

## Psychological testing PSY 337

Instructors: Dr. Elena Molchanova, MD;  
Credit hours: 3  
Languages: English, Russian  
Class meets Mon. 10.50, W. 12.45 – 14.00

### **Textbook:**

Anne Anastasi, Susana Urbina (1997). *Psychological Testing* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Simon & Schuster, NJ: Prentice Hall

Анна Анастаси, Сюзан Урбина. Психологическое тестирование, седьмое международное издание. «Питер», СПб, 2001(2)

### **Reserve Readings:**

Throughout the semester, various articles will be provided by the instructors as handouts or will be placed in the [www.e-course.auca.kg](http://www.e-course.auca.kg)

### **Course overview**

This course is designed to provide you with exposure to the process of test development and analysis. Because psychological testing is used in virtually all aspects of psychological research and practice, the scope and workload of the course is substantial. Requirements include performing and interpreting statistical analyses related to four projects and completing four regular examinations and one cumulative final exam.

### **Goals**

1. Understand what psychological tests are and the differences between various types of tests;
2. Grasp the fundamental concepts of psychological constructs, validity, and reliability;
3. Be able to analyze and interpret data collected as part of a test administration;
4. Be able to communicate results of your analyses to a wide audience;
5. Have an appreciation for the many different settings in which psychological tests are used.

### **Exams**

There will be four regular exams during the semester and one final cumulative exam. The exams will be based on lectures and readings, and will likely vary in format (i.e., mostly multiple choice, some short answer, maybe an essay question or two, etc.). All regular quizzes worth 20 points and will be placed in [www.e-course.auca.kg](http://www.e-course.auca.kg)

There will be **no makeup quizzes** in this class, and missed quizzes will be counted as a zero.

### **Class Attendance and Participation**

Class participation is required in this class. Therefore, students are expected to attend each class, and will receive points for participation in class. There will be 30 points designated for participation and attendance throughout the semester.

### **Exercises**

There will be three out-class exercises during the first and the second half of the semester. Students are expected to use three psychological tests to measure different aspects of your participant's behaviour, intelligence (WAIS) and personality (MMPI) in particular. Each exercise is worth 25 points.

### **Presentations in class**

You know this usual assignment and it is worth 20 points in this course. Please, choose the topic of your presentation during the first two weeks of regular classes.

### **Test Development Project**

Students will be expected to complete a Test Development Project (TDP) during the second half of the semester. The TDP will ultimately consist of a final paper.

Papers will include an APA style (please see Gwen if you need help with this), title page and reference page with at least six resources. The body of the paper should include the following three headings, and each section should address the questions beneath the headings:

1. History and Conceptualization
2. How has your concept been tested in the past?
3. What is your test designed to measure?
4. Who is your test designed for?
5. Test Construction, Tryout, and Analysis;
6. How did you develop your items?
7. How were the items scaled? How were they scored?
8. What were the characteristics of your tryout/pilot sample?
9. How did you establish item discrimination?
10. How did you establish reliability and validity of your test?
11. Use and Scope
12. How will your test be used?
13. What would the results of your test tell us about the test taker?
14. Who will take your test?

TDP final paper is worth 100 points

### **Steps of completion of TDP**

As the substantial part of this course will be devoted to completion of the TDP, various steps toward completion of this project will be assigned due dates and will be worth points. Each step is worth 10 points. These steps include:

1. Submission of a topic idea (TDP Step #1)
2. Submission of a reference list, in order to obtain background information on the topic of interest (TDP Step #2)
3. Submission of 15-20 items that you have determined adequately test the topic of interest (TDP Step #3)
4. Twenty (20) tryout/pilot subjects (participants) having completed the class questionnaire (TDP Step #4)
5. Completion of worksheet evaluating general statistics on items (TDP Step #5)
6. Completion of worksheet evaluating reliability estimates on items (TDP Step #6)
7. Completion of worksheet evaluating validity estimates on items (TDP Step #7)

