

## **PSY 504: PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT**

Summer 2022

THURSDAY 3:00-6:00pm; Kennedy 200

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**Office Hours:** By Appointment

### **REQUIRED TEXT**

Whiston, S. C. (2016). *Principles and applications of assessment in counseling* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to the instruments and the methods used in the measurement and evaluation of the psychological characteristics of human beings, including elementary principles of statistical analysis.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

*The following topics will be covered and discussed in-depth:*

1. Nature and use of psychological tests for counselors
2. Historical antecedents of modern testing
3. Norms and the meaning of test scores
4. Reliability
5. Validity and item analysis
6. Selecting, administering, scoring, and communicating test results
7. Initial assessment techniques
8. Intelligence and general ability testing
9. Achievement and Aptitude testing
10. Assessment in career counseling
11. Measuring interests and attitudes
12. Appraisal of personality
13. Using assessment in counseling
14. Ethical, legal, and social/cultural considerations in testing

### **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

*Brightspace, Dr. V's Website, & Email:* Course announcements (i.e., emails) will be made through Brightspace. All other information (e.g., lectures, lecture recordings, blog discussions, assignments) will be provided on my personal website: <http://dradamvolungis.com/>. It is expected that you check your email and my website frequently to ensure that you are up to date with all class material and information. Feel free to email me with any questions or concerns. On most summer weeks, I check my email on the following (“business”) days: Monday; Wednesday-Friday. Although I typically reply to emails promptly (i.e., less than 24 hours),

please give me 1-2 “business” days to reply. Due to the unique circumstances of COVID-19 there may be an occasional “business” day that I am not readily available.

Attendance: Due to the topic of this course being primarily class discussion, it is crucial that you attend class. Attending class virtually through Zoom is just as important as attending class face-to-face. Much of the value of this course lies in your presence and participation in the classroom. Therefore, your presence is important for the “community within the class.” If you are absent from class, you are still responsible for all information and material covered that day. Also, class will always start and end on time, thus, the expectation is for students to be present for the full duration of class. If you must come late or leave early, please notify me before class.

- Coming late to class is an important issue. A pattern of tardiness (even 10 or 15 minutes) is unacceptable.
- Even in circumstances where you have an acceptable reason for missing class, you will not receive credit for this class if you are absent for more than 2 classes during the semester. If you do miss more than 2 classes because of personal emergency or similar extenuating circumstances, you may petition the Dean of the Graduate School for an exception to this rule.

Course Readings & Recorded Lectures: Please refer to the “Projected Course Outline” for the due date and topic of each reading and recorded lecture. You are expected to have completed the required readings and viewed the recorded lectures by the indicated class date. Class meetings will not consist of simply reviewing lecture slides. Students are expected to attend class prepared and ready to participate in class discussion on select topics and ask questions. In addition to the readings provided on the course outline, you may be required to read supplemental materials to enhance existing readings.

Submission Policy, Late Assignments, & Technological Malfunctions: All assignments should be submitted no later than the due date. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments must be completed by 11:59 pm of the published due dates. Late work (i.e., work that is submitted after the due date) will only be accepted within a 24-hour grace period and will be reduced by one full letter grade. After the 24-hour grace period, late work will not be accepted and a ‘0’ will be given for the assignment. Please contact Information Technology for any technology problems (unless it is my personal website). If you experience recurrent technical problems that prohibit you from completing multiple assignments, you may be asked to re-enroll into the course at a future date.

## **IMPORTANT NOTES**

Academic Honesty: Representing the work of another as your own is a violation of fundamental principles of truthfulness and an offense against the academic community. Academic dishonesty may result in the student failing the course, at the discretion of the instructor. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on examinations, as well as *plagiarism* (i.e., failure to credit properly the ideas, organization of material or phrasing of another, including the use of term paper or reference paper services). Submitting one’s own work, in part or in whole, to more than one instructor without proper notification is also academically dishonest and subject to appropriate disciplinary action. *I reserve the right to utilize turnitin.com if there are concerns of academic dishonesty.* For more information, please consult Assumption College’s Academic Honesty Police: <https://www.assumption.edu/sites/default/files/Graduate%20Student%20Handbook,%202022-2021,%20final.pdf> (p. 13).

