

Course Syllabus
Psychology 3MT3: Psychometrics
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour
McMaster University, Fall 2018

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor Dr. Irene Vitoroulis
Email vitoroui@mcmaster.ca (contact method)

You MUST email me from your McMaster email account, otherwise it will likely be spam filtered and I will never even see it. Always include a subject title (i.e., PSYCH 3MT3 – “reason for contact”). Emails from other accounts (i.e., gmail, yahoo, etc.) and emails lacking a proper subject title will not be answered.

Office McMaster Innovation Park, 175 Longwood Rd. S.
On main campus: TBA

Office Hours By appointment. Most questions can best be answered via email or Avenue.

Teaching Assistants Alina Protopopescu: protopa@mcmaster.ca
Chao Wang: wangc51@mcmaster.ca
Arela Agako: agakoa@mcmaster.ca

TA office hours TBA, or by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Classes Thursday, 7:00 – 10:00pm, Burke Sciences (BSB), Room B-135

Course Objectives & Content This course covers the fundamental issues in psychometrics, such as test validity, reliability, and item construction. It also covers applications of psychological testing in areas such as education, employment, and health care settings.

Prerequisites One of PSYCH 1F03 or 1X03, and 1XX3; and one of ARTSSCI 2R03, COMMERCE 2QA3, ECON 2B03, HTHSCI 2A03, KINESIOL 3C03, LINGUIST 2DD3, PNB 2XA3, SOCSCI 2J03, STATS 2B03, 2D03, or credit or registration in HUMBEHV 3HB3, and registration in Level III or above; or registration in Level III or IV of an ISCI program or Bachelor of Health Sciences (Honours) (B.H.Sc.) program.

Required Text Kaplan & Sacuzzo, Psychological Testing: Principles, Applications and Issues. (8th Edition).

There is a study guide available at the bookstore as well. This is not required, but some students find it useful. You can also purchase the textbook in electronic form, including a bundle of both the textbook and study guide.

Additional Readings Additional readings may be assigned over the course of the semester. Please check Avenue on a weekly basis for posted readings. A citation will be provided in order for you to retrieve a reading from the library.

Avenue

The course website is available to registered students by logging into Avenue <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca>. You will need to learn how to use Avenue to access the course content, announcements, and discussions. All Powerpoint slides from the lectures will be made available on Avenue only after the lectures, as pdfs. It is your responsibility to keep up to date with class announcements made on Avenue.

In this course we will be using Avenue. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

Evaluation

October 4: Midterm 1 (25%). In-class exam, multiple choice

November 15: Midterm 2 (25%). In class exam, multiple choice, cumulative

November 8: Assignment 1, due at 6pm (10%). Written assignment, details TBA

November 29: Assignment 2, due at 6pm (10%). Written assignment, details TBA

Final exam in Exam Session (30%), multiple choice, cumulative

Note: For the midterm tests, please bring your student ID, pencil and eraser. Use of electronics and other material (e.g., phones, tablets, computers, books, course notes) will not be permitted during the tests (please keep them in your bag).

The midterm and final exams will cover material from the textbook, lectures, guest speakers, and assigned readings. All exams will be cumulative.

All assignments will be uploaded on Avenue by 6pm on the date specified above. Late submissions will result in a deduction of your mark by 10% for each day.

Students will be responsible for all material covered in lectures, plus the following chapters of the textbook: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 19, 21. In addition, students must choose any TWO of the following chapters to study independently, which will be assessed on the final exam: 12, 13, 16, 17. Students are encouraged to choose whichever chapters cover applications in which they are most personally interested. The later lectures on various “Applications” may draw some material from textbook chapters, and students will be pointed to relevant sections to supplement their understanding of these issues. Some additional sections covering material not mentioned in lecture may be assigned as well.

COURSE POLICIES

Changes in Course Requirements

Details of the course requirements (e.g., assessments, syllabus, readings, order of topics and topics themselves) are subject to change. If requirements are altered, a revised course outline will be posted on the webpage and announced in class. The instructor reserves the right to assign grade cutoffs.

Missed Assessment If an absence for assessment has been registered, please contact the instructor as soon as possible (within 48 hours) to arrange for a makeup assessment to take place. No exams or assignments will be permitted to be skipped and reweighted. Please note the rules on MSAF procedures (including timeframes during which they can be submitted). You must submit your MSAF form AND email the instructor. Details can be found at <https://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity Policy You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity>. Students who infringe on the resolutions of the University Academic Integrity policy will be treated according to the published policy.

The following are some examples of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained
2. Aiding and abetting another student’s dishonesty
3. Giving false information for the purposes of obtaining deferred examinations or extension of deadlines
4. Forging or falsifying McMaster University documents
5. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations

Academic Accommodation of Students with Debilities Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf>

Students must forward a copy of the SAS accommodation to the instructor.

Student Code of Conduct Please review, and refer to, McMaster’s Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities: http://studentconduct.mcmaster.ca/student_code_of_conduct.html

The goal of the Student Code of Conduct is to outline accepted standards of behavior that promote safety and security of all students, staff and faculty members. Additional resources on anti-discrimination and harassment regulations can be found at: <https://www.mcmaster.ca/respectfulcommunity/policy-procedures.html>

Tentative Outline of Topics

Date	Topic	Chapter	Assessment
Thursday, September 6	Intro/History	1	
Thursday, September 13	Statistics	2, 3	
Thursday, September 20	Reliability	4	
Thursday, September 27	Validity	5	
Thursday, October 4	Test Items	6	Midterm 1 (in class)
Thursday, October 11	No class		
Thursday, October 18	Test Administration + Interviewing	7, 8	
Thursday, October 25	Intelligence	9	
Thursday, November 1	Applications		
Thursday, November 8	Applications		Assignment 1 due
Thursday, November 15	Applications		Midterm 2 (in class)
Thursday, November 22	Applications		
Thursday, November 29	Bias/Ethics/Future	19, 21	Assignment 2 due

Final Grade Calculations

Percentage (Grade) 90-100 (A+)	Percentage (Grade) 77-79 (B+)	Percentage (Grade) 67-69 (C+)	Percentage (Grade) 57-59 (D+)
85-89 (A)	73-76 (B)	63-66 (C)	53-56 (D)
80-84 (A-)	70-72 (B-)	60-62 (C-)	50-52 (D-)
			0-49 (F)