

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

Fall, 2008

PSYCHOLOGY 425-001: Tests & Measurements

Instructor: Ruth Hurst, PhD, LP-HSPP, BCBA

General Information

<b>Class meetings:</b> 2:00 – 4:50 PM, Wednesday, S&B 108
<b>Office location:</b> Rm 110J, S&B
<b>Office hours:</b> Mon 1 – 2 PM; Wed, 12 – 2; Fri, 10 - 11 PM Emails, & walk ins are welcomed; however, <b>please schedule an appointment, if possible</b>
<b>Phone:</b> 962-4057
<b>e-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:hurstr@uncw.edu">hurstr@uncw.edu</a>
This syllabus and assigned study guides are available at <a href="http://www.uncw.edu/psy/faculty-hurst.html">http://www.uncw.edu/psy/faculty-hurst.html</a>

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Course Syllabus

**Required Textbook:**

Furr, R.M., & Bacharach, V.R. (2008). *Psychometrics: An Introduction*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage.  
Gould, S.J. (1996). *The Mismeasure of Man*. Revised & Expanded Ed. New York: W.W. Norton

**Course Objectives:**

1. To become familiar with construction, evaluation, and interpretative methods for psychological tests and measures using the terms, concepts, and statistical processes from the field of psychometrics
2. To practice constructing and evaluating psychological test items
3. To practice evaluating psychometric properties of psychological/behavioral tests
4. To practice interpreting test data for both groups and individuals
5. To become familiar with threats to psychometric test quality

**Overview:**

The purpose of the course is to help you become skillful at understanding the multiple facets in the development of psychological tests and measures and their use in the assessment of human behavior and psychological function. You will become skillful at identifying and using processes for developing, evaluating, and interpreting test scores through both in-class and take home assignments that will give you hands-on practice with concepts to be taught during the course.

**Course Requirements:**

**Format:** Lecture and in-class activities, take-home assignments, and in-class discussions.

**Preparation:** Prepare for EACH class by reading the assigned readings from Furr & Bachrach and answering the study guide questions (when provided) beforehand (see class schedule). Also, complete the Gould reading and turn in your thought paper and discussion question at the beginning of each class (see next page).

**Study Guides.** Some chapters will have study guides that you are to complete prior to class. Study guides should be completed for each class period. For each assigned study guide, I will check off whether or not you have completed it when you come to class. Handwritten study guide answers are preferred over typed! Your final study guide grade will be the # of completed as assigned study guides divided by the total number of study guides multiplied by 100. There are no make-ups: you are to prepare each assigned study guide.

**Take-home projects.** Two take-home projects on the topics covered in class will be assigned. Each assignment will include detailed instructions, grading procedures, and a due date.

**Tests.** There will be 2 tests (one around the middle and one close to the end of the term) during the session and tests are scheduled for the first hour of the class period so there is a time limit of 1 hour to complete each test. Each test will include multiple-choice and/or short-answer questions based on material from lecture, text, and guides. Tests must be taken during the scheduled class time. There will be **no make ups** for missed tests, and missed tests will count as a grade of 0. Tests are graded on a 100 point scale and are weighted equally. The test average will be computed by summing the test scores and dividing by the total number of tests.

**Exam.** The final exam will be administered during the time set aside for exams (December 10; 3 to 6

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pm). The exam is cumulative and there are no exemptions, so plan to attend.

**Gould reading assignments:** Each week you are to read 20 pages in the Gould text, as assigned, below. Based on your reading, you are to write a ¾ page reaction paper (double space, 1" margin, 10-12 pt. font) and 1 question that can be used as the basis for class discussion. I will assess each paper and question, together, and assign a grade based on a 100 point scale. Paper/question must be turned in on time, at the beginning of class, to count as a completed assignment. No make ups are allowed. Your final Gould grade will be determined by summing all reaction paper grades and dividing by the total (15). Gould assignments:

The Mismeasure of Man*		
Start pg.	End pg.	Completion Date
51	72	8/27/08
73	93	9/3/08
94	114	9/10/08
115	135	9/17/08
136	156	9/24/08
157	177	10/1/08
178	198	10/8/08
199	219	10/15/08
220	240	10/22/08
241	261	10/29/08
262	282	11/5/08
283	303	11/12/08
304	324	11/19/08
325	345	11/26/08
346	366	12/3/08

**\*Note:**  
Gould assignments are due each week. When we do not meet, bring the paper/question from that week to the next class.

**Class discussion:** Class discussions over the Gould readings will be held regularly. Your written questions will be used as the basis for discussion. Your participation in class discussion will be noted and you will receive a final grade for class discussion based on my judgment of your participation that will be on a 100 point scale. Statements made during discussion are to be on topic, courteous, and respectful of all others. There may be disagreements, and you are to handle yourself maturely should one arise.

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all classes for the entire class period. If you fail to attend any class, your final grade will be dropped by 1 letter grade. Class attendance includes arriving on time and remaining in class for the entire session.

Specifically, do not make travel plans (etc.) that will conflict with your attendance to regular classes, tests, or the final exam period.

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit opportunities will be made available during the session.

**Summary of the basis for grading:**

All grading is on a 100-point scale. There is no curve; and I will be delighted if everyone scores a 100 on every assignment and test: Final scores will be rounded to the nearest whole number (rounding rule: if decimal value is < .5, round down; if value is ≥ .5, round up)

- 93 – 100 = A
- 90 – 92 = A-
- 87- 89 = B+
- 83 - 86 = B
- 80 - 82 = B-
- 77-79 = C+
- 73 – 76 = C
- 70 - 72 = C-
- 67 - 69 = D+
- 63 – 66 = D
- 60 – 62 = D-
- Below 60 = F

<b>Weighting:</b>
Class discussion = 5%
Study guide completion = 10%
Gould papers/questions = 15%
Take-home assignments = 20%
Tests = 30%
Final Exam = 20%

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CLASS SCHEDULE**

Date	Lecture	Study Guide due?	Gould due? (see syllabus)	Take Home Assignment Due	Class Discussion?
8/27/08	Chapter 1	yes	yes		yes
9/3/08	Chapter 2	yes	yes		yes
9/10/08	Chapter 3	yes	yes		
9/17/08	Chapter 4		yes		yes
9/24/08	<b>NO CLASS</b>	na	yes	yes	na
10/1/08	Chapter 5		yes		
10/8/08	Chapter 6		yes		
10/15/08	Test 1		yes		Will review the take-home assignment and test 1
10/22/08	Chapter 7		yes		
10/29/08	Chapter 8		yes		
11/5/08	Chapter 9		yes		
11/12/08	Chapter 10		yes		
11/19/08	Test 2		yes		Will review the upcoming take-home assignment and test 2
11/26/08	<b>HOLIDAY</b>		yes		
12/3/08	Chapter 11		yes	yes	
12/10/2008	FINAL (3-6 pm)		yes		

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