*Students with Disabilities:* Assumption College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a disability (or think you have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College's programs or services, then you should speak with me and contact Student Accessibility Services. All information regarding disabilities will be treated with confidentiality. Documentation guidelines are available at: <https://www.assumption.edu/people-and-departments/organization-listing/student-accessibility-services>. *Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me with any questions.*

## **METHODS of EVALUATION**

1. ***Class Attendance, Participation, & Discussion Blog (15%)***. This course depends greatly on student preparation and participation. To facilitate preparation, students are urged to read all the material assigned for a given class prior to the day it is to be discussed, and to come to class with notes about the readings. With the exception of the first class, each student is expected to complete a blog post in response to a question provided by the professor by the beginning of each class. At least two replies to your peers' posted responses is also required, no later than two days after the original post due date. The discussion board will be available on my personal website: <http://dradamvolungis.com/>. These reflections are required in the spirit of assuring each student keeps up with the assigned readings and is prepared to engage in class discussion.
2. ***Midterm Exam (25%)***. Each student is required to complete a midterm exam covering their knowledge and understanding of the readings and class lectures from the topic "*Historical Antecedents and Principles of Assessment*" as outlined in the 'Projected Course Outline' below (5/26-6/9). ***The date of the midterm exam 6/16.*** There will be midterm review in class on 6/9. It is reasonable to expect this exam graded and returned to students by 6/30 (2 weeks).
3. ***Psychological Assessment Development and Presentation (25%)***. All students are required to participate in a small group class presentation on an assessment development proposal. The class presentations will be completed in video format with a PowerPoint and supplemental handouts. ***These presentations are due on 7/14 (peer observations due 7/21).*** A separate class handout describing this assignment in detail will be provided and reviewed no later than 6/16. It is reasonable to expect this assignment graded and returned to students soon after final grades are due.
4. ***Psychological Assessment Review (10%)***. Each student is required to individually complete one psychological assessment review. ***These reviews are due on 7/21.*** However, you are more than welcome to complete your review earlier than the due date. A separate handout describing this assignment in detail will be provided and reviewed no later than 6/9. *This review will only be accepted through email at [am.volungis@assumption.edu](mailto:am.volungis@assumption.edu) in MS Word.* It is reasonable to expect this assignment graded and returned to students soon after final grades are due.
5. ***Final Exam (25%)***. Each student is required to complete a take-home final exam covering their knowledge and understanding of the readings and class lectures from the

topic “*Assessment Areas, Applications, and Issues*” as outlined in the Projected Course Outline’ below (6/23-7/21) (and general integration of major themes from the midterm). **The due date for the final exam is 7/28.** The final exam will be provided no later than 7/7. This exam will only be accepted through email at [am.volungis@assumption.edu](mailto:am.volungis@assumption.edu) in MS Word. It is reasonable to expect this exam graded and returned to students soon after final grades are due.

### GRADING SCALE

<b>A</b>	<b>93.0-100</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>82.5-87.4</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>72.5-77.4</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>62.5-67.4</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90.0-92.9</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>80.0-82.4</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70.0-72.4</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>60.0-62.4</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87.5-89.9</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>77.5-79.9</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>67.5-69.9</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>&lt;60</b>

### PROJECTED COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Date</u>	<u>*Topic/Assignment*</u>
	<b><u>Historical Antecedents and Principles of Assessment</u></b>
<b><u>5/26/22</u></b> [1]	Introduction & Review of Syllabus Text Chapter 1 (Parts A& B) – Assessment in Counseling
<b><u>6/2</u></b> [2]	Text Chapter 2 – Basic Assessment Principles Text Chapter 3 – Reliability
<b><u>6/9</u></b> [3]	Text Chapter 4 – Validity & Item Analysis Text Chapter 5 – Selecting, Administering, Scoring, and Communicating Test Results Midterm Review (Chapters 1-5)
<b><u>6/16</u></b> [4]	<b>*Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-5)*</b>
	<b><u>Assessment Areas, Applications, and Issues</u></b>
<b><u>6/23</u></b> [5]	Text Chapter 6 – Initial Assessment in Counseling ----Assessments: Suicidality & Substance Abuse Text Chapter 13 – Using Assessment in Counseling ----Assessments: Depression & Broad-Band
<b><u>6/30</u></b> [6]	Text Chapter 9 – Assessment in Career Counseling ----Assessments: Career & Anxiety
<b><u>7/7</u></b> [7]	Text Chapter 10 – Appraisal of Personality ----Assessments: Personality & Anger
<b><u>7/14</u></b> [8]	<b>*Psychological Assessment Development and Presentations Due*</b>

7/21 [9] ----Assessments: Youth (Behavior checklists, Depression, Anxiety)  
----Practice Student Assessments in Class  
**\*Presentation Observations Due\***  
**\*Psychological Assessment Review Due\***

7/28 [10] **\*Final Exam Due\***

**Right of Revision Statement:** As professor of this course, I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed. It may be deemed pertinent to modify the syllabus as the class progresses through the semester. You will be informed of any changes as soon as possible, during class or via email and Brightspace.