at the bookstore and prices at the bookstore are subject to change.

Other Resources:

Course content, including lectures, assignments, and other articles of interest will be posted on Courselink. You will need to access SPSS in order to complete the scale construction and

evaluation assignment. You can download it free here:

<https://uoguelphca.sharepoint.com/sites/ccs/SitePages/software/software/catalog.aspx>

Course Policies

Grading Policies

All course assignments will be submitted to Dropboxes on Courselink.

Reports and assignments which are handed in after the date they are due will receive a penalty of 5% per day. Assignments submitted more than seven days after the due date will receive a grade of 0. Extension of a deadline without penalty will be granted only in rare circumstances or in cases of illness, and only with advanced communication with me. A doctor's note may be required if several extensions are requested. This is particularly important because most of the assignments for this course build off of one another.

Make up tests will only be offered in extenuating circumstances or as a result of illness, with a doctor's note or other verification of illness. You must reach out to me within 48 hours of missing the test or will receive an automatic grade of 0.

Additional policies for undergraduate courses can be found here: [Undergraduate Grading Procedures](#)

Course Policy on Group Work:

All assignments must be submitted as individual work. You may choose to work with your peers on the statistics assignments as this helps to facilitate learning, however you must upload your own work for grading. There will be a group component to the scale development and analysis paper. For this paper, you will be creating a scale as a group and will be given time to analyze your data as a group. The scale development and data analysis can/should be completed together. Aspects of this assignment outside of these components is to be individual. All other coursework is individual and must be your own.

The use of AI (ChatGPT etc) for the completion of course work is not acceptable. Any concerns of the use of AI will be immediately reported.

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted, they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Disclaimer:

Please note that a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules is occasionally required. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules.

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

Student Feedback Questionnaire

These questionnaires (formerly course evaluations) will be available to students during the last 2 weeks of the semester. Students will receive an email directly from the Student Feedback Administration system which will include a direct link to the questionnaire for this course. During this time, when a student goes to login to Courselink, a reminder will pop-up when a task is available to complete.

[Student Feedback Questionnaire](#)

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday April 4, 2025. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#).

Instructors must provide [meaningful and constructive feedback, at minimum 20% of the final course grade, prior to the 40th class day](#). For courses which are of shorter duration, 20% of the final grade must be provided two-thirds of the way through the course.

[Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Additional Course Information

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.