



Department of Educational Psychology  
EPSY 5350.020/026 Summer 2015 5W2  
Course Syllabus

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### **Course Description**

This course provides an overall coverage of issues in psycho-educational testing and measurement, including needs assessment, item/test construction, item/test evaluation, and utilization of measurement results for assessment, placement, and intervention purposes. The course will also include discussions of measurement in diverse and bilingual populations, and social-cultural issues in test utilization.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Develop a sound understanding of basic concepts in testing and measurement such as validity and reliability.
2. Become familiar with the principles of constructing tests for educational (classroom, school-level, diagnostic, etc.) and research purposes (including action research and evidenced-based practice).
3. Develop a sound understanding of the legal, ethical, and socio-cultural issues in measurement and utilization of the measurement outcomes.
4. Develop a basic understanding of types of tests for assessing attributes among children, adolescents, and adults from diverse populations.

Attaining these objectives will be facilitated by participating in discussions, reading your text and other assigned/recommended sources, and reporting the lessons learned while constructing your term paper on critical issues.

### **Required Textbooks**

Cohen, R. J., & Swerdlik, M. E. (2009). *Psychological testing and assessment: An introduction to tests & measurements (8<sup>th</sup> edition)*. Boston, MA: McGraw Hill.

Additional readings are included in the modules.

## Grades

The overall evaluation for each student will be composed of the following assignments:

Participation/Discussion Posts	22 points
Module Quizzes	18 points
Critical Issues Paper	20 points
Midterm Examination	20 points
Final Exam	20 points

### Student Expectations:

1. Technology can create a love-hate relationship. When you least expect it and have the least amount of time available, your computer will fail. Having a backup computer plan with three alternate computers in case of technology problems is recommended. Save assignments in multiple places.
2. In order to be graded, all work must be completed in a timely fashion. No work will be accepted more than one day after the due date. As graduate students, working ahead of schedule and around Blackboard scheduled maintenance is expected. Assignments will be deducted for lateness.
3. When submitting assignments to Blackboard Learn, you are responsible for working around maintenance. Plan accordingly.
4. TurnItIn can take 24 hours or more to receive an originality report. Working ahead of schedule is required when using TurnItIn.
5. Discussion is the crux of a great online course. Engagement on the discussion board will be used frequently. Engagement on the discussion board related to posts must be completed within 48 hours of due date. For example, if your individual discussion post addressing Psychological vs. Medical Testing is due on Wednesday, July 9, all engagement counted towards your grade must be submitted by midnight Friday, July 11.
6. Graduate students are expected to write well. Assignments will be graded for grammar, sentence structure and spelling errors. Do not rely solely on spell check/grammar check, or you will have errors that will cause you to lose points.
7. APA format is necessary (e.g. 1" margins, running heads, level headings, hanging indents, double spacing, consistent 12 point font). Do not rely on a website or handout. Consult the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, available from the UNT Bookstore. APA format consists of more than a reference page. Written assignments should include an APA title page, abstract, and references, if applicable.

### Assigned Readings and Class Participation (i.e., Discussion Posts)

Please read the text and assigned readings for each module prior to completion of discussion posts and module quizzes. Student participation in class discussions is strongly expected and encouraged. Providing a well-organized and thoughtful discussion requires reading the materials in advance. Participation in discussions is a necessary component of learning in this course. Each student is expected to contribute to the learning experiences of the others, and in turn, learn from his/her peers in the class. Participation in discussion can take the form of posing questions, sharing personal experiences, agreeing/disagreeing with comments, citing research to support content, etc. With every discussion post, at least one posting should include research supporting comments. For example, when responding to a classmate's post, including a question followed by comments from our textbook and citing Cohen & Swerdlik will ensure full credit. Each discussion post requires a minimum of one research citation (both in-text and full text). Remember, individual postings are to

extend the conversation. Engagement must be completed within 48 hours of due date. For example, your individual discussion post addressing Psychological vs. Medical Testing is due on Wednesday, July 15. All engagement counted towards your grade must be submitted by midnight Friday, July 17. There are no make-up opportunities for missed discussion posts. Each discussion post is worth 2 points (22 possible points). See schedule for specific dates/times of each discussion post.

### **Module Quizzes**

Each module has a multiple choice quiz. These quizzes will be opened for 24 hours – midnight to midnight. No exam will be readministered. Questions are administered one at a time with no opportunity for backtracking. Once started, you must complete. There is no start – stop – restart. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped allowing nine (9) quizzes to count towards course grades. Each quiz is worth 2 points (18 possible points). See schedule for specific dates/times of each quiz.

### **Midterm & Final Exams**

There is a midterm and final exam. Both exams have five essays and a three hour time limit within a 24 hour time frame. Questions are administered one at a time with no opportunity for backtracking. Once started, you must complete. There is no start – stop – restart. There are no make ups for missed exams. Each exam is worth 20 points (40 possible points). See schedule for specific dates/times of each exam.

### **Critical Issues Term Paper**

The critical issues paper is an in-depth analysis of a critical issue related to using testing and measurement in your professional setting or specialization area, or an in-depth presentation of an important topic beyond what is discussed in the text/class. Potential topics include: assessment of bilingual children, consumer behavior, ethnicity and/or gender bias, difficulties testing children with autism, controversial issues in intelligence testing, unreliable testing in young children, etc.

