

PSYCHOLOGY 304: LAB

Winter 2009 – Section 001

Fridays 9:00 – 9:50am

102 SWKT

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Email for turning in assignments:

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Course Project – Test Development:

The best way to evaluate performance and learning is across multiple 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 32% 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 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.

It is important to understand from the start that, for the final project, there is a dual emphasis on exactness and conciseness. You will need to say what you mean precisely (including proper format) and in a very short space. This is difficult! However, in today's world of publishing in psychology, these are essential standards and it is best to learn the basics now.

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. This is your responsibility! Articles need to be saved according to the following naming convention:

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

A triad of famous composers, all in section 2, who were turning in Assignment #05 would "Save As":

304_Section2_Number05_BethovenMozartStravinsky

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

304_Section2_Number01_Bach

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 **9:00 pm the day of lab (01/16/09).**

- (b) **Assignment 02: Introduction and Topic Proposal (20 Points)** – Your triad will select a topic around which you will develop a psychological test. This topic should of interest to you, should be easily researched, and must be approved by your graduate instructor. 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 emailed by 9:00 pm on 01/30/09 (the day of lab).**
- (c) **Assignment 03: Question Domain (20 Points)** – Consistent with test construction, your triad will create 30 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 operational definition and all thirty questions to your classmates and you must each rate your classmates' measures using the following markers (1) Essential to measuring the construct; (2) Useful but not essential to measuring the construct; or (3) Not necessary for measuring the construct (*filename: "Content Validity Ratio Exercise"*). Using these results you and your group will then select the 10 best items which will be included on your final measure along with demographic information and a question at the bottom of the questionnaire assessing face validity (What do you think this questionnaire was measuring?). You will be graded on question construction, CVR rating participation, CVR analysis, and item selection. **The operational definition and 30 questions (not including demographic or face validity question) should be emailed by 9:00 pm the day prior to lab (02/05/09). The CVR tables and final questions are not due until the 13th of February. They should be emailed by 9:00 pm the day of lab (02/13/09).**
- (d) **Assignment 04: Test Administration and Methods (25 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 triad should administer the test to a total of 50 participants. 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 emailed by 9:00 pm on 02/27/09 (day of lab).**

- (e) **Assignment 05: SPSS Analysis and Results (25 Points)** –Your triad 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 where you can elicit help from the research assistants. If you need additional assistance, please ask Dr. South—DON’T PUT THIS OFF UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE. Otherwise, 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 a half 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 should be emailed by 9:00 pm the day of lab (03/06/09).**
- (f) **Assignment 06: Discussion (25 Points)** – Your triad 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 emailed by 9:00 pm the day of lab (03/20/09).**
- (g) **Assignment 07: Abstract (10 Points)** – Your triad will write an abstract in APA format using no more than 120 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 contents) 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 120 words. 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 emailed by 9:00 pm the day BEFORE lab (03/26/09). NOTE: Assignment #8, the full rough draft, is also due on 03/27/09 (see below).**
- (h) **Assignment 08: Rough Draft (Peer Review) (25 Points)** – Two paper 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) or if you are not present during lab. Submitting an incomplete or poorly prepared manuscript or providing little useful and thoughtful feedback will result in a significant reduction in points.*** The graduate instructor will be available to help during this process. **The rough draft will be peer reviewed in lab on**

03/27/09; you and your two copies of the paper must be present on 03/27/09 to earn full credit.

- (i) **Assignment 09: Writing Review with Graduate Instructor and Writing Lab (20 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. You will each be responsible for one section of your paper: #1, Introduction (**visit due by 02/13**); #2, Methods/Results (**visit due by 03/20**); #3, Conclusion (**visit due by 03/27**). 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 their assigned part of the paper.* This portion of the assignment is worth 10 points.

You are also required to set up a time with the graduate instructor, Ms. Sorensen, to go through your rough draft paper and address any specific concerns you might have. This should be done with **all three members of the triad** at the same time to model collaborative writing. Ms. Sorensen will provide written documentation that you met with her. This portion of the assignment is worth 10 points and is due 04/03/09. **Bring documentation of visits to FHSS Writing Lab and to Ms. Sorensen with you to lab on 04/03/09 to receive credit for this assignment.**

- (j) **Assignment 10: 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 (04/10/09) at 12:00pm.** The results of your final paper will be emailed to you and posted on blackboard.

