

Course Information

PSYC 6366-001 Assessment of Individual Mental Ability
Spring 2024
Tuesday 5:30 to 8:15

Instructor Information

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Course Description

Examines the historical background of selected individual scales of intellectual functioning. Special emphasis will be given to supervised practice in the administration, scoring, interpretation, and psychological report writing of the Wechsler measures of intelligence. Students are expected to have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate course in tests and measures.

Student Learning Outcomes and Assessments

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate competent administration of the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS-IV). This will be assessed by videotape observation of test administration technique by the instructor as well as the student's performance on five individually administered record forms.
2. Demonstrate competent scoring techniques for the WAIS-IV. This will be assessed by the student's performance on five individually administered record forms as well as the student's performance on scoring exercises on the Midterm and Final Exam.
3. Demonstrate competent interpretation of WAIS-IV scores. This will be assessed by the student's performance on two written psychological evaluation reports.
4. Integrate information from client's history, behavioral observation, and test results into a cohesive whole. This will be assessed by the student's performance on two written psychological reports.
5. Demonstrate effective university-level writing skills. This will be assessed by the student's performance on two written psychological evaluation reports.
6. Demonstrate a broad understanding of theoretical concepts that undergird competent test administration, scoring, interpretation, and presentation. This will be assessed by the student's performance on the final exam.
7. Demonstrate effective university-level oral presentation skills. This will be assessed by the student's performance on an oral presentation.

Evaluation and Grading

Your grade in this class will be determined by your performance in the following areas:

1. Record Forms: (10 points each): 5 test administrations. Record Forms will be checked for correctness of administration and scoring.
2. Student administration of WAIS -IV: (30 points): Student will demonstrate the performance of an entire WAIS-IV administration on video tape. Students will be assigned a videotape camera for recording this performance. The videotape must be recorded with adequate audio and visual quality in order to obtain a score.
3. Midterm Exam (50 points): The midterm exam will cover material from the first half of the course.
4. Written reports (40 points each): 2 written reports. Reports will be carefully proofread, reflect university-level writing skills, and give evidence of considerable thought and effort.
5. Final Exam (50 points)
6. Student Presentation (20 points): Student will present a test administration, scoring, and interpretation (see handout).

Summary of Grading Policy:

2 Written Reports:	80 points	29%
Videotape Administration:	30 points	11%
5 Record Forms:	50 points	18%
1 Midterm Exam:	50 points	18%
1 Final Exam:	50 points	18%
Student Presentation	20 Points	4%

252-280	A
224-251	B
196-223	C
168-195	D

Teaching Strategies

The course is intended for majors in clinical, counseling, and school psychology (LSSP), school counseling, and educational diagnostician. The goal is to develop entry level skills for administering, scoring, and interpreting the WAIS-IV. The course is designed to reach these goals primarily through experiential practice. As such, I provide opportunities for students to perform practical assignments as one would in a professional setting. I provide regular written and/or oral feedback after each assignment. Through repeated practice of these assignments, students hone their skills in assessment, scoring, interpretation, and report-writing. In this course, lecture material is deemphasized in favor of applied practice of assessment skills.

Required Textbook and Materials

Sattler, Jerome: Assessment with the WAIS-IV (2009) (required)

Lichtenberger, E.O., Kaufman, A.S. (2013) Essentials of WAIS-IV Assessment- 2nd Edition (recommended)

Schneider, W.J, Lichtenberger, E.O., Mather, N., Kaufman, N.L., Kaufman, A.S. (2018). Essentials of Assessment Report Writing (optional).

Equipment Requirements: Test kits are provided by the University for your use during this course. Record forms will also be provided by the University. You must purchase a stopwatch, as well as the required textbooks.

Course Policies

Although I do not formally take attendance, graduate students are expected to attend every class session. Nevertheless, it is understood that illness and/or extenuating circumstances may prevent a student from attending every class session. As such, each student may miss two classes without penalty. If a class session is missed for any reason, you are still responsible for turning in all assignments in a timely manner. After two absences, every additional absence will result in a penalty of one point from your final grade.

If you need to be absent due to a religious holiday, please let me know at the beginning of the semester so we may plan the absence accordingly.

I am intolerant of lateness as it is disturbing to me and to other class members. If you are late to any class session, it will be counted as 1/3 an absence. If a consistent pattern of tardiness is evident, we will confer and develop a joint solution to this problem. Remember – I am charged with training you to be an effective professional. I take this responsibility seriously. I know of no respected professional who is routinely late for his or her clients. Keep this in mind as you progress through your training.

Ethical behavior is important in every professional endeavor. **Ethical violations and unprofessional behavior will result in course failure, an incomplete grade, or other appropriate action. Remediation will be determined by the instructor.**

Considering the high volume of assignments to be turned in and scored, it is not possible for me to appropriately score late assignments. As such, late assignments are discouraged and will result in a drop of 10 percentage points per *day* late.

Topical Outline

Jan 16	Introduction Distribute test kits and record forms Administering the WAIS-IV
Jan 23	Administering the WAIS-IV WAIS-IV Administration and Scoring Manual Reading: Chapter 1 and 2 Sattler

	Reading: Chapter 1 and 2 Lichtenberger (recommended)
Jan 30	Administering the WAIS-IV Reading: Chapter 3 Sattler Reading: Chapter 3 Lichtenberger (recommended) First Record Form Due
Feb 6	Scoring the WAIS-IV
Feb 13	WAIS-IV subtests and interpreting the WAIS-IV Reading: Chapters 5 and 6: Lichtenberger
Feb 20	WAIS-IV subtests and interpreting the WAIS-IV Second Record Form Due
Feb 27	Clinical Interview and Introduction to Report Writing
Mar 5	Midterm Exam
Mar 12	Spring Break
Mar 19	Report Writing Third Record Form Due
Mar 26	Report Writing
Apr 2	Fourth Record Form Due First Report Due
Apr 9	Report Feedback Session Early Turn-in of Video Due (5 percentage points)
Apr 16	Video Due Presentations
Apr 23	Fifth Record Form Due Second Report Due Presentations
Apr 30	Final Exam