

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

PSY 4109: TESTS AND MEASUREMENTS IN THE BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES

CREDIT: 3 UNITS

LECTURER: SOPHIA MORAA BIRONGA, PhD

EMAIL: sbironga@gmail.com

TELEPHONE: +254-721-300-256

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course examines theories, principles, application and issues related to psychological testing and measurement. The course also enhances skills and competencies in test construction, administration, scoring and interpretation. Students will survey published personality, interest, aptitude, general ability and specific ability tests and discuss their reliability and validity. Contemporary issues and concerns in psychological testing and measurement will be covered.

LINK TO USIU MISSION OUTCOMES

PSY 4109 is linked to achieving the desired higher order thinking, career preparedness and a global understanding with a multicultural perspective. It will directly and indirectly enhance oral and written competency, scientific and technological literacy and service to community

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The main purpose of the course is to equip the students with skills and competencies that enable the application of theory and best practices in psychological testing and measurement.

PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Apply tests and measurements in critical and creative thinking, inquiry and scientific approach to problems related to behavior and mental processes
- Design, administer and evaluate the reliability and validity of tests in the behavioral sciences
- Use tests and measurements in psychological research and problem solving in behavioral sciences

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the 14 week course the students should be able to;

- a) Describe the role of psychological tests and measurements;

- b) Explain the concepts of reliability and validity in relation to tests and measurements;
- c) Discuss methods of assessing the reliability and validity of various psychological tests;
- d) Describe the test development process;
- e) Distinguish between various types of psychological tests; and
- f) Discuss key ethical, legal and professional issues in tests and measurement.

COURSE CONTENT

WEEK	TOPIC
PART 1: INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTS AND MEASUREMENTS	
Week I & II	Course Briefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of a test, measurement and evaluation • Purpose of Psychological tests and measurements • Norms and Standards
PART 2: TEST RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY	
Week III	Reliability in Tests and Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classical test theory • Definition of Reliability • Types of Reliability/Models of Reliability • Factors affecting test reliability
Week IV	Validity in Test and Measurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of Validity • Types/Aspects of Validity
PART 3: TEST DEVELOPMENT PROCESS	
Week V	Test Planning and Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classification of Tests • Formats of Tests

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Item selection • Test Construction
Week VI	Test Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Statistics • Normal Distribution, Standard and standardized test scores • Test Score Interpretation, reporting & evaluation • Ethical, Legal and Professional Issues in Testing and Measuring
Week VII	MID-SEMESTER EXAMINATION
Week VIII	ORAL CLASS PRESENTATION OF TEAM ASSIGNMENT
Week IX	Intelligence Tests
Week X & XI	Personality, Aptitude & Ability Tests
Week XII & XIII	Educational, Occupational and other Tests
Week XIV	FINAL END SEMESTER EXAMINATION

COURSE TEXT

1. Kaplan, R.M & Saccuzzo, D. P. (2013). Psychological Assessment and Theory: Creating and using Psychological Tests. (8th edition).

REFERENCE MATERIALS

In addition to the course text, students are encouraged to make reference to books and journals in the library. Refer to the additional text listed below:

1. Thorndike, R.M.,(2005). Measurement and Evaluation in Psychology and Education. (7th Ed,). Merrill Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River: NJ
2. Ingule, F. & Gatumu, H. (1996). Essentials of Educational Statistics. Nairobi: E.A. Educational Publishers.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & ASSESSMENT

Class attendance

It is in the student's best interest to attend classes. Attendance records will be maintained as per the USIU regulations with **EIGHT (8)** absences earning an automatic F grade. Every **TWO (2)** absences will earn students **ONE (1)** negative point deducted from the participation points.

Evaluation and Assessment

Students are expected to undertake assignments and consult alternative sources of information. The student bears sole responsibility for announcements made online or in class. Cellphones and other electronic gadgets **MUST** be turned off in class (Except when facilitator grants permission).

No electronic devices or written material will be allowed during tests, quizzes or examinations. Absolutely **NO MAKE UP** testing will be allowed. To qualify for a pass, the student **MUST SUCCESSFULLY** complete the following.

- Two Individual Assignments(written)
- One Team Assignment (Written and Oral Presentation)
- One Mid -Semester Examination
- One final End –Semester Examination

Assessment Details

<i>Assessment</i>	<i>Maximum Score</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Individual Written Assignment I	10%	Assignment I will be submitted in the subsequent class.
Individual Written Assignment II	20%	Assignment II will be submitted by the end of week IV
Team Written Assignment II	15%	Submit by Week VII
Attendance and participation	5%	Continuous monitoring with scores awarded at end of week XIV
Mid Semester examination	20%	Week VII-No make up
Final End Semester Examination	30%	Week XIV-No make up
<i>Total Score</i>	<i>100%</i>	Students to confirm Assignment and participation Scores by the end of Week XIII

Grading

90 -100 A 87 – 89 A- 84 – 86 B+ 80 -83 B 77 – 79 B- 74 – 76 C+ 70 – 73 C

Course Policies and Procedures

Read the Course Outline: Ensure you understand course requirements, policies, and assignment deadlines.

Seek Help: Consult the lecturer or colleagues on academic and social issues using face to face interaction or via email. Emails sent should be accompanied by SMS notification.

Class Etiquette: Respect other students and the lecturer by arriving on time and staying until the class is over. The lecturer should be informed beforehand on justification for absences and leaving early.