

PSYC*4290, Course Outline: Winter 2026

General Information

Some courses are offered virtually and some face to face. This course is offered using the Face-to-Face format. The course has set day, time, and location of class.

Course Title: Psychological Measurement

Course Description:

This course focuses on training students how to conduct research such that measurement theory guides measure selection and construction. Consequences of measurement theory (reliability/validity) for the accuracy of research findings and interpretation of test scores are also covered. A variety of individual difference variables are examined with an emphasis on how measurement strategies differ depending on the nature of the construct.

Credit Weight: 0.5 credits

Academic Department (or campus): Psychology

Semester Offering: Winter

Class Schedule and Location: Wed 7-9:500pm CRSC, 116

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Rebecca Pister (She/Her)

Instructor Email: rpister@uoguelph.ca

Office location and office hours: [Mondays from 4-5pm on Zoom](#) and Wednesdays at 6:30 CRSC 116

GTA Information

Contacting your TAs

- For general email – please use the breakdown below
- For office hours, please use whichever option works best.
- For specific questions about your grading, email the TA who was responsible for the grading of that assignment. Their name will be noted in the feedback section.

Students AB-KH

GTA Name: Sierra Mihalco (She/Her)

GTA Email: smihalco@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: [Tuesdays 10-11 on Teams](#)

Students KI-ZA

GTA Name: Ralitzia Dimova GTA

Email: rdimova@uoguelph.ca

GTA office location and office hours: [Mondays from 10-11 am on Teams](#)

No general emails

Oliver Twardus GTA

Email: otwardus@uoguelph.ca

Course Content

Specific Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to help you meet several learning outcomes. By the end of this course you should be able to:

1. Recognize, experience, and critically assess commonly used psychological tests
2. Describe and explain the fundamental principles of psychological measurement and testing
3. Construct and evaluate psychological tests and measures
4. Assess the psychometric properties of test items and results using course concepts and SPSS
5. Articulate your understanding of different score formats (e.g., t-score, z-score etc.)
6. Identify and explain ethical and political issues related to psychological testing
7. Apply APA standards in written course assignments

Lecture Content

Week	Date	Topic	Materials	Assignments and Activities Due
1	Jan 7	Course Intro and The History of Testing	Ch. 1	None
		Basic Statistics	Ch 2, 5	
2	Jan 14	Basic Statistics	Ch. 2, 5	None
3	Jan 21	Correlation and Regression	Ch. 5	Stats Assignment 1 Score
		Reliability	Ch. 3	Transformations
	Jan 25	Not a class day		Stats Assignment 2 Correlations
4	Jan 28	Group scale development	N/A	Initial Scale on Google Forms
		Validity	Ch. 4	
	Feb 1	Not a class day		Stats Assignment 3 Reliability

5	Feb 4	Test Formats – Qualitative and Quantitative	Ch 6, 7, 8	Stats Assignment 4 Validity
6	Feb 11	Stats Test	Ch 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, course content	Stats Test
		Data Analysis	N/A	
	Feb 15	Not a Class Day		Complete Assigned Scales
	Feb 18	Reading Week		
7	Feb 25	Group Data Analysis	N/A	
		Intelligence Testing	Online resources	
8	Mar 4	Intelligence Testing	Online resources	Intelligence Test
		Intelligence Testing/High Stakes Testing	Ch. 9	
9	Mar 11	High Stakes Testing	Ch. 9	Intelligence Test Reflection
	Mar 15	Not a class day		Test Construction paper due
10	Mar 18	Personality	Ch. 8 and Online resources	Personality Test
11	Mar 25	Personality	Ch. 10	Clinical Test
		Clinical Testing	Ch. 10	
	Mar 29	Not a class day		High Stakes Reflection
12	April 1	Clinical Testing	Online resources	Personality Test Reflection
13	April 5	Not a class day	N/A	Clinical Test Reflection
	April 12	Not a class day	N/A	Scale Selection Paper

Course Assignments and Tests:

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Stats Assignments Pick any two	#1 Jan 21 st #2 Jan 25 th #3 Feb 1 st #4 Feb 4 th	10% (5% per assignment)	2 and 5
Stats Test	February 11 th	20%	2 and 5
Test Construction and Evaluation Completed in groups of 4	Scale development - (in class) Jan 28 th Scale completion – Feb 15th Final paper – Mar 15 th	25%	2, 4, 5, 3, and 7

Assignment or Test	Due Date	Contribution to Final Mark (%)	Learning Outcomes Assessed
Test Inventories Reflections Pick any two	#1 – Mar 4 th and 11 th #2 – Mar 20 th and April 1 st #3 – Mar 29 th #4 – Mar 25 th and April 5 th	15% (7.5% each)	3, 4, 1, and 2
Test Selection and Interpretation	April 12 th	25%	1, 2, 4, 6, and 7
Scale Completion, class attendance and discussions	Second half of term only	5% 1% is from scale completion, 4% attendance	

A few notes

- Scale completion due Feb 15 is an individual assignment
- For test inventories – the first due date is the date by which you have to have taken the scale that will be assigned to you so that we can discuss in class. The second date is the reflection due date.
- For test inventories - #3 is on high stakes testing. You can only complete this reflection option if you have taken one of the tests we will be discussing ie the EQAO, OSSLT, GRE, MCAT, or LSAT.

