

California State University, San Marcos – Spring 2025 Syllabus

PSYC 402: Psychological Testing

Section 04 - CRN 21998 – Mo/We 12:30pm – 2:20pm – SBSB 1101

Section 03 - CRN 21997 – Mo/We 3:30pm – 5:20pm – SBSB 2107

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

Prerequisites: PSYC 100 (Intro), 220 (Stats), 230 (Methods), and one advanced Lab (391 thru 396) must be completed with a grade of C (2.0) or higher.

Dr. Michael Diehr

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Phone: 760-539-0006

Office Hours: By appointment,

please email first (if possible)

SBSB 3236 in person

Mo/We 2:15pm – 3:15pm

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	φ	Exam/Assignment
1	Mo Jan 20	HOLIDAY				
	We Jan 22	Introduction	K01	0		
2	Mo Jan 27	Introduction	K01 G01-02	1	φ	<i>Breakout discussion</i>
	We Jan 29	Statistics & Norms	K02 G01-02	2	φ	Start Exercise 1 (in class)
3	Mo Feb 03	Statistics & Norms	K02 G01-02			
	We Feb 05	Correlation, Linear Regression	K03*	3	φ	<i>Exercise 1 Due</i>
4	Mo Feb 10	Correlation, Linear Regression	K03*			Start Exercise 2 (in class)
	We Feb 12	Correlation, Linear Regression	K03*			<i>Exercise 2 Due</i>
						<i>Review for Midterm</i>
5	Mo Feb 17	Midterm 1				K01,K02,K03,G01,G02
	We Feb 19	Reliability	K04	4	φ	
6	Mo Feb 24	Validity	K05	5	φ	
	We Feb 26	Validity	K05			Start Exercise 3 (in class)
7	Mo Mar 03	Test Development	K06	6	φ	<i>Breakout discussion</i>
	We Mar 05	Test Development	K06			<i>Exercise 3 Due</i>
						Exercise 4: Take SII (online)
						Careers Discussion (optional)
8	Mo Mar 10	Test Administration	K07	7	φ	
	We Mar 12	Test Administration	K07			<i>Review for Midterm</i>
9	Mo Mar 17	Midterm 2				K04,K05,K06,K07
	We Mar 19	Begin Research Proposal	K16*	8	φ	Exercise 5: NEO-FFI (in class)
10	Mo Mar 24	Clinical & Counseling	K13	9	φ	
	We Mar 26	Clinical & Counseling	K13			
11	We Mar 31	Spring Break				
	Mo Apr 02	Spring Break				
12	Mo Apr 07	Intelligence	K09* G05*			Project Proposal Due
	We Apr 09	Intelligence	K09* G05*	10	φ	Exercise 6: Survey (online)
13	Mo Apr 14	Intelligence – WAIS	K10			Begin Data Analysis (in class)
	We Apr 16	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G05**			Begin Data Analysis (in-class)
14	Mo Apr 21	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G08***			
	We Apr 23	Intelligence – Controversy	K19 G08***			
15	Mo Apr 28	Projective Testing	K14		φ	
	We Apr 30	Review & Writing Workshop				Project Due
16	Mo May 05	Neuropsychology	K17*		φ	
	We May 07	Future Trends	K15		φ	
17	Mo May 12	<i>Finals Week – No class or exam</i>				
	We May 14	<i>Finals Week – No class or exam</i>				

(*) Reading Assignments: *Read the entire chapter except for...*

φ = attendance + participation points

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

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

* Ch 17: read 444-463 (Neuropsychology)

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

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). The research project and other exercises 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 Project	150
Exercises (in class and online)	50
Attendance & Participation (10 weeks @ 5 points) = 50 points, with <i>up to 15 bonus/make-up points possible</i>	50
Total	500

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

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.*

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Excused Absences

Death, serious illness or injury to student or immediate family member, with adequate documentation (doctor's note, note from the Dean's office, etc.) 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 Integrity

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://csusm.policystat.com/policy/7984230/latest>

Use of AI tools including ChatGPT and other LLM (large language models) are generally not allowed and will be considered a violation of academic integrity policies. Specific use cases may be permitted, but it is your responsibility to get permission for any such use by discussing the details with your instructor prior to starting an assignment.

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.