

PSYCHOLOGY 304: LAB SECTION 001

Fall 2009 – Section 001
Fridays 12:00 – 12:50pm
112 SWKT

Teaching Assistants:

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Send Assignments to BYU.Psychology@gmail.com

Course Project – Test Development:

The best way to evaluate performance and learning is across domains and not solely through multiple choice examinations. Thus, you will participate in a series of assignments that will allow you to actively apply the concepts learned in this course. The project will be completed in *groups of three* so carefully select with whom you will work as you will all share the same grade. This project is worth 30% of your grade and is composed of smaller assignments, each of which addresses important aspects of research and writing. You and your group will conceptualize and develop a psychological test, write items for the test, collect and analyze test data, and provide a brief written summary of the results of an item analysis. This process will be completed over the entire semester. Each group will turn in a final polished paper on the last day of lab. The individual assignments and their corresponding due dates are outlined below.

Instructions for Turning In Assignments

All assignments need to be emailed to the course email address, BYU.Psychology@gmail.com. Assignments need to be saved in a format that is readable by the latest version of Microsoft Word that is available on all campus computers. Articles need to be saved according to the following naming convention:

304_Section2_Number{enter assignment number here}_{LastNamesHereInAlphabeticalOrder}

If it's just you on the assignment, as in Assignment #1, you only need your last name:

304_Section2_Number01_Handel

But a triad of famous composers turning in Assignment #05 would "Save As":

304_Section2_Number05_BethovenMozartStravinsky

Please use this convention for every assignment. Once you have saved a Word-compatible file with this format, attach to your email then send to the course email address. Make sure that you indicate the class, your section number, and the assignment number in the subject line of the email so we can sort out the different sections easily.

The number one mistake made in emailed assignments is to forget to attach the attachment. Don't forget to do this!

- (a) **Assignment 01: Article Review (5 Points)** – Many students do not realize that test development is a thriving and integral part of psychology. Psychology students and researchers often focus on correlational research (looking for relationships between variables) as is the focus of Psych 302 and many other courses. In this course, your focus is different and centered on the research precursor to correlational studies (you can't do correlational research without good tests). This course requires that you develop a measure that reliably and validly measures your selected construct. To help you better understand this approach you are to review a brief article found in Blackboard/CourseMaterials/LabMaterials/*Article Review* which addresses the development and validation of a new measure. You should read this four page article, answer the questions contained in (*filename: "Article Responses"*), then **submit via email and bring to lab on 09/11/09 in electronic format.**
- (b) **Assignment 02: Introduction and Topic Proposal (25 Points)** – Your group will select a topic around which you will develop a psychological test. This topic should be of interest to you, should be easily

researched, and must be approved by your TAs. You are to write a two page (double-spaced) APA formatted introduction referencing *at least* four journal articles (newer than the year 2000) addressing your hypothetical construct. The introduction should: (a) present a solid conceptual introduction; (b) operationally define the hypothetical construct including two or, at most, three domains; (c) present research supporting the operational definition and each of the sub-domains; (d) present a summary/conclusion which ends with a hypothesis statement regarding your test construction. As in every subsequent assignment, you are required to include an APA formatted cover page (*filename: "Coverpage Format"*) and reference page (*filename: "Reference Page Format"*). For additional assistance in writing and to see how this section will be graded, please refer to the file "*Introduction Rubric*". **This assignment should be sent electronically to BYU.Psychology@gmail.com by 9:00 pm on 09/25/09 (the day of lab). THE INTRODUCTION SHOULD BE IN FINISHED PRODUCT FORM. DO YOUR BEST, THIS IS NOT JUST A ROUGH DRAFT!!**