### **Grading**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of the following criteria: four regular quizzes (20 points each, 80 points total); class participation (30 points total); presentations (20 points) three out-class exercises (25 points each, 75 points total); TDP step assignments (10 points each, 80); and the TDP final paper (100 points). Course grades will be calculated as a percentage, by the number of points

earned in the class divided by the maximum number (80+30+20+75+80+100 =385) then multiplied by 100. Course grades will then be assigned as follows:

A = 97-100 %  
A- = 90 –96 %  
B+ = 85 – 89%  
B = 80-84%  
B- = 75-79%  
C+ = 69 – 74%  
C = 60 – 68%  
C- = 50 – 59%  
D = 45 – 49%  
F = less than 44%

Grades will be rounded up to the nearest whole number in order to determine the assignment of course grades. For example, if a student receives an 89.51% in the course, then they will receive an 'A-' for this course. If the student receives an 89.49% in the course, then this constitutes a 'B+' for the course.

No exceptions will be made with this grading policy.

### **Course Policies**

*Deadlines.* Deadlines are firm. Extensions for assignments and/or exams will only be granted in cases of extenuating circumstances. All work must be completed by the end of the course.

*Disruptive Behaviour.* The classroom is a special environment in which students and faculty come together to promote learning and growth. It is essential to this learning environment that respect for the right of others seeking to learn, respect for the professionalism of the instructor, and the general goals of academic freedom are maintained. Student behaviour that disrupts the classroom will not be tolerated. Disruptive behaviour includes speech and behaviour that are clearly disrespectful of either the instructor or other students. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, physically or verbally abusive behaviour, interruptions of the instructor or other students, failure to adhere to the instructor's rules or instructions, vulgar or obscene language, clear disregard by the student of the instructor's lecture (such as reading a newspaper or writing personal notes to other classmates), slurs and other forms of intimidation. Student conduct which disrupts the learning process will not be tolerated, and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from the classroom.

*Cheating and Plagiarism.* Academic dishonesty in any form (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, lying) will result in an 'F' for the course.

**Cheating** is the actual or attempted practice of fraudulent or deceptive acts for the purpose of improving one's grade or obtaining course credit; such acts also include assisting another student to do so. Typically, such acts occur in relation to examinations. However, it is the intent of this definition that the term 'cheating' not be limited to examination situations only, but that it include any and all actions by a student that are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent or deceptive means.

**Plagiarism** is the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one's own. The use of other people's work must be properly acknowledged and referenced in all written material. The use of material without acknowledgment is an offence. Bear in mind that

allowing another to copy one's work is an academic offence just as is copying from someone else. Furthermore, submitting the same paper for two courses without arrangement is also an academic offence.

### **Tentative course schedule**

(This schedule is a subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances)

<b>Week number</b>	<b>Class topic</b>
1.	Introduction to class. Nature of psychological tests. Historical antecedents of modern testing
2.	Norms and meanings of test scores
3.	Reliability
4.	Validity: Basics concepts
5.	Validity: Measurement and Interpretation. Item analysis
6.	Intelligence and intelligence testing. Principles of intelligence tests construction
7.	The Wechsler scales. WAIS (Russian version). Mental retardation. WISC (Russian version)
8.	Self-report personality inventories. Personality theory in test development. Factor analysis in test development.
9.	Spring brake – no classes
10.	MMPI and СМИЛ (стандартизированная методика исследования личности).
11.	MMPI (continuation). Discussion of MMPI results.
12.	Basic principles of projective psychology. Nature of projective techniques
13.	Semi-projective techniques. Rosenzweig Picture-Frustration Study.
14.	Discussion of results of using Rosenzweig Picture-Frustration Study in class.
15.	The Semantic Differential: principles of SD construction and spheres of application
16.	Major contexts of current test use. Ethical and social consideration in use.