

California State University, San Marcos – Spring 2021 Syllabus <i>NOTE: this class was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic</i> <b>PSYC 402: Psychological Testing</b> Section 03 - CRN 21986 – Mo/We 4:30pm – 6:20pm – Online Section 04 - CRN 21987 – Mo/We 7:30pm – 9:20pm – Online  Website: <a href="https://csusm.diehr.com/psyc402">https://csusm.diehr.com/psyc402</a>  Prerequisites: PSYC 100 (Intro), 220 (Stats), 230 (Methods), and one advanced Lab (390 thru 396) must be completed with a grade of C (2.0) or higher.	Dr. Michael Diehr <a href="mailto:mdiehr@csusm.edu">mdiehr@csusm.edu</a> Phone: 760-566-6842  Office Hours: Wednesday 6:30pm-7:30pm and 9:30pm-10:30pm via Zoom  Any other time: via email
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**SCHEDULE:** *Subject to change – please check your CSUSM email and the course website regularly for updates.*

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings	Quiz	φ	Exam/Assignment
1	Mo Jan 25	Introduction	K01	0		Survey 1
	We Jan 27	Introduction	K01 G01-02	1	φ	Zoom breakout discussion
2	Mo Feb 01	Statistics & Norms	K02 G01-02			Start Exercise 1: Stats
	We Feb 03	Statistics & Norms	K02 G01-02	2	φ	
3	Mo Feb 08	Statistics & Norms	K02			Exercise 1 due
	We Feb 10	Correlation, Linear Regression	K03*	3	φ	Start Exercise 2: Prism
4	Mo Feb 15	Correlation, Linear Regression	K03*			Exercise 2 due
	We Feb 17	Correlation, Linear Regression	K03*		φ	Review for Midterm
5	Mo Feb 22	<b>Exam 1</b>				<b>K01,K02,K03,G01,G02</b>
	We Feb 24	Reliability	K04	4	φ	
6	Mo Mar 01	Validity	K05			Start Exercise 3: Lit. Search
	We Mar 03	Validity	K05	5	φ	
7	Mo Mar 08	Test Development	K06			Exercise 3 due
	We Mar 10	Test Development	K06	6	φ	Zoom breakout discussion
8	Mo Mar 15	Test Administration	K07	7	φ	Exercise 4: Take SII
	We Mar 17	<b>Exam 2</b>				Review for Midterm
9	Mo Mar 22	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>				<b>K04,K05,K06,K07</b>
	We Mar 24	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>				
10	Mo Mar 29	Begin Research Proposal	K16*		φ	Exercise 5: NEO-FFI
	We Mar 31	<b>HOLIDAY</b>				
11	Mo Apr 05	Clinical & Counseling	K13			
	We Apr 07	Clinical & Counseling	K13	8	φ	<b>Research Proposal Due</b>
12	Mo Apr 12	Intelligence	K09* G05*			Exercise 6: Survey
	We Apr 14	Intelligence	K09* G05*	9	φ	
13	Mo Apr 19	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G05**			
	We Apr 21	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G05**		φ	Career Discussion (?TBD)
14	Mo Apr 26	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G08***			
	We Apr 28	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G08***	10	φ	
15	Mo May 03	Review & Writing Workshop				
	We May 05	Review & Writing Workshop				<b>Research Paper Due</b>
16	Mo May 10	Neuropsychology	K17			
	We May 12	Future Trends	K15		φ	
17	Mo May 17	<i>Finals Week – No class or exam</i>				
	We May 19					

φ = earn online participation points

(\*) Notes about Reading Assignments: *Unless otherwise specified, read the entire chapter.*

K = Kaplan & Saccuzzo (2018) Psychological Testing

\* Ch 03: skip pages 87-97 (Multivariate Analysis)

\* Ch 16: read 427-433 (Strong scales)

G = Gould, S. (1996) The Mismeasure of Man

\* Ch 05 (Alfred Binet, p 176-188) \*\* Ch 05 (Goddard, p 188-204)

\* Ch 09: skip 231-238 (Early Binet Scales)

\* Ch 17: read 444-463 (Neuropsychology)

\*\*\* Ch 08 (Critique of the Bell Curve, p 367-378)

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## Overview of the Course

Psychological Testing and Assessment are the fields of psychology concerned with accurate measurement and quantification of the human psyche. This course will cover in depth the fundamentals of statistics, reliability, validity, norms, and test development, and will briefly survey most of the major forms of tests in use today, such as personality, cognitive, neuropsychological, educational, and vocational tests. We will focus on the controversy of IQ measurement and genetic determinism.

*This is a 16-week, online, 4-unit course with an expectation that students will spend 8-12 hours per week on coursework outside of class. This course includes synchronous activities: the class will meet online using Zoom during the scheduled class times (nearly every week). Attendance is required. I encourage you to have your camera on (but will not require it). Assignments have deadlines: The class is NOT self-paced. Make sure you have the time and resources to attend class and complete assignments on time. Learn more about the [CSUSM credit hour](#) policy for online courses.*

## Textbooks

Required: Gould, S. J. (1996). *The Mismeasure of Man*. (ISBN 0393314251)  
Recommended: Kaplan, R. M., & Saccuzzo, D. P. (2018) *Psychological Testing: Principles, Applications, and Issues* (9th ed.) (ISBN 9781337098137)  
Recommended: APA. (2019). *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.) (ISBN 9781433832161)

## Resources

Website: <https://csusm.diehr.com/psyc402>

Email: Checking your CSUSM email regularly is a requirement.