- (c) **Assignment 03: Question Domain (15 Points)** – Consistent with good principles of test construction, your triad will create 10-15 **quality** questions to measure your selected hypothetical construct. Each question should be constructed using a 4 or 5 point Likert scale (as determined by your triad). Prior to lab, you should write a clear operational definition of your construct and your test intentions regarding face and content validity. The better and more clearly this is written and explained in lab, the more likely you are to increase your measure's validity. In lab, you and your group must present your hypothetical construct, operational definition, and questions to your classmates and your classmates will be expected to provide quality feedback on your questions. After receiving feedback from your classmates, you will revise and select your final 10 questions for you measure. **The operational definition and 30 questions (not including demographic or face validity question) should be sent electronically to BYU.Psychology@gmail.com by 12:00pm the day of class/lab (10/02/09). The final set of 10 questions will be due by 9:00pm the day of lab (10/02/09).**
- (d) **Assignment 04: Test Administration and Methods (20 Points)** – Your final test (demographic questions, final 10 items from Assignment 03, and face validity question) should be constructed and administered either using hard copies or electronically. Each group should administer the test to a total of **at least 50 participants before the Methods section is due**. The second part of this assignment requires writing a one page (double-spaced) APA formatted methods section which must include the following *second level headings*: Participants, Item Construction, Test Administration, and Statistical Analysis. Groups should place all of the collected information into an excel spreadsheet so that the data might be easily accessed for upcoming assignments. For additional assistance in writing and to see how this section will be graded, please refer to the file "*Methods Rubric*". **The methods section should be sent electronically to BYU.Psychology@gmail.com by 9:00 pm on 10/23/09 (day of lab).**
- (e) **Assignment 05: SPSS Analysis and Results (20 Points)** –Your group will be required to construct a database in which you will enter your test data. Once in the database, you are to complete an SPSS analysis. You are to analyze this data using Cronbach's alpha, Pearson's bivariate correlations, face validity, content validity, and factor analysis. This will be further explained during lab. If you need additional assistance, please ask—***DON'T PUT THIS OFF UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE*** or, if you have difficulty completing the analyses, you will be unable to get the help you need. Once completed, you will be expected to submit a copy of your SPSS output and provide an at least one page (double spaced) APA formatted results section that includes your statistical results. For additional assistance in writing and to see how this section will be graded, please refer to the file "*Results Rubric*". **The results section and SPSS output should be sent electronically to BYU.Psychology@gmail.com by 9:00 pm the day of lab (10/30/09).**
- (f) **Assignment 06: Discussion (25 Points)** – Your group will write a two page (double spaced) formatted discussion section. For this assignment you should refer to your original hypothesis, show an understanding of the required 304 concepts, **describe the results, address strengths and weaknesses, suggest future research, and provide a succinct conclusion**. Many students are tempted to restate the numbers from results section; however, you should show your understanding of the findings beyond numbers. The file "*Discussion Rubric*" is provided to assist you in understanding what should be included and how this section will be

graded. **The discussion section should be sent electronically to BYU.Psychology@gmail.com by 9:00 pm the day of lab (11/06/09).**

- (g) **Assignment 07: Abstract (5 Points)** – Your group will write an abstract in APA format *using between 120 and 200 words*. The APA manual notes the abstract should be a brief comprehensive summary allowing readers to quickly survey an article’s contents. It should be dense (reflecting purpose and paper content) but also readable, well-organized, pithy, and self-contained. Begin the abstract with the most important information (do not repeat the title). Include only the most important concepts, findings, or implications. Abstracts should not exceed 200 words. The abstract should be centered at the top of the page and the text should be double-spaced and flush against the left margin with no indentation. An abstract should report on, rather than evaluate, your paper’s content. Comparing an abstract with the paper’s outline is a good way to verify accuracy. For additional assistance in writing and to see how the abstract will be graded, please refer to the file “Abstract Rubric”. **The abstract should be sent electronically to BYU.Psychology@gmail.com by 9:00 pm the day before lab (11/19/09). NOTE: Assignment #8, the full rough draft, is due on 11/20/09 (see below).**
- (h) **Assignment 08: Rough Draft (Peer Review; 10 Points)** – One paper copy per person (3 total copies) of your rough draft must be provided to class members who will carefully read through and make constructive and useful comments about the paper’s content, grammar and format. ***You will receive full credit if (a) you submit a credible rough draft on time, and (b) you provide conscientious feedback to the other group’s paper. You will receive half points if you fail to turn in your own rough draft (even if you evaluate another group’s paper).*** Submitting an incomplete or poorly prepared manuscript or providing little useful and thoughtful feedback will result in a significant reduction in points. The TAs will be available to help during this process. **The rough draft will be peer reviewed in lab on 11/20/09; you and a hard copy of the paper per person must be present at 12:00pm on 11/20/09 to earn full credit.**
- (i) **Assignment 09: Writing Review with Lab Instructor and Writing Lab (15 Points)** – Each member of your group is required to attend the FHSS Writing Lab (1051 JFSB; FHSS-WritingLab@byu.edu; 422-4454) at least once, although multiple times is encouraged. Consider that they are there to help you improve the quality of your writing, so the more they see the better off your paper will be. You can all go together or separately. ***You are required to take your introduction, discussion, and final paper to the writing lab before each respective assignment is due.*** The writing lab will provide documentation that you went over the paper with them. ***Each individual member of the group must have documentation that they went to the writing lab and went over either parts of the paper or the whole paper.*** This portion of the assignment is worth 7.5 points. You are also required to set up a time with your TA to go through your **final paper** and address any specific concerns you might have. This should be done with all three members of the group at the same time to model collaborative writing. This portion of the assignment is worth 7.5 points. **You must meet with your lab instructor and go to the writing center before lab on 11/20/09. Bring the documentation with you to lab on 11/20/09 to receive credit for this assignment.**
- (j) **Assignment 10: Presentation (25 Points)** – Each group will present the development of their instruments and the results of their item analyses in a 8-minute class presentation with each group member participating equally. You are required to submit your presentation in PowerPoint the day prior to your lab (so there is an electronic copy) and to bring an electronic copy with you to load on the lab computer. Please arrive at least 5 minutes early on the day of your presentation so we can work out any technical difficulties. It is expected that you will describe the original purpose for which the test was constructed, its current composition, scoring, interpretation, psychometric properties, and applications. You will conclude with an informed critique of the test’s advantages and disadvantages and will answer questions from the class, or your lab instructor. **The final presentation should be emailed by 9:00 pm the day before lab (either 12/03/09 or 12/06/09) and you should have a backup electronic copy the day you are presenting (either 12/04/09 or 12/07/09).** If you are not presenting in a given week, you are nevertheless required to be in attendance when your classmates are presenting.

