Instructor: Michiyo Hirai, Ph.D.  E-mail: Please use “Course Messages” on Blackboard
Office #: ELABN 352  Office Hours: by appointment

If you are taking another course that uses a Cengage textbook, you might want to consider Cengage Unlimited: https://www.cengage.com/unlimited

Prerequisite Courses:

Psychology 2301 (General Psychology) and 2401 (Basic Statistics for Psychology) are prerequisites for this course.

Prerequisite Computer Skills:

You should be comfortable and able to navigate online. If you do not have computer skills, please do not take this course. A basic level of computer skills is a prerequisite, and teaching these skills is not part of the course.

Course Objectives:

Applied psychology is primarily built upon assessment and testing. A major goal of this course is to develop an understanding of how psychologists evaluate behavior using scientific principles of assessment. Skills necessary to evaluate the usefulness of testing and the value of test scores are emphasized. Course content also includes concentration on the theoretical aspects of test construction and the major types of standardized tests used in industry, schools, and mental health settings. At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Explain statistical concepts related to test construction and the psychometric properties of test scores
2. Assess whether tests provide reliable and valid scores
3. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of various categories of tests and discuss applications and usefulness of tests in each category
4. Explain how to administer and interpret certain tests
5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of test bias, professional and ethical issues in testing

This course also helps to address the three broad Student Learning Outcomes that are targeted for all psychology majors. By the end of the psychology program, it is expected that all psychology majors will:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology,
2. Understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation, and
3. Respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.

Course Requirements:

Technical requirements:
This is an online course. Course materials, assignments, and announcements will be posted on Blackboard. Thus, it is imperative that you can establish a stable internet connection (or have access to a stable internet
connection) whenever necessary, install the Respondus Lockdown Browser, have a webcam, have access to Blackboard, and know how to use the required and useful functions (e.g., how to submit an assignment, how to review a submitted assignment). It is strongly recommended that you prepare other ways to access the course site (e.g., using campus computers, etc.) in case you have trouble connecting to the internet from home. For more information visit COLTT.

**Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor (a webcam)**
This course requires the use of the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor (a webcam) for the online pre test, post test, and exams administered on Blackboard. The course requires the Respondus Lockdown Browser without a webcam for the online quizzes. The webcam can be built into your computer or can be the type that plugs in with a USB cable. Watch this short video (the link is also available on Blackboard) to get a basic understanding of the Respondus Lockdown Browser and the webcam features. You can download the software from Blackboard and also from the following site:


For each test/exam, be sure to:

- Open the assigned exam using the Respondus Lockdown Browser and have access to a webcam. Be sure your webcam is functioning and not covered.
- Be sure that you take a photo of yourself, a photo of your ID card (e.g., Student ID Card)
- Try to take a video of the 360 degrees of your surrounding environment (e.g., walls, desk, etc.). A video of limited degrees of your surrounding environment is not considered required information. It is very important that you prove you do NOT have your notes, cellphone, study guides, additional device to look at the course material at Blackboard, or any study materials around you while taking the exam.
- Be sure the webcam is facing you at all times during the exam. (e.g., webcam should not be facing the ceiling).
- Try to keep your face toward your computer monitor/screen during the exam. Looking at other directions for a prolonged period of time can be considered cheating.
- Another person cannot be with you during the exam.
- Failure to comply with the above requirements and additional requirements posted on Blackboard will make your exam score a zero (0).

Also be sure you know the following:

- Establish a stable connection and maintain the connection for the period of time in which you complete an assigned test/quiz/exam. A loss of connection does not give you extension.
- Do not attempt to use other software or see files while using the Respondus Lockdown Browser. Such attempts can cause the Respondus Lockdown Browser and your computer to stop running or freeze.
- In case your computer stops running or you are kicked out (you may receive a message, but ignore it), restart your computer, establish a stable connection, open the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor, and go back to Blackboard as soon as possible to continue the task. Once the clock starts, it will not stop.

**IMPORTANT**: Here is the message from the Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technologies: “Wi-fi is not recommended when taking exams with the Lockdown Browser. Wi-fi connections are extremely unreliable, which could cause the lockdown browser to lock a student out of their exam. In these cases, students would need to restart the lockdown browser to complete the exam.” If you decide to use wi-fi, make sure its signal is strong and stable and also use it at our own risk. Again once the clock for an exam starts, it will not stop.

