

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
LONDON CANADA

Department of Psychology
Fall/Winter 2026

Psychology 2080A Section 001

INTRODUCTION TO TEST AND MEASUREMENT

1 Calendar Description

This course examines principles of psychological assessment in an applied context through lectures and demonstrations. Topics will include reliability and validity, legal and ethical issues in test construction, and selected controversial questions relating to assessment in areas such as personnel selection, standardized testing in schools, and group differences in test performance.

Antirequisite (s): Psychology 3840F/G

Prerequisite(s): None

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Unless otherwise stated, students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all prerequisites prior to enrolling. Where prerequisites have not been met, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the course. In accordance with Western policy, this decision is not subject to appeal.

In the event of a discrepancy between this outline and Senate or University policies, the latter shall prevail. The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of this course outline for pedagogical or operational reasons. Any such changes will be communicated to students in a timely manner.

2 Course Information

Instructor:	Dr. John Mitchell
Office & Phone:	SSC 6332, x86246
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 11:00 – 12:00 and Thursday 11:30 – 12:30, and by appointment. Meetings available in person and over Zoom; to schedule a Zoom meeting email me for the link.
Email:	jbmitche@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Time and Location of Classes: in-person course

Tuesdays 2:30 – 4:30, HSB 40

Thursdays 2:30 – 3:30, HSB 40

3 Course Material

Cohen, R. J., Schneider, W. J., & Tobin, R. (2025). *Psychological Testing and Assessment: An Introduction to Tests and Measurement*. 10th edition, McGraw-Hill.

ISBN10: 1264164270 | ISBN13: 9781264164271

The e-textbook is available through the Campus Book Store and from McGraw-Hill. The e-textbook is listed at \$69.⁰⁰; https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2026A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/PSY2080A.

Abbreviated versions of the slide shown in class will be available on the course website. These are *abbreviated* versions intended to provide a detailed outline for you to use when taking notes, but there will be some information that is shown in class that will not be on the posted slides.

4 Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcome	Learning Activity	Assessment
Depth and Breadth of Knowledge - Describe the different types of assessments used in psychological testing. - Be able to identify advantages and disadvantages of the different types of assessment	Weekly lectures, assigned readings.	Exams and Reflections
Knowledge of Methodologies - Distinguish between key concepts in test and measurement (e.g., reliability, validity). - Identify and explain common procedures and methods used in psychological testing and measurement.	Weekly lectures, assigned readings.	Exams and Reflections
Application of Knowledge Distinguish between approaches to	Weekly lectures, assigned readings.	Exams and Reflections

psychological testing in different applied areas such as education or counselling. • Understand construction of psychological testing instruments. • Compare competing approaches to the assessment of intelligence and personality and identify their strengths and weakness.		
Communication Skills • Appropriately describe the psychometric properties of a test. • Correctly describe different assessment forms, and their limitations and strengths	Weekly lectures, assigned readings.	Exams and Reflections
Awareness of Limits of Knowledge • Identify and think critically issues in testing such as fairness, bias, and test limitations.	Weekly lectures, assigned readings.	Exams and Reflections

5 Evaluation

The evaluation and testing formats for this course were created to assess the learning objectives as listed in section 4 and are necessary for meeting these learning objectives. All evaluations listed in this course outline are required components of the course and together account for 100% of the final grade. Weightings and assessment formats may be adjusted where required to support course learning objectives, with appropriate notice to students.

Reflections	20%
Midterm Examination	40%
Final Examination	40%

Reflections (20%) To encourage you to think about the course content you will complete **four** Reflections during the course. There are six available Reflections, and you need to complete four out of the six. If you complete more than the required four, the marks from your best four will be used in the calculation of your course grade

The reflections do not require any outside sources or library research, just that you think about the material we have covered in that part of the course. Each Reflection is worth 5% of the course grade. Each Reflection includes five points. The points that need to be addressed in each Reflection are:

- 1 Identify and briefly describe a “takeaway” from the chapter(s) of the textbook covered by that Reflection. This is something that you found interesting,

surprising, or especially relevant to your interests. You must include the page number in the textbook.

