The University of Southern Queensland

**Course specification**

This version produced 20 Dec 2007.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Cat-nbr</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Campus</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>PSY</td>
<td>3010</td>
<td>62329</td>
<td>1, 2007</td>
<td>ONC</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Toowoomba</td>
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</table>

**Academic group:** FOSCI

**Academic org:** FOS005

**Student contribution band:** 1

**ASCED code:** 090701

**STAFFING**

Examiner: Andrea Quinn
Moderator: Tony Machin

**REQUISITES**

Pre-requisite: PSY2100 or Students must be enrolled in the following Program: GDPS

**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, aptitudes, personality and tests of specific functioning, 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 underlying psychological assessment and the major related problems and issues (Mid-semester test);
2. demonstrate an understanding of theories applicable to psychological assessment (Mid-semester test);
3. evaluate psychological tests for various purposes (Mid-semester test);
4. demonstrate knowledge of some common psychological tests (Case Study Assignment);
5. demonstrate mastery of basic psychological test reporting (Case Study Assignment).

**TOPICS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weighting (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ethical practice in the use of psychological tests</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Nature, functions, classifications, uses and issues concerning psychological tests</td>
<td>10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Theories and principles underlying test construction and application including consideration of reliability, validity, norms, item analysis and the interpretation of test scores</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Issues in interpretation and reporting of test results in practice settings</td>
<td>25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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).


Introductory Book 2007, *PSY3010 assessment of behaviour*, USQ, Distance Education Centre, Toowoomba.

Study Book 2007, *PSY3010 assessment of behaviour*, USQ, Distance Education Centre, Toowoomba.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment</td>
<td>27.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed Study</td>
<td>20.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>26.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Study</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>12.00</td>
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</table>

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Marks out of</th>
<th>Wtg(%)</th>
<th>Due date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2HR MID SEMESTER TEST</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>23 Apr 2007 (see note 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASE STUDY ASSIGNMENT</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>12 Jun 2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES
1. Exam to be held in Week 8, which is April 23 to 27. For on-campus students, the exam will be held during the allotted lecture time during that week

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

1 Attendance requirements:
   There are no attendance requirements for this course. It is students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities scheduled for them (such as lectures, tutorials, and practical work) scheduled for them, 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.

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:
Candidates are allowed access only to specific materials during a Restricted Examination. The only materials that candidates may use in the restricted examination for this course are: writing materials (non-electronic and free from material which could give the student an unfair advantage in the examination); students whose first language is not English, may, with the Course Examiner’s approval, take an appropriate non-electronic translation dictionary (but not a technical dictionary) into the examination. Students who wish to use a translation dictionary MUST request and receive written approval from the Course Examiner at least one week before the examination date. Translation dictionaries will be subject to perusal and may be removed from the candidate’s possession until appropriate disciplinary action is completed if found to contain material that could give the candidate an unfair advantage.

7 Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:
Any deferred or supplementary examinations for this course will be held during the examination period for the semester of the next offering of this course.

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 dispatched 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 internet access to the following website: Not applicable.