**Blackboard attendance and preparation:**
This is NOT a self-paced course. You are required to complete all readings, quizzes, assignments, and exams by the due dates. Please know that this online course does NOT offer you schedule flexibility you might wish to
exams will be dropped. The final exa
See the Course Calendar for the exam dates.
before its deadline to ensure that you will complete the preparation steps and the entire exam by the deadline.
resolve any technical difficulties before starting the exam.
norm for internet course exams). Exams are
and
will consist of
the calendar below.
There will be three (3) non
exams and a cumulative final exam (100 pts each)
There will be three (3) non-cumulative exams and a cumulative final examine on the designated dates listed on the calendar below. You will need the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor to take exams. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple choice items covering information drawn from the textbook, quizzes, assignments, and slides. You will have 50 minutes to complete each exam. This gives you about 1 minute per question (the norm for internet course exams). Exams are NOT open book and you will not have time to use your notes or book. You are not allowed to have another device (e.g., phone, tablet, computer) to access blackboard, etc., while taking an exam. You are not allowed to use the study guides, notes, slides, etc., while taking an exam. You will have a 24-hour window to complete the exam within 50 minutes. You are allowed to take each exam only once. It is strongly recommended that you prepare your computer and check connection stability and resolve any technical difficulties before starting the exam. You should start an exam more than 60 minutes before its deadline to ensure that you will complete the preparation steps and the entire exam by the deadline. See the Course Calendar for the exam dates. Your lowest score among your scores on the three non-cumulative exams will be dropped. The final exam is mandatory.

Text readings and activities:
In order to maximize your understanding and retention of course material, you are expected to complete assigned readings and activities fully on your own during the designated periods of time.

Pre test and Post test (1.0 pts x 2 tests = 2 pts)
You are required to take two multiple-choice tests at the beginning of the semester and at the end of the semester. You will have 10 minutes to complete each test. This gives you about 1 minute per question (the norm for internet course quizzes and exams). Each test is worth 1 pt. You will need the Respondus Lockdown Browser and Monitor to take the pre test and post test. You will be given 1 point for a completed test, regardless of your actual score. See the course calendar for the due dates. There are NO make-ups for the pre and post tests.

Quizzes: (2.0 pts x 10 quizzes = 20.0 pts)
You are required to take a quiz (covering one chapter) per week on Blackboard. Thus, you are expected to have studied the assigned chapters before they begin. Each quiz consists of 10 multiple-choice items. Each item is worth 0.2 points and thus you can earn up to 2.0 points per quiz. You will need the Respondus Lockdown Browser. A webcam is not used. You will have 10 minutes to complete each quiz. This gives you about 1 minute per question (the norm for internet course quizzes and exams). There will be 10 chapters and thus you will have 10 quizzes in total. You are allowed only one attempt per quiz. You will not be able to take a quiz after its deadline. There are NO make-ups for any of the quizzes for any reasons or circumstances because you have flexibilities in terms of where and when you take a quiz. See the Course Calendar below for the due dates.

Assignments: (3.0 pts x 10 assignments = 30.0 pts)
You are required to complete an assignment (covering one chapter) per week on Blackboard. There will be 10 individual assignments in total. The number of items varies across assignments. You can earn up to 3.0 points per assignment. You can save your answers to an assignment and resume it later until its deadline. Make sure you submit your final answers, because you are allowed only one submission per homework assignment. You will not be able to complete an assignment after its deadline. No make-ups for any of the assignments will be given for any reasons or circumstances because you have flexibilities in terms of where and when you complete assignments. See the Course Calendar below for the due dates.

Please make sure you check spelling before submitting your fill-in-the-blanks answers. Wrongly spelled answers will receive a zero automatically by Blackboard.
No one else (e.g., family member, boyfriend, girlfriend, classmate) should be in the room where you take an exam, unless you notify me ahead of time about your special circumstance that requires someone else to be in the room (e.g., having children to take care of, taking the exam at a campus facility such as at the library or a computer lab due to lack of internet/webcam at home).

Make-up Exam Policy:

Make up exams will only be offered in very rare circumstances (e.g., receiving a surgery, attending a funeral).

Extra Credit:

This course will NOT offer extra credit.

Grading:

Two regular exams, the final exam, 10 quizzes, 10 assignments, and pre and post tests will be used as summative measures of individual learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 regular exams</td>
<td>200 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 quizzes</td>
<td>20 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 assignments</td>
<td>30 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-test and post-test</td>
<td>2 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>352 pts</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be no grade curves in this course. Final grades will be based on the following scale:

- **A:** 315.00-352.00 pts
- **B:** 280.00-314.99 pts
- **C:** 245.00-279.99 pts
- **D:** 210.00-244.99 pts
- **F:** 0.00-209.99 pts

Exact scores (no rounding) will be used to determine grades. No negotiation will be offered (e.g., My total score is 314.99. Is there anything I can do to receive an A? No).

Course Structure on Blackboard:

Please go to Blackboard and find the following content and tools. You will frequently visit these areas to learn the material, complete quizzes and assignments, and take exams.

