



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Assessment of Behaviour

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
PSY	3010	86256	1, 2009	EXT	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOSCI
Academic org:	FOS005
Student contribution band:	1
ASCED code:	090701

STAFFING

Examiner: Hong Eng Goh
Moderator: Andrea Lamont-Mills

OTHER REQUISITES

Recommended pre-requisite PSY2100 Research Methods in Psychology A.

RATIONALE

Assessment of behaviour is central to research in the behavioural sciences and to the practice of psychology. Students could not pursue post-graduate studies, or enter professional practice, without knowledge of the principles underlying psychological assessment, as well as the major techniques of developing, evaluating, and using psychological measures.

SYNOPSIS

This course is divided into two parts. The first part concerns the principles of psychological testing, and topics include ethical practice in testing, theories relevant to psychological testing, test reliability and validity, norms, and how each of these aspects inform the evaluation and use of psychological tests. The second part concerns particular areas of testing such as intelligence, personality, vocational aptitude, and tests of specific functioning, including clinical and forensic, and how these are applied in various practice settings. Students can expect to learn about some of the major tests currently in use, as well as a representative array of tests typifying the above areas.

OBJECTIVES

On completion of this course students should be able to:

1. demonstrate an understanding of the principles of psychological assessment, including major theories, statistical foundations, methods of test construction and analysis, and test bias (On-line quizzes);
2. demonstrate an understanding of the professional, ethical, and legal issues affecting psychological assessment in the practice setting (On-line quizzes; Case Report assignment);

3. locate and understand information to evaluate the reliability, validity, and construction methods, of psychological tests and related measures (On-line quizzes);
4. interpret the results of some common psychological tests and measures to a level of mastery approximating that of an entry level psychologist practitioner (Case Report assignment);
5. integrate assessment data and prepare an assessment report to a level of mastery approximating that of an entry level psychologist practitioner (Case Report assignment).

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Ethical practice in the use of psychological tests	15.00
2.	Nature, functions, classifications, uses and issues concerning psychological tests	10.00
3.	Theories and principles underlying test construction and application including consideration of reliability, validity, norms, item analysis and the interpretation of test scores	25.00
4.	Background to uses and administration of an array of particular tests. Test types included will be individual and group tests of intelligence, abilities and aptitudes, personality tests, and tests for specific areas of functioning	25.00
5.	Issues in interpretation and reporting of test results in practice settings	25.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Gregory, RJ 2007, *Psychological testing: history, principles and applications: international edition*, 5th edn,
(ISBN: 02005504663)

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessments	26.00
Directed Study	62.00
Private Study	78.00
Test	2.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
ON-LINE QUIZ 1	20.00	10.00	16 Mar 2009 (see note 1)
ON-LINE QUIZ 2	20.00	20.00	30 Mar 2009
ON-LINE QUIZ 3	30.00	20.00	20 Apr 2009
CASE REPORT ASSIGNMENT	100.00	50.00	09 Jun 2009

NOTES

1. On-line quizzes will be released on the course home page on the first work day of Week 3 for Quiz 1, Week 5 for Quiz 2, and Week 8 for Quiz 3. See assessment section of the Introductory Book for further details.

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- 1 Attendance requirements:
There are no attendance requirements for this course. However, it is students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities scheduled for them (such as lectures, tutorials, and practical work), and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- 2 Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:
Not applicable.
- 3 Penalties for late submission of required work:
No penalties applied if the required conditions are met as specified in the Introductory Book. If students submit assignments after the due date without (prior) approval of the examiner then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero may be recorded. No assignments will be accepted after model answers have been posted.
- 4 Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:

- To be assured of a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the available weighted marks for the summative assessment items.
- 5 Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks (or grades) obtained for each of the summative assessment items.
 - 6 Examination information:
Not applicable. Students will undertake three (3) on-line quizzes in lieu of a formally supervised written examination.
 - 7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
As there are no examinations in this course, there will be no deferred or supplementary examinations.
 - 8 University Regulations:
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL <http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 9 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. Students may be required to provide a copy of assignments submitted for assessment purposes. Such copies should be despatched to the USQ within 24 hours of receipt of a request to do so.
- 10 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within five days if required by the Course Examiner.
- 11 The Course Examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
- 12 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study.
- 13 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination; IDM (Incomplete Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).
- 14 Students will require access to email and internet access to USQConnect for this course. The onus is on students to ensure internet access is of sufficient speed and quality to accommodate the on-line quizzes.
- 15 This course has a voluntary Residential School.