- 2 Explain why you chose the “takeaway” identified in point 1.
- 3 Identify one topic that you found unclear, difficult, or confusing. You must include the page number in the textbook.
- 4 Explain why the topic identified in point 3 was unclear, difficult, or confusing.
- 5 Identify a topic from the chapter(s) of the textbook covered by that Reflection that you would like to learn more about.

Reflections will be submitted via OWL Brightspace. The reflections will be quite brief, I expect that they will be 100 to 200 words in total, but word count per se is not part of the grading rubric.

Reflections will be accepted within 24 hours of the deadline without penalty as a form of universal accommodation. A Reflection submitted after this will be assessed a late penalty of one mark for each day late. Reflections submitted more than 5 days after the due date, will not be evaluated and a mark of zero will be assigned.

Note that no additional academic considerations will be given for missed Reflections. The flexibility included (four out of six required, accepted within 24 hours of deadline without penalty) is the consideration.

Examinations (80%). There will be a midterm and a final examination. The midterm is worth 40% of the course grade, and the final exam is worth 40% of the course grade. Both examinations will be multiple choice. The midterm is on October 20 during class time. The midterm will cover material from Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8, and the corresponding classes. The final examination will be held during the December exam period. The final examination will cover material from Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14, and the corresponding classes. Note that you are responsible for the entire chapter, including material that is not discussed in class.

Policy on Missing Coursework

Exams must be written on the scheduled dates unless you have a legitimate documented reason approved by your home faculty’s academic counselling office. A student who misses a scheduled exam for other reasons or does not have approval from an Academic Counselling office or Accessible Education will be assigned a mark of 0 for the exam. Students who have university approval to miss the midterm or final exam will be provided one opportunity for a makeup exam. If the makeup exam is missed due to a further accommodation students may take that exam the next time the course is offered.

Note that acceptable documentation and approval through your faculty’s academic counselling office is **required** for the midterm exam make-up; **academic consideration based on self-attestation cannot be used for the midterm exam.**

You need to complete four out of six Reflections, and they are due within 24 hours of the due date; hence these assignments include flexibility, and no further accommodations are available. Reflections will be accepted within 24 hours of the due date without penalty as a form of universal accommodation. A Reflection submitted after this will be assessed a late penalty of one mark for each day late. Reflections submitted more than 5 days after the originally scheduled due date, will not be evaluated and a mark of zero will be assigned

Students who encounter extenuating circumstances affecting their academic responsibilities may submit a request for academic consideration in accordance with Western University's Academic Consideration policies. Requests must be submitted through the [Student Absence Portal](#) and may require supporting documentation.

In the event that course grades are significantly higher or lower than these averages, instructors may be required to make adjustments to course grades. Such adjustment might include the normalization of one or more course components and/or the re-weighting of various course components.

Policy on Grade Rounding

Course grades are rounded to the nearest whole number. No additional assignments will be offered to enhance a final grade. Requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program will not be considered.

6 Assessment/Evaluation Schedule

Reflections: worth 20% of the course grade, due throughout the course. The deadline for submitting a Reflections is 5:00 p.m. on the due date.

<i>Reflection</i>	<i>Chapters</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
1. Background to Assessment, Cultural and Legal/Ethical issues	1, 2	September 21
2. Tests and Testing, Reliability, Validity	4, 5, 6	October 5
3. Utility and Test Development	7, 8	October 19
4. Assessment of Intelligence, Assessment in Education	9, 10	November 9
5. Personality	11, 12	November 23
6. Clinical Assessment	13, 14	December 7

Midterm Examination: 40%, October 20, during scheduled class time.

