Psychology 427: Introduction to Psychological Testing
10631 6:00-9:25pm MW in SH 380

Information:
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Class Website: http://www.csun.edu/~ata20315/psy427 **Moodle Site:** http://moodle.csun.edu
Phone: 677-3898 **Office**: ST 302 **Office Hours**: MW 5-6pm or by appointment

Textbook:
Required:
Kaplan, R.M., & Saccuzzo, D.P. (2005). Psychological Testing: Principles, Applications, &
    Issues, 6th Edition. CA: Wadsworth, Inc.

Course Description
    Basic concepts of psychological measurement as applied to the construction, evaluation
and use of group and individual tests of intelligence, aptitude, interest and personality are
studied. Demonstrations of the administration, scoring and interpretations of standardized tests
are provided.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) addressed by Psy 427:
1. Students will demonstrate sufficient communication skills by a) communicating thoughts,
    arguments, and research work in writing using the tone, grammar, and organization
    appropriate to professional work in psychology and b) demonstrating effective oral
    communication skills in group discussions and class presentations.
2. Students will demonstrate effective collaboration with team members in group activities such
    as projects, recruiting research subjects, collecting data, presenting research findings and/or
    working in research labs.
3. Students will demonstrate competence in electronic and information technologies by a) using
    computational and statistical software, b) using computers to review abstracts appearing in
    relevant databases and obtaining full-text versions of the literature relevant to a research
    topic, c) paraphrasing, quoting, and citing appropriate sources to avoid plagiarism and d)
    sufficient use of the American Psychological Association (APA) Style Manual.
4. Students will demonstrate critical thinking skills and skeptical inquiry by evaluating the
    strengths and weaknesses of current research literature and/or their own research using
    psychological research methodology.
5. Students will demonstrate sufficient use of statistical analysis, interpretation, and
    presentation of psychological data.
6. Students will demonstrate appropriate and ethical use of subjects by going through the
    process of subject recruitment and debriefing the human subjects involved in psychological
    research.
7. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the theories, concepts, and empirical approaches
    from diverse perspectives of psychology, including biological processes, developmental
    processes, individual and social processes, learning and cognitive processes.

Exams:

Midterm examinations are scheduled for **Monday, June 13th and Monday, June 27th.** Each preliminary examination will be given during regular class time and will consist of approximately 10 T/F, 10 multiple-choice and 5 short answer questions. Content for each preliminary examination will be drawn from both the assigned readings and the lecture material. Please remember to bring a Scantron form and #2 pencil to class on these days!

The final exam is scheduled for **Monday, July 11th from 6-9:25pm.** The final will be approximately 10 T/F, 10 multiple-choice and 10 short answer questions and will **NOT** include material from the previous three examinations. Again, don't forget your Scantron form and #2 pencil!

If any of these dates present a particular problem for you, please see me as soon as possible. Due to the rapid pace of the course and the large number of students enrolled, make-up exams are extremely difficult to arrange unless they are scheduled in advance. **If you miss an exam without prior notice, please ensure that you have appropriate documentation to support your absence.** I will deal with these situations on a case-by-case basis.

Grades
Class Grading:

Midterm 1	(Thurs 6/13)	T/F, Multiple Choice, Short Answer questions
Midterm 2	(Thurs 6/27)	T/F, Multiple Choice, Short Answer questions
Final	(Thurs 7/11)	T/F, Multiple Choice, Short Answer questions
Homework		5 homework assignments throughout the semester

Your grade in the class will be based on three exams, homework and a group assignment.
Exams: There will be three exams worth 100 points each; a total of 150 points
Homework Assignments: There will be homework assignments worth a total of 50 points.
Exam Grade Estimation
As you should remember (but we'll talk about again), a distribution of scores can be converted into a standardized distribution. A **Z-score** is a standardized score which indicates how far a particular score is away from the mean (or average) score in terms of standard deviations (a measure of width of a distribution). Exam scores that are above the mean will have a positive Z-score, exam scores below the mean will have a negative Z-score.

First convert your raw test score and convert it to a Z-score using the Z formula:

$$Z_{testscore} = \frac{X_{\text{raw test score}} - \bar{X}_{\text{test mean}}}{s_{\text{test standard deviation}}}$$

This formula is something you should be a little familiar with, but before your first exam I'll re-familiarize you as to what it means and how to interpret your grade based on the Z-score. Using your raw score, the mean and standard deviation of the scores to calculate your Z-score you can then look up your Z-score on the table below to see your grade estimation

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
\text{.57 or above} & = & \text{A} \\
\text{.43} & = & \text{A-} \\
\text{.16} & = & \text{B+} \\
\text{-.16} & = & \text{B} \\
\text{-.43} & = & \text{B-} \\
\text{-.57} & = & \text{C+} \\
\text{-.84} & = & \text{C} \\
\text{Below -.84} & = & \text{C-}
\end{array}
$$

Your grade in the class will be determined by either your average z-score on the 3 exams and your homework and project or your z-score on your total score (i.e. adding the exams, homework and project together). I will calculate your grade both ways and you will receive the better of the 2 grades if there is a difference.

Exam difficulty
The exams are **DIFFICULT**. The scores are curved so this is really not a problem. In fact, hard exams are good because they allow the students who know more to distinguish themselves from those who don't know very much. An exam that is too easy does not allow for a wide enough spread in the distribution. Some of the exam questions will be similar to questions in the book or examples done in class. Some of the questions will require you to understand the concepts well enough to relate them to each other in a potentially novel way.

Formula Sheets
You will be expected to know some formulas for the exams (especially the first and second exams). So, you will be allowed to bring in 1 page (1 side of an 8 ½ sheet of paper) of notes for the first and second exams.

Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Chapter	HW	Class Project
1	W	6/1	Intro, History, Basic Stats	1 & 2		Domains
2	M	6/6	Correlation Regression and Project Intro	3	HW#1	Items
	W	6/8	CTT, Reliability and Validity	4 & 5	HW#2	
	F	6/10			HW#3	
3	M	6/13	**Review and Exam 1**	**1-5**		
	W	6/15	Items and Item Analysis	6		Final Scale
4	M	6/20	More Reliability: Factor Analysis	See Reading	HW#4	Administration
	W	6/22	Modern Test Theory: IRT	See Reading	HW#5	
5	M	6/27	**Review and Exam 2**	**6+**		
	W	6/29	Test Administration and Interviewing	7		
6	M	7/4	**4th of July Holiday**			
	W	7/6	Theories of Intelligence and Personality Tests	9, 10, 13 & 14		
7	M	7/11	**Review and Final Exam**			