- (k) **Assignment 11: Presentation (25 Points)** – Each triad will share the development of their instruments and the results of their item analyses in a 10-minute class presentation with each triad 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, Dr. South, and your teaching assistant. **The final presentation should be emailed by 9:00 pm the day before lab on the day that you are presenting (either 04/02/09 or 04/09/09) and you should have a backup electronic copy the day you are presenting (either 04/03/09 or 04/10/09).** If you are not

presenting in a given week, you are nevertheless required to be in attendance when your classmates are presenting. Attendance will be given extra weight for grading on these days.

- (1) **Assignment 12: Meeting with Teaching Assistant (20 Points)** – Each member of your group will be expected to set up two individual meetings (each meeting worth 10 points) with the teaching assistant during the course of the semester. One meeting must be a writing consultation on your paper, while the format of the other is open to your own needs (it may be another writing consultation, questions about an upcoming or past test, questions about lecture material, etc.). **This assignment must be completed by 04/14/09 (last day of classes) in order to receive full credit.**

Due Dates:

01/16	Assignment 01 (Article Answer Sheet)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	
01/30	Assignment 02 (Introduction)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	
02/06	Assignment 03 (Question Domain)	9:00 pm (Day before lab)	Include clear OD
02/13	Assignment 03 (CVR Table Due)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	Include CVR table
02/27	Assignment 04 (Methods section)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	Submit excel spreadsheet
03/06	Assignment 05 (Results section)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	Submit in one file
03/20	Assignment 06 (Discussion section)	9:00 pm (Day of lab)	Submit discussion section
03/27	Assignment 07 (Abstract)	9:00 pm (Day before lab)	
03/27	Assignment 08 (Rough Draft)	12:00pm (Day of lab)	Bring 2 paper copies to lab
04/03	Assignment 09 (Writing Review)	12:00pm (Day of lab)	
04/03	Assignment 11 (Presentations for ½)*		
04/10	Assignment 10 (Final Paper)	12:00pm (Day of lab)	Electronic only
04/10	Assignment 11 (Presentations for the other ½)*		
04/14	Assignment 12 (Meeting with TA)	7:00pm (last day of classes)	

*Presentation should be submitted to the course email address by 9:00pm the ***night before your group presents!***

Exam Dates

Exam I:	Testing Center	02/09-02/13 (late day 02/14)
Exam II:	Testing Center	03/09-03/13 (late day 03/14)
Final Exam:	Testing Center	04/17-04/22

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

LAB SCHEDULE:

Week	Lab #	Topic
01/09	1	Topics: Overview and Introduction to Lab, Select Group Assignment Due: Select Group!
01/16	2	Topics: Hypothetical Construct, Topic Proposal and Writing the Introduction Assignment Due: Assignment #1
01/23	3	Topics: Topic Proposal and Writing the Introduction, References, Question Domain Assignment Due: None
01/30	4	Topics: Work on Introduction, Question Domain Assignment Due: Assignment #2
02/06	5	Topic: Question Domain Reviews/Content Validity Ratios/Graduate Instructor Mtg. Assignments Due: Assignment #3 due night before NOTE: THIS ASSIGNMENT IS DUE BY 9:00pm on 02/05/09 (the day before lab), not 02/06/09.
02/13	6	Topic: Question Domain Reviews/Content Validity Ratios/Graduate Instructor Mtg. Assignment Due: CVR Table, Writing Lab Visit #1
02/20	7	Topic: Writing the Methods Section Assignment Due: None
02/27	8	Topic: Statistics and Writing the Results Section Assignment Due: Assignment #4
03/06	9	Topic: Discussion Section and APA Tables Assignment Due: Assignment #5
03/13	10	Topic: Abstracts, References, and Review of Discussion Section Assignment Due: None
03/20	11	Topic: Abstracts, References, and Review of Discussion Section Assignments Due: Assignment #6, Writing Lab Visit #2
03/27	12	Topic: Peer review of papers, Presentations Overview, and Expectations for Final Paper Assignments Due: Assignments #7 and #8: Abstract and Rough Draft, Writing Lab Visit #3. Abstract is due the night before (03/27) by 9:00 PM. IMPORTANT: Bring one copy per group member of your rough draft for peer review
04/03	13	Topic: Group Presentations for ½ of the groups Assignments Due: Assignment #9: Writing Review with Graduate Instructor, All presentations are due by 9:00 PM on 11/20!
04/10	14	Topic: Group presentations for the other ½ of the groups Assignments Due: Assignment 10: Final Paper Due! NOTE: Assignment 12 (Meeting with TA) is due on 04/14!