- Syllabus
- Learning Units: You will find information about chapters to read, links to slides, quizzes, and assignments.
- Exams: You will take the exams from here.
- Course Messages: Please use this function to send and receive class related email.

Please visit Blackboard as frequently as possible in order not to miss required learning elements and information posted on it. The instructor may frequently post important information such as announcements about additional instructions for assignments, schedule changes, and other important changes.
**Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects your academic performance) and would like to receive academic accommodations, please inform your instructor and contact Student Accessibility Services to schedule an appointment to initiate services. It is recommended that you schedule an appointment with Student Accessibility Services before classes start. However, accommodations can be provided at any time. **Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in Cortez Hall Room 129 and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 (Voice) or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu. **Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 (Voice), (956) 665-3840 (Fax), or via email at accessibility@utrgv.edu.

**Scholastic Integrity:**

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism, and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to the Dean of Students.

**Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, and Violence:**

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “responsible employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, or sexual harassment about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct and discrimination.

**Course Drops:**

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**Mandatory Course Evaluation Period:**

Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available: TBA
Contact:

Please use Course Messages on Blackboard. I have set aside specific times in my weekly schedule when I will respond to course messages from this class. I will send out responses to your messages on Monday and Wednesday mornings and Friday afternoons. Please note: Your course messages arrived from late Friday afternoon to the weekend will not be answered until the next Monday or Tuesday (if Monday is a holiday). No response will be given to course messages on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

COURSE CALENDAR

NOTE: This schedule is TENTATIVE and I reserve the right to make changes as the semester progresses. Any changes will be announced on Blackboard.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st week</td>
<td>Jan 14- Jan 18</td>
<td>Syllabus Download Respondus Lockdown Browser</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pre test</td>
<td>Jan 18 at 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 1</td>
<td>Jan 22- Jan 25</td>
<td>Chapter 2 &amp; Slides Take Chapter 2 quiz</td>
<td>Jan 23 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Chapter 2 assignment</td>
<td>Jan 25 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 28- Feb 1</td>
<td>Chapter 3 &amp; Slides Take Chapter 3 quiz</td>
<td>Jan 30 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Chapter 3 assignment</td>
<td>Feb 1 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 4- Feb 8</td>
<td>Chapter 4 &amp; Slides Take Chapter 4 quiz</td>
<td>Feb 6 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Chapter 4 assignment</td>
<td>Feb 8 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb 11- Feb 15</td>
<td>Chapter 5 &amp; Slides Take Chapter 5 quiz</td>
<td>Feb 13 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Chapter 5 assignment</td>
<td>Feb 15 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Feb 22</td>
<td>Exam 1 (50 minutes)</td>
<td>Feb 22 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit 2</td>
<td>Feb 25- Mar 1</td>
<td>Chapter 7 &amp; Slides Take Chapter 7 quiz</td>
<td>Feb 27 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Chapter 7 assignment</td>
<td>Mar 1 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 4- Mar 8</td>
<td>Chapter 8 &amp; Slides Take Chapter 8 quiz</td>
<td>Mar 6 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Chapter 8 assignment</td>
<td>Mar 8 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 11- Mar 15</td>
<td>Spring Break – no class</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 18- Mar 22</td>
<td>Chapter 9 &amp; Slides Take Chapter 9 quiz</td>
<td>Mar 20 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Chapter 9 assignment</td>
<td>Mar 22 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 25- Mar 29</td>
<td>Chapter 10 &amp; Slides Take Chapter 10 quiz</td>
<td>Mar 27 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Complete Chapter 10 assignment</td>
<td>Mar 29 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 5</td>
<td>Exam 2 (50 minutes)</td>
<td>Apr 5 at 11:59 PM</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 3</th>
<th>Apr 8- Apr 12</th>
<th>Chapter 13 &amp; Slides</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 10 at 11:59 PM</td>
<td><strong>Take Chapter 13 quiz</strong> (continued)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apr 12 at 11:59 PM</td>
<td><strong>Complete Chapter 13 assignment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 15- Apr 22</td>
<td>Chapter 14 &amp; Slides</td>
<td>(Easter Holiday on 4/19 &amp; 20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Easter Holiday on 4/19 &amp; 20)</td>
<td>Apr 17 at 11:59 PM</td>
<td><strong>Take Chapter 14 quiz</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr 26</td>
<td>Apr 22 at 11:59 PM</td>
<td><strong>Complete Chapter 14 assignment</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrap-up</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Post test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>May 3 at 11:59 PM</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam (cumulative) (50 minutes)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 6 at 11:59 PM</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam (cumulative) (50 minutes)</strong></td>
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