Course Resources

Recommended Text:

Salkind, N.J. & Frey, B. B., (2022). Tests and Measurement for People Who (Think They) Hate Tests and Measurement (4th edition). SAGE Publications.

ISBN: 9781071817179

Cost of Texts:

The cost of the text for this course is \$108.00 at the campus bookstore. Students are welcome to use second-hand copies of the textbook or purchase the textbook from alternate locations. The 3rd edition of this text is also acceptable. The prices in other locations may differ from that at the bookstore and prices at the bookstore are subject to change.

Other Resources:

Course content, including lectures, assignments, and other articles of interest will be posted on Courouselink. You will need to access SPSS in order to complete the scale construction and evaluation assignment. You can download it free here:

<https://uoguelphca.sharepoint.com/sites/ccs/SitePages/software/software/catalog.aspx>

Course Policies

Grading Policies

All course assignments will be submitted to Dropboxes on Courselink.

There is a 24hr grace period for all assign except the scale development and completion tasks. Reports and assignments which are handed in after this will receive a penalty of 5% per day. Assignments submitted more than seven days after the initial due date will receive a grade of 0. Extension of a deadline without penalty will be granted only in rare circumstances or in cases of illness, and only with advanced communication with me. A doctor's note may be required if several extensions are requested. This is particularly important because most of the assignments for this course build off of one another.

Make up tests will only be offered in extenuating circumstances or as a result of illness, with a doctor's note or other verification of illness. You must reach out to me within 48 hours of missing the test or will receive an automatic grade of 0.

Additional policies for undergraduate courses can be found here: [Undergraduate Grading Procedures](#)

Course Policy on Group Work:

With the exception of the scale development and analysis project, all assignments must be submitted as individual work. You may choose to work with your peers on the statistics assignments as this helps to facilitate learning, however you must upload your own work for grading.

There will be a group component to this course with the scale development and analysis paper. For this paper, you will be creating a scale as a group analyzing the data, and writing a final paper in groups of 4. All group members must clearly identify the parts that they worked on.

All other coursework is individual and must be your own.

The use of generative AI (ChatGPT etc) is prohibited and assignments completed using AI will receive a zero. If it is suspected that you have used AI, you will need to provide verifiable proof demonstrating the authenticity of your work.

- For example, providing information from a Word document that shows the date the document was created, the date it was last updated, and the total amount of time spent editing your work or a version history from Google Docs.
- Draft notes or outlines
- Other evidence showing your writing process A good rule of thumb: these reflections should sound like you, using course ideas accurately, and responding directly to the prompts.

Course Policy regarding use of electronic devices and recording of lectures:

Electronic recording of classes is expressly forbidden without consent of the instructor. When recordings are permitted, they are solely for the use of the authorized student and may not be reproduced, or transmitted to others, without the express written consent of the instructor.

University Policies

Disclaimer:

Please note that a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules is occasionally required. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email. This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules.

Academic Consideration

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the academic calendar for information on regulations and procedures for

Academic Consideration:

[Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community, faculty, staff, and students to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.

University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection. Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

[Academic Misconduct Policy](#)

Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 54335 or email accessibility@uoguelph.ca or the [Student Accessibility Services Website](#)

Student Feedback Questionnaire

These questionnaires (formerly course evaluations) will be available to students during the last 2 weeks of the semester. Students will receive an email directly from the Student Feedback Administration system which will include a direct link to the questionnaire for this course. During this time, when a student goes to login to CourseLink, a reminder will pop-up when a task is available to complete.

[Student Feedback Questionnaire](#)

Drop date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is Friday April 3, 2026. For regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses, see the [Schedule of Dates in the Academic Calendar](#).

Instructors must provide [meaningful and constructive feedback, at minimum 20% of the final course grade, prior to the 40th class day](#). For courses which are of shorter duration, 20% of the final grade must be provided two-thirds of the way through the course.

[Current Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Additional Course Information

Course instructors are allowed to use software to help in detecting plagiarism or unauthorized copying of student assignments. Plagiarism is one of the most common types of academic misconduct on our campus. Plagiarism involves students using the work, ideas and/or the exact wording of other people or sources without giving proper credit to others for the work, ideas and/or words in their papers. Students can unintentionally commit misconduct because they do not know how to reference outside sources properly or because they don't check their work carefully enough before handing it in. Whether or not a student intended to commit academic

misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

In this course, your instructor will be using Turnitin.com to detect possible plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration or copying as part of the ongoing efforts to prevent plagiarism in the College of Social and Applied Human Sciences.

A major benefit of using Turnitin is that students will be able to educate and empower themselves in preventing misconduct. In this course, you may screen your own assignments through Turnitin as many times as you wish before the due date. You will be able to see and print reports that show you exactly where you have properly and improperly referenced the outside sources and materials in your assignment.