



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2020

PY4690 (A2): Principles of Psychological Assessment – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ali M. AL-Asadi **PHONE:** 780-539-2061
OFFICE: C-311B **E-MAIL:** aalasadi@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: By appointments

FALL DELIVERY: Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and a reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the psychometric assessment tools used in psychology and education. The issues around test construction, administration, and interpretation will be addressed. Measurement techniques, personality and situational factors that may influence the results and the use of psychological and educational tests in the decision-making process and diagnosis will also be discussed. In addition, special attention will be given to the assessment of children and adults, minorities and those with special needs, and the use of assessment in career counselling. The ethical and legal implications of the use of psychological tests will also be covered. Students will be introduced to several instruments that measure aptitude, achievement, interest, intelligence, and personality (objective and projective).

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: PY1040 & PY1050 and permission of the instructor

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Collection of reading materials, articles, and other resources based on Open-Sourced texts are be posted on this course's D2L site at: <https://myclass.gprc.ab.ca/d2l/home>

DELIVERY MODE(S): Online and Recorded Lectures, Discussions, & Video Conference

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This course introduces students to:

- the major perspectives and concepts in the field of psychological assessment
- the various methods used to investigate the psychometric properties of psychological tests
- the classes of psychological tests and the different taxonomy
- commercial and non-commercial psychological tests
- administration and interpretation of psychological tests, and their use in diagnosis
- the ethical and legal issues associated with the administration and interpretations of psychological tests

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, students will gain the abilities to:

- describe the process involved in test construction and validation
- evaluate psychometric tests using reliability, validity, norms, and standardization
- identify the use of some of the most widely used tests in psychology and education and some of their properties
- describe the various test categories and their use (and abuse) in psychology and education
- critically examine the psychometric properties of some tests and the efficacy and limitation of their use in diagnosis and decision making
- be able to provide a basic interpretation of some tests and their application in education and counselling
- demonstrate knowledge of the important legal and ethical aspects of tests use with individuals of different ages in general and individuals from different cultural and social background
- describe the current trends and controversies in the use of educational and psychological tests
- articulate fundamental knowledge and comprehension of major concepts in each personality theory
- discuss and explain how the principles of these personality theories explain the everyday personality characteristics and traits we see in ourselves and others
- identify and incorporate the elements of each personality theory to explain psychological attributes
- apply and evaluate knowledge of the basic elements of each theory to predict future behaviours
- demonstrate a basic level understanding of various research methods used in scientific investigations of personality research and critically evaluate these methods

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at <http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be accepted for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability.**

EVALUATIONS:

Essay about an issue in assessment	20%
Test Analysis (PowerPoint Presentation)	20%
Four short exams at 7.5% each	30%
Research paper, Project, or Case Study	30%
Total:	100%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-.**

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100		C+	2.3	66-69
A	4.0	90-94		C	2.0	63-65
A-	3.7	85-89		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	80-84		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	75-79		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-74		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

*Please note that the dates and the sequence of chapters are tentative and may change.

Dates	Topics	Evaluation
Weeks 1 & 2	Nature, History, & Consequences of Testing Applications and Consequences of Testing The Nature and Uses of Psychological Tests Ethical and Social Implications of Testing History of Psychological Testing The Origins of Psychological Testing	
Weeks 3 & 4	Technical & Methodological Issues Reliability, Norms, and Test Standardization Validity, Test Construction, & Item Response Theory	Exam 1
Weeks 5, 6, & 7	Ability, Cognitive, & Educational Testing Theories, Nature, & Consequences of Intelligence Intelligence, Achievement, & Aptitude Individual Tests of Intelligence Group Tests of Ability and Related Concepts Educational Assessment Testing Special Populations Infant and Preschool Assessment Testing Persons with Disabilities	Exam 2
Weeks 8, 9, & 10	Personality Testing & Assessment Origins of Personality Test Theories and the Measurement of Personality Projective Techniques Structured Personality Assessment Self-Report Inventories Behavioural and Observational Assessment	Essay Due Exam 3
Weeks 11, 12, & 13	Special Topics in Testing A Primer of Neurobiological Concepts Neuropsychological and Medical Assessment Employment and Vocational Assessment Forensic Applications of Assessment Legal Issues in Testing Computerized Assessment and the Future of Testing	Presentation Due Project Due Exam 4
Weeks 14 & 15	Presentations and wrap up	

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

The assigned readings and exercises for each class should be completed before attending that class, except for the first class. As this course depends heavily on discussion and at times, practice exercises and illustrations, attendance at all sessions is required and is critical to the student's success in the course. In case of illness or emergency, notify the instructor as soon as possible. If you find yourself having difficulty in this course, please contact the instructor immediately for assistance. If you simply want more discussion with the instructor about any aspect of the course, please visit my office during office hours or at a more convenient pre-arranged time.

Students will be held accountable for delivered lectures, assigned readings, and any announcements that will be made in class from time to time. If a student is unable to attend a particular class, it will be his/her responsibility to find out what was missed. For optimal learning and readiness for class participation, students are expected to attend class regularly (no less than 80% attendance) and to read the assigned chapters before coming to class on the dates indicated on the timetable, except, of course, for the first session. Past course records show that class attendance is highly correlated with the final grade in the course.

If a student foresees that he/she will be unable to write a test or exam at a scheduled time due to illness or emergency, he/she should notify the instructor immediately, preferably one day in advance. A message may be left on the instructor's voice mail (780-539-2061) or e-mail (aalasadi@gprc.ab.ca) together with a phone number where the student may be reached to arrange for an alternative date to write the test, if feasible. Failure to notify the instructor will result in a grade of zero for the test that was missed, unless proof is presented that the student was physically or mentally unable to do so due to a sudden illness or emergency or to unavoidable circumstances beyond the student's control.

It is expected that all students will display a professional attitude and behaviour in the classroom. This includes reliability, respect for and cooperation with your fellow students and the instructor, attention to fellow student questions and instructor's response, determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, and constructive response to criticism.

Please keep this course information sheet for future reference.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated, and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at (<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and exams.**

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

Additional Information

1. This course is designed for those who are majoring in Psychology, Education, and Social Work, as well as those who are planning to work with people in a health care capacity.

2. At the end of this course, students should have a basic understanding of psychometric issues and how to apply this understanding in a range of situations involving psychological assessment.
3. The format of each exam will be discussed in class.
4. Exam grades are final, and there is no substitute work for your poor exam grade.
5. The nature and topics of your written paper will be discussed in class.
6. It is your responsibility to read each and every chapter and assigned reading (if any) and attend all lectures.
7. Lectures will not always cover material in your chapters. Lectures may cover topics and include materials that are not covered by your textbook. It is, therefore, imperative that you attend every class as your exams may include materials from the lectures that are not covered by your textbook.
8. It is expected that students will display a professional attitude and behaviour. These attitudes and behaviours are many and will be discussed in class. Any violation or misconduct may result in dismissal from the class.
9. Talk to me if you have concerns or you are experiencing difficulties that may have a negative impact on your academic performance.