(k) **Assignment 11: Final Paper (100 Points)** – You will present your findings in a 7 page final paper that summarizes the instrument development process and contains: a title page, abstract, introduction, methods, results, discussion, and references. The appendices (tables, questionnaire, etc) do not count toward your 7 pages. You are likely to find it difficult to include the required information in the **four pages of the text body**. The paper length is by design as many journals have very specific length requirements. One of our goals is to help you learn to critical thinking skills and how to write more precisely in a professional manner; thus, you will be docked points for going over (even by one line) the page limit, or by not writing the full paper length. The audience to whom you should address your paper (and class presentation) is comprised of your instructors and your fellow classmates. Your paper should conform to American Psychological Association (APA) 5th Edition format. For additional assistance in writing and to see how the abstract will be graded, please refer to the file “*Final Paper Grading Rubric*”. **The final paper should be emailed on the last day of lab (12/04/09) by 9:00pm.** The results of your final paper will be emailed to you and posted on blackboard.

(l) **Assignment 12: Group Ratings (35 points)** – You will rate each group member according to their level of availability, preparation, contribution, respectfulness, and dependability regarding your project. You will also be rated on these same criteria. Thirty points come from the average rating of your other group members, and five points are for submitting your ratings. See file, “*Group Ratings Rubric.*” **This is due via email on 12/04/09 by 9:00pm.**

09/11	Assignment 01 (Article Answer Sheet)	12:00 pm (At class/lab)	
09/25	Assignment 02 (Introduction)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	
10/02	Assignment 03 (Question Domain)	12:00 pm (At class/lab)	Include clear OD
10/09	CVR ratings on Qualtrics completed	12:00 pm (At class/lab)	
10/23	Assignment 04 (Methods section)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	
10/30	Assignment 05 (Results section)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	
11/06	Assignment 06 (Discussion section)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	
11/20	Assignment 07 (Abstract)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	
11/20	Assignment 08 (Rough Draft)	12:00 pm (At class/lab)	Bring one paper copy each
11/20	Assignment 09 (Writing Review)	12:00 pm (At class/lab)	Bring writing lab slips
12/04	Assignment 10 (Presentations for ½)*		
12/04	Assignment 11 (Final Paper)	9:00pm (Day of lab)	Electronic
12/04	Assignment 12 (Group Ratings)	9:00pm (Day of lab)	Electronic
12/07	Assignment 10 (Presentations for the other ½)*		(Monday Lecture)

*Presentation should be submitted by 9:00pm *the night before* you present

Exam Dates

Exam I: Testing Center	10/05-10/09 (late day with fee 10/10)
Exam II: Testing Center	11/02-11/06 (late day with fee 11/07)
Final Exam: Testing Center	12/14-12/18 (no late day)

LAB SCHEDULE:

Week	Lab #	Topic
09/04	1	Topics: Overview and Introduction to Lab, Select Groups, Hypothetical Constructs Assignment Due: Select group
09/11	2	Topics: Hypothetical Construct continued, References/Research, Topic Proposal Assignment Due: Assignment #1: Article Answer Sheet
09/18	3	Topics: Writing the Introduction Assignment Due: Have topic picked out with group
09/25	4	Topic: Question Domain Assignment Due: Assignment #2: Introduction
10/02	5	Topic: Evaluate Questionnaires Assignment Due: Assignment #3: Question Domain.
10/09	6	Topic: Writing the Methods Section Assignment Due: Final Questionnaire.
10/16	7	Topic: Statistics Assignment Due: Bring questionnaire data to lab.
10/23	8	Topic: Writing the Results Section and Begin Discussion Section Assignment Due: Assignment #4: Test Administration and Methods Section
10/30	9	Topic: Discussion Section and APA Tables/Appendices Assignment Due: Assignment #5: SPSS Analysis and Results Section
11/06	10	Topic: Discussion Section Review, Abstracts, APA References Assignment Due: Assignment #6 Discussion Section
11/13	11	Topic: Final manuscript preparation; Expectations for peer reviews Assignment Due: None
11/20	12	Topic: Peer Review of Papers Assignment Due: Assignments #7 and #8: Abstract and Rough Draft; Assignment #9: Writing Review slips DUE from writing lab and meeting with TA IMPORTANT: Bring three paper copies of your rough draft for peer review
11/24	NONE	NO LAB: This Tuesday is supposed to be Friday instruction, but we will <u>NOT</u> hold lab so you can drive home safely.
11/27	NONE	NO LAB—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
12/04	13	Topic: Group Presentations for ½ of the groups (Assignment #10) Assignments Due: Assignment #11 Final Paper Due; Assignment #12 Group
12/07	MONDAY LECTURE	Topic: Group Presentations for ½ of the groups (Assignment #10)

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to change schedule and syllabus at any time.