Office Hours: Will be held live (using Zoom) and via email. See first page for details.

Phone: Please try email first. In an emergency, you can leave voicemail or send a text message.

## Course Format:

Class will consist of lecture, discussions, exercises, quizzes, exams and a research paper. Please watch the lecture video and do all readings *before class* in preparation for discussion and quizzes. Most live online discussions will be on Wednesdays but some will be on Mondays. There will be two midterm exams. The research paper meets the CSUSM writing requirement of 2500+ words.

## Notes about Online Format

This class is traditionally given in person, and some of the experiences (such as working together on lab computers) will be difficult to do online. We will do our best under these difficult circumstances. Although the class is officially listed as 'synchronous,' many parts of it will be done in an asynchronous mode.

## Asynchronous

You can do these tasks whenever you prefer (*provided you meet the due dates*):

1. Watch the pre-recorded online lecture video (about 2 hours runtime per week)
2. Study the lecture notes, textbook, and additional readings
3. Take online quizzes
4. Work on take-home assignments and exercises
5. Email me for individual "office hours" help.

## Synchronous

These tasks have specific times and dates that you need to be available for. (*Always scheduled during the official class times*):

1. Online Exams
2. Office hours (over Zoom) for individual help
3. \*\* Breakout Sessions – group discussion of the quiz, lecture notes, exercises, and reviews for exams. *These count towards online participation credit. See the column labeled  $\phi$  on page 1.*

## Quizzes

Quizzes are for self-evaluation – you will earn 5 points for taking the quiz before the deadline and 4 points if late. You may re-take each quiz multiple times and use it as a study guide for exams. You must score at least 50% correct on the quiz to get credit.

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## Grading

Item	Points
Quizzes (Ten @ 5 points credit/no credit)	50
Midterm Exam 1	100
Midterm Exam 2	100
Research Paper (proposal 50, paper 100)	150
Exercises	45
Online Participation (14 weeks @ 5 points) = 70 points, only 55 points needed: <i>up to 15 bonus points possible</i>	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

### Points and Grades

Grades are on a traditional grading curve (approximately 73% for a "C" to 93% for an "A"). The curve will be adjusted at the instructor's discretion. Plus and Minus grades (e.g. A-, B+) are given. You will receive frequent emails with your point breakdown and estimated grade.

## Policy

### Attendance & Participation

Active participation is expected, both in synchronous tasks (such as live Zoom discussions) and asynchronous tasks (readings, lecture videos, assignments, exercises, etc.).

The highest points will be given to a student who:

- Actively participates in most of the live discussion sessions (synchronous)

- Asks relevant questions showing good preparation

- Helps other students by answering their questions

*Important: Students lacking participation by week 2 may be dropped for non-attendance.*

### Excused Absences

Death, serious illness or injury to student or immediate family member, with adequate documentation (doctor's note, police report, or note from the Dean's office) may be considered excused at instructor's discretion. Pre-arranged absences for religious, government or university-sanctioned reasons must be arranged with instructor *at least one week in advance*. When an absence is excused, late work will be accepted without penalty and/or an alternative or make-up will be given.

### Late Assignments

Unexcused late assignments will incur a one-letter-grade deduction per missed class session.

### Students with Disabilities

In compliance with federal ADA laws: If you have a need for any accommodations, special test-taking arrangements, or help accessing any class materials because of a verified physical, cognitive, or perceptual limitation, meet with *Disability Support Services* first then contact me before week 2.

### Academic Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism (presenting the words or ideas of others as your own) or falsification of data will result in failure of the assignment, possible failure of the course, and notification of the offense to the University. Students are expected to abide by the CSUSM Student Academic Honesty Policy; the instructor will abide by the procedures for reporting violations. See

[https://www.csusm.edu/policies/active/documents/academic\\_honesty\\_policy.html](https://www.csusm.edu/policies/active/documents/academic_honesty_policy.html)

### Recording

Students may not record or stream audio or video from this class except in accordance with ADA accommodations or with explicit permission of the instructor. If allowed, these are for the student's personal academic use only, may not be distributed in any manner, and must be deleted at the end of the semester.

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## Course Catalog Description

PSYC 402 (4) Psychological Testing – Principles and practices of group and individual testing in aptitude, intelligence, interest, and personality. Theory, construction, evaluation, interpretation, uses, and limits of psychological tests. Reliability, validity, item analysis, norms, and test construction and selection. Ethical, sociocultural, and gender issues in testing. Prerequisites: PSYC 100, 220, and 230 and one upper-division PSYC lab course must be completed with a grade of C (2.0) or better.

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## Program Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) – Psychology 402

### *For Psychology Majors*

PSLO1: Describe the major concepts theories, empirical findings, historical trends in psychology and their application to behavioral and mental processes. PSLO2: Describe the scientific approach to psychology and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, quantitative analysis, interpretation, and reporting in APA format. PSLO3: Apply creative and critical thinking and employ skeptical inquiry to addressing issues and solving problems related to psychological phenomenon.

### *Specific Targets*

To meet these SLOs: students will review the history of psychological testing, applying their understanding to creating a novel test instrument which will be evaluated for its psychometric properties such as reliability, validity, etc. Students will document these results in an APA-format research paper. Skepticism will be emphasized by reviewing the limitations of psychological testing from both a technical (psychometric) viewpoint as well as a historical / sociocultural approach. Issues pertaining to IQ testing and the law will be a focus for applying critical thinking skills.

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End of Syllabus.