Final Examination: 40%, December examination period, scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

7 Class Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Sept. 10	Opening Class, Background to Assessment	1
15	Cultural and Legal/Ethical Considerations	2
17, 22	Statistics Refresher	3
	Tests and Testing	4
24, 29	Reliability	5
	Validity	6
Oct. 1, 6	Utility	7
8	Test Development	8
13, 15	<i>Reading Week</i>	
20	<i>Midterm</i>	
22, 27	Intelligence and Its Measurement	9
29	Assessment for Education	10
Nov. 3	Assessment for Education	10
5, 10, 12	Personality Assessment	11
12, 17, 19	Clinical and Counselling Assessment	12
24, 26	Neuropsychological Assessment	13
Dec. 1, 3	Assessment, Careers, and Business	14
8	Last Class	

Topics will be covered in the order given above. In some instance, the topic may extend to the following class. In class I will discuss those parts of the chapter that are the most important, most difficult, or the most interesting and will expand on some material to add depth, context, or update the information. For chapters that are on the class schedule you are responsible for the entire chapter, including sections that we do not cover in class.

8 Academic Integrity

Scholastic offences are treated seriously at Western University. Students are expected to understand and comply with the University's standards of academic integrity. Scholastic offences may result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University. Please read [Western's Scholastic Offences](#) policy for definitions and examples of Scholastic offences.

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

You are welcome to use your laptops, tablets and other devices in class to assist your learning. However, if you are going to use Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, watch YouTube, or browse various websites not related to course content, please sit at the back or edges of the classroom.

Research has shown that non-academic use of laptops and smartphones during class has a negative correlation with exam grades (Ravizza et al., 2014). That is, the more students use their devices in class on non-class tasks, the lower their marks on tests and exams, regardless of intellectual ability. What is most concerning is that not only do those students have lower marks, the students sitting behind them who can be distracted by their screens also score significantly lower on tests and exams (Sana et al., 2013).

If you choose to hurt your own academic performance, that is your decision. However, if in doing so you compromise the experience and success of those sitting near you, that is not acceptable. It is a matter of respect of your classmates

Plagiarism Detection Software

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 Western and Turnitin.com.

Use of AI

This course is designed to develop your own critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills. Accordingly, the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Claude, Copilot) to generate course content is **not permitted**, unless explicitly authorized by the instructor for a specific assignment. All use of artificial intelligence tools must comply with Western University's academic integrity standards.

Students may **not** use AI tools to:

- Generate written text, arguments, analyses, or interpretations
- Draft or rewrite assignment responses
- Paraphrase substantial portions of source material
- Create references or cite sources not independently verified

Limited, non-substantive uses of AI (e.g., spelling or grammar checks) may be permitted only if they do not alter the intellectual content of the work. Any permitted use must be explicitly disclosed. All submitted work must represent the student's own thinking and independent effort. Students are fully responsible for verifying the accuracy, originality, and integrity of any material they submit. Unauthorized or undisclosed use of AI constitutes a potential scholastic offence and will be handled in accordance with Western University's policies on academic integrity. Students are responsible for ensuring that all work complies with Western's scholastic integrity standards.

Multiple Choice Exams

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

9 Academic Accommodations and Accessible Education

Western University is committed to providing an accessible learning environment. Students with disabilities or medical conditions requiring accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessible Education as early as possible. Accommodations will be implemented in accordance with University policy. Please review [Western's policy on academic accommodations](#) for student with disabilities. Accessible Education provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western. If you think you may qualify for ongoing accommodation that will be recognized in all your courses, visit [Accessible Education](#) for more information. Email: aw@uwo.ca Phone: 519 661-2147

10 Absence & Academic Consideration

Please review Western's policy on [Academic Considerations](#)

11 Other Information

Helpful Websites

- Western's academic policies are available at the [Office of the Registrar](#).
- Departmental policies are available at the [Psychology Department website](#).
- Learning supports available at [Learning Development & Success](#).

Well-being

Western University provides a range of supports to promote student well-being. Students are encouraged to seek assistance when needed. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Health and Wellness at Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you.

Grade Appeals

If you wish to appeal a grade, please read the [policy documentation](#) on requests for relief. Please first contact the course instructor. If your issue is not resolved, you may make your appeal in writing to the Undergraduate Chair in Psychology (psyugrd@uwo.ca).

Copyright Statement

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