

**PSYC 402: Psychological Testing**

Section 03 - CRN 41922 – Mo/We 2:30pm - 4:20pm – SBSB 1101

Section 04 - CRN 41956 – Mo/We 5:30pm - 7:20pm – SBSB 2107

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

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

[mdiehr@csusm.edu](mailto:mdiehr@csusm.edu)

Phone: 760-566-6842

Office Hours:

SBSB 3236 in person

Mo/We 4:15pm – 5:15pm

Any other time:  
via email**SCHEDULE:** Subject to change – please check your CSUSM email and the course website regularly for updates.

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings	Quiz	$\phi$	Exam/Assignment
1	Mo Aug 29	Introduction	K01	0		
	We Aug 31	Introduction	K01 G01-02	1	$\phi$	<i>Breakout discussion</i>
2	Mo Sep 05	<b>HOLIDAY</b>				
	We Sep 07	Statistics & Norms	K02 G01-02	2	$\phi$	Start Exercise 1: Stats
3	Mo Sep 12	Statistics & Norms	K02			<i>Exercise 1 Due</i>
	We Sep 14	Correlation, Linear Regression	K03*	3	$\phi$	
4	Mo Sep 19	Correlation, Linear Regression	K03*			Start Exercise 2
	We Sep 21	Correlation, Linear Regression	K03*		$\phi$	<i>Exercise 2 Due</i> Review for Midterm
5	Mo Sep 26	<b>Exam 1</b>				<b>K01,K02,K03,G01,G02</b>
	We Sep 28	Reliability	K04	4	$\phi$	
6	Mo Oct 03	Validity	K05	5	$\phi$	
	We Oct 05	Validity	K05			Start Exercise 3
7	Mo Oct 10	Test Development	K06	6	$\phi$	<i>Breakout discussion</i>
	We Oct 12	Test Development	K06			<i>Exercise 3 Due</i> Exercise 4: Take SII (online) <b>Careers Discussion (optional)</b>
8	Mo Oct 17	Test Administration	K07	7	$\phi$	
	We Oct 19	Test Administration	K07			<i>Review for Midterm</i>
9	Mo Oct 24	<b>Exam 2</b>				<b>K04,K05,K06,K07</b>
	We Oct 26	Begin Research Proposal	K16*		$\phi$	Exercise 5: NEO-FFI
10	Mo Oct 31	Clinical & Counseling	K13	8	$\phi$	
	We Nov 02	Clinical & Counseling	K13			<b>Research Proposal Due</b>
11	Mo Nov 07	Intelligence	K09* G05*	9	$\phi$	Exercise 6: Survey
	We Nov 09	Intelligence	K09* G05*			
12	Mo Nov 14	Intelligence – WAIS	K10			
	We Nov 16	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G05**	10	$\phi$	
13	Mo Nov 21	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G08***			<b>Careers Discussion (optional)</b>
	We Nov 23	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G08***			
14	Mo Nov 28	Projective Testing	K14		$\phi$	
	We Nov 30	Review & Writing Workshop				<b>Research Paper Due</b>
15	Mo Dec 05	Neuropsychological Assessment	K17*			
	We Dec 07	Computerized Assessment	K15		$\phi$	
16	Mo Dec 12	<i>Finals Week – No class or exam</i>				
	We Dec 14	<i>Finals Week – No class or exam</i>				

 $\phi$  = earn participation points

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

K = Kaplan &amp; Saccuzzo (2018) Psychological Testing

\* Ch 03: skip pages 87-97 (Multivariate Analysis) \* Ch 09: skip 231-238 (Early Binet Scales)

\* Ch 16: read 427-433 (Strong scales) \* Ch 17: read 444-463 (Neuropsychology)

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

\* Ch 05 (Alfred Binet, p 176-188) \*\* Ch 05 (Goddard, p 188-204) \*\*\* Ch 08 (Critique of the Bell Curve, p 367-378)

(Continued...)

## 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 4-unit course with an expectation that students will spend 8-12 hours per week on coursework outside of class.*

*If we need to switch to online classes due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, we will hold these synchronously during scheduled class times over Zoom. When attending online, I encourage you to have your camera on (but will not require it).*

## 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: See first page for details.  
Phone: Please try email first. In an emergency, you can leave voicemail.

## Course Format:

Class will consist of lecture, discussions, and in-class exercises. Please complete quizzes and readings before class in preparation for lectures and quizzes. There will be two midterm exams (multiple choice, closed notes). The research proposal and paper meet the CSUSM 2500 word writing requirement.

### Quizzes

Quizzes are for self-evaluation and earn 5 points if on time and 4 points if late. At least 50% correct on the quiz is required to earn points. You get unlimited attempts at each quiz.

## 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 (in class and online)	45
Attendance & Participation (14 weeks @ 5 points) = 70 points, only 55 points needed, <i>up to 15 bonus/make-up 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.

(Continued...)

## **Policy**

### Attendance & Participation

Attendance and participation points are given for discussion questions you prepare before lectures. *Students with absences in week 1 or 2 may be dropped to make room for a student on the waitlist.*

### 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, and must be deleted at the end of the semester.

---

## **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.

---

## **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.

---

End of Syllabus.