

COURSE OUTLINE: 2018-19
PSYCHOL 9545A – Test Construction

1. Course Information

Psychology 9545A. (Fall 2018). Test Construction

Half course (0.5); Fall term. MONDAY, 9:30 am to 12:00 noon; SSC 7405/09.
Start date: Monday, September 10, 2018.

2. Instructor Information

Prof. Don Saklofske
dsaklofs@uwo.ca
Office: SSC 7314

3. Course Description

This course is intended for psychology graduate students who need to develop test/assessment instruments such as questionnaires, short performance scales, observation schedules, interview checklists etc. for their current or planned research program. Students should know in advance what variables/factors they are intending to measure with this new developed instrument (e.g., resiliency, motivation, interpersonal conflict, happiness) and be familiar with the relevant research and assessment issues. Students should also have completed at least a foundational course in psychometrics as well as intermediate statistics and be familiar with statistical packages such as SPSS. It is expected that students will complete the basic literature review needed to operationalize their measure, develop prototypes and drafts of the scale/measure, and initiate data collection in order to provide a preliminary demonstration of the psychometric integrity and utility of the measure. While each project will stand alone, common themes such as test format options, item writing, reliability and validity, data collection, and standardization will be discussed in the larger group, creating a richer and collaborative/supportive learning opportunity.

Students interested in applying to this course **require** the approval of the instructor, and should meet with him/her to determine the 'goodness of fit'. A 1-2 page outline of the proposed measure should be submitted at or before this initial meeting.

4. Course Materials

Textbook and Other Useful References:

A reading list of key publications relevant to the measure being developed will be prepared by each student at the start of the class. Journals and book chapters will be recommended to either the group or individuals as required during the class.

5. Methods of Evaluation

Each student will complete a proposal of their intended outcomes which will be the 'criteria' by which grades are assigned. This class reflects both process/product in the creation of the proposed measure and thus the evaluation will be both formative and summative. Progress, decision making, and feedback will occur throughout the course.

6. Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).