Preparation of this paper should follow a detailed search of the academic literature and include a wide variety of sources addressing current controversies/issues in the related area. Expressing “personal” opinions is not the forum for this paper. No first person writing should be included. Instead, basing writing on the published literature/data, including all sides of the debate (represent both the pros and the cons in your paper) and using third person writing is expected.

There are no minimum or maximum page limits for the paper; however, a range of 10-15 pages may be used as a good guideline (not counting a title page, reference page, appendix, tables, figures, etc.). Use APA formatting (6th edition): Times New Roman 12-point font, 1-inch margins, double spaced (with zero point font before/after line spacing), levels, running head, page numbers, etc. In addition to referencing format, APA requires papers be grammatically correct. While the teaching of grammar and sentence structure is not the purpose of this course, use of poor grammar and sentence structure detracts from the overall quality and professionalism of the assignment.

Step 1: Topics are not one word. Your topic should be several sentences or a paragraph supported with research. This is the first step in this critical issues term paper process and should grab the reader. Your topic must receive approval from instructor before continuing. See course syllabus/schedule for date to submit topic.

Step 2: Your summary should be the introduction to your critical issues term paper and introduce your topic, why it is important, debatable issues, etc. This summary should set up the reader for the entire 10-15 page paper and include research. Oftentimes, the summary is the introductory paragraph(s) including thesis and topic sentences. A minimum of 15 sources must be included. These sources do not need to be included in the actual summary but should be representative of your efforts to review

the literature and compile a valid list of potential sources. Your sources must include at least 15 references consisting of the following:

- A minimum of five (5) journal articles with publication dates within the current three years.
- A minimum of five (5) other journal articles, books, or book chapters (any date).
- A minimum of five (5) other sources of any information (any type, any date), including web resources.

See course syllabus/schedule for date to submit summary. You should only start your paper if there is approval of both your topic and summary.

Step 3: Submit your critical issues term paper. Your critical issues term paper must be submitted to the Turnitin.com link provided in assignment tab. Your paper will not be accepted for grading if your Originality Report shows more than 20% overlap with the literature. Expect as much as a 24 hour timeframe to receive the Originality Report and plan accordingly. Then, should you need to make edits and resubmit to TurnItIn, there may be another 24 hour timeframe. Working ahead of schedule is necessary. Feel free to *remove the references* from TurnItIn. This will allow for a lower Originality score. Submitting both the Originality Report and your finalized critical issues term paper to the assignment dropbox is required. See course syllabus/schedule for date to submit completed paper. Working around Blackboard LEARN maintenance is expected. See course syllabus/schedule for due dates. The critical issues term paper is worth 20 points.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam and an Admissions, Retention, & Review form will be completed and submitted to the College of Education. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

## **ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu>.

## **ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT**

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at <http://www.my.unt.edu>. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account.

For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward your e-mail: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

## **ADA STATEMENT**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu>. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

## **EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION & PROCEDURES**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at <http://www.my.unt.edu>. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## **RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link: <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html>

## **STUDENT EVALUATION OF TEACHING (SETE)**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The Student Evaluation of Teaching (SETE) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.

## **SUCCEED AT UNT**

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grow. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find Support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go <http://success.unt.edu/>.

## Schedule

DATE	EVENT
Mon, July 13	Review the components of the course website. Become familiar with the syllabus, schedule, and other important features. Complete required form.
	Module 1: Introduction to Testing and Measurement, Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 7
	Discussion Post Getting to Know You
Wed, July 15	Discussion Post Psychological vs. Medical Testing
	Module 1 Quiz (midnight-midnight)
Fri, July 17	Critical Issues Topic due
	Module 2: Quantitative Foundations of Measurement, Chapters 3 & 4
	Discussion Post Grade Inflation
	Module 2 Quiz (midnight-midnight)
Mon, July 20	Critical Issues Summary due
	Module 3: Interpreting Test Scores, Chapters 7 & 8
	Discussion Post Cut-Off Scores
	Module Quiz 3 (midnight-midnight)
Wed, July 22	Module 4: Data Quality, Chapters 5 & 6
	Discussion Post Test-Retest Reliability
	Module 4 Quiz (midnight-midnight)
Fri, July 24	Module 5: Test Construction, Chapter 8
	Discussion Post Test Yourself
	Module 5 Quiz (midnight-midnight)
Mon, July 27	Midterm Exam, Modules 1-5 (midnight-midnight)
Wed, July 29	Module 6: Measuring Personality, Chapters 12 & 13
	Discussion Post Impressions Management
	Module 6 Quiz (midnight-midnight)
Fri, July 31	Module 7: Measuring Aptitude and Intelligence, Chapters 9 & 10
	Discussion Post Reliability Coefficient
	Module 7 Quiz (midnight-midnight)
Mon, August 3	Critical Issues Term Paper due Submit both term paper and TurnItIn Originality report showing <20 overlap to Blackboard assignment dropbox
Wed, August 5	Module 8: Measuring Achievement, Classroom Testing, Performance & Product Evaluation, Chapter 11
	Discussion Post Preschool Measures
	Module 8 Quiz (midnight-midnight)
Fri, August 7	Module 9: Measures Attitudes, Self-Perception and Self-Efficacy, Chapter 16
	Discussion Post Attitudes Towards Women
	Module 9 Quiz (midnight-midnight)
Mon, August 10	Module 10: Conclusions, Chapters 14 & 15
	Discussion Post Critical Issues Term Paper
	Module 10 Quiz (midnight-midnight)
Wed, August 12	Final Exam, Modules 5-10 (midnight-midnight)

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