PSYCHOLOGY 304: LAB SECTION 003
Fall 2011
Mondays from 6-6:50pm; 112 SWKT

Teaching Assistants:

Drue Williamson
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Office Hours: Thursdays 3 to 4pm

Chanel Carlile
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Office: Psych Central 1150 SWKT
Office Hours: Fridays 9 to 10am

IMPORTANT: If your TA is Chanel then you will send your assignments to psych304byu@gmail.com; if your TA is Drue then you will send your assignments to 304byu@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 apply the concepts learned in this course. The project will be completed in groups of three or four so carefully select with whom you will work as you will all share the same grade. You and your group will conceptualize and develop a psychological test, write items for the test, collect and analyze test data, and provide a written summary of the results of an item analysis. This process will be completed over the entire semester. The individual assignments and their corresponding due dates are outlined below.

Please submit your assignments electronically (using Word 2003 or 2007) to your TA’s class gmail account with the appropriate file name and procedures. Please refer to “Assignment Submission Instructions” on Blackboard.

Assignment Grading:
Writing assignments will be graded similar to how a journal evaluates papers when you submit them for publication. There are four main categories: 1) accept as is; 2) minor revisions; 3) major revisions; or, 4) reject. The goal of this type of grading is to facilitate learning. You will receive a grade from one of the four categories for each assignment. If you receive a reject this means you did not put in adequate effort for the assignment. Your group will have one day to turn the assignment in with a good effort or you will receive a zero for the assignment. If you receive major revisions for an assignment then you have one week from the return of the assignment to return revisions improving the assignment. The first set of revisions is free—meaning you do not lose any points. For every revision thereafter you lose 2 points. So, it behooves you to do your revisions well the first time. You will not lose any points if you go and see the TA for help during office hours before turning in the revisions. If you receive minor revisions then you have minor things to improve. The same rules for revisions apply as those for major revisions. Finally, accept as is means you have done a good job and you receive full credit. Each writing assignment is to be revised until it is accepted or rejected. The revisions format only applies to the writing assignments which are #2, #4, #5, #6 and #7 (see assignment numbers below). The other assignments will be graded as outlined below.

Course Assignments:

(a) Assignment 01: Article Review (10 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 (filename: “Article to Review”) which addresses the development and validation of a new measure. The article and answer sheet can be found on blackboard. You should read this four-page article and answer the questions (filename: “Article
Response Questions”); this assignment should be completed and sent to your TAs gmail account by midnight on 09/12.

(b) Assignment 02: Introduction (15 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 an 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 and reference page. For additional assistance in writing please refer to the file “Introduction Instructions” on blackboard. This assignment should be sent electronically to your TA’s gmail account by midnight on 09/26.

(c) Assignment 03: Question Domain (15 Points) – Consistent with good principles of test construction, your group 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 group). 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, the more likely you are to increase your measure’s validity. In lab, you and your group will enter the questionnaire with all 30 questions onto Qualtrics. Over the course of the next week each of you will be expected to rate your classmates’ questions on Qualtrics 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 (please refer to the file “Content Validity Ratio Exercise” on BB for additional information). 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 (e.g., What do you think this questionnaire was measuring?). You will be graded on question construction, CVR rating participation (i.e., YOU WILL BE GRADED FOR COMPLETING YOUR RATINGS OF OTHER PEOPLE’S QUESTIONNAIRES), CVR analysis, and item selection. The operational definition and 30 questions should be sent electronically to your TA’s gmail account by CLASS TIME (6pm) on 10/03. BE SURE TO ALSO INCLUDE DEMOGRAPHICS QUESTIONS AND A FACE VALIDITY QUESTION.

(d) Assignment 04: Method (15 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. The second part of this assignment requires writing an APA formatted Method section which can 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 please refer to the file “Methods Rubric”. The Method section should be sent electronically your TA’s gmail account by midnight on 10/31.

(e) Assignment 05: Results (15 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 an APA formatted Results section that includes your statistical results. For additional assistance in writing
please refer to the file “Results & Appendices Instructions”. The Results section should be sent electronically to your TA’s gmail account by midnight on 11/07.

(f) Assignment 06: Discussion (15 Points) – Your group will write a Discussion section that summarizes and contextualizes your results within the previous literature. 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. The Discussion section should be sent electronically to your TA’s gmail account by midnight on 11/21.

(g) Assignment 07: Abstract (5 Points) – Your group will write an abstract in APA format. The APA manual notes the abstract should be a brief comprehensive summary allowing readers to survey quickly an article’s contents. It should be not only 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. 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 please refer to the file “Abstract Rubric”. The abstract should be sent electronically to your TA’s gmail account by midnight on 11/21.

(h) Assignment 08: Writing Review with Lab TA and Writing Lab (10 Points) – Each member of your group is required to attend the FHSS Writing Lab (1051 JFSB) at least once, although attending 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. 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. It is best to do this before turning it in to the TAs so you get the fewest number of revisions possible. This portion of the assignment is worth 5 points. You are also required to go through any section of the paper you choose with a TA and address any specific concerns you might have. Please schedule for your group to meet with your TA to review your paper. This is worth 5 points, for a total of 10 points. You must bring the slip documenting that you went to the writing lab with you to class on 11/28.

(i) Assignment 09: Presentation (15 Points) – Each group will present the development of their instruments and the results of their item analyses in an 8-minute class presentation with each group member participating equally. 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. You are responsible to bring your presentation and have it loaded on the computer before class begins the day of your presentation. If you are not presenting in a given week, you are nevertheless required to be in attendance when your classmates are presenting. Half of the class will present on 11/28 and the other half on 12/05 in lab.

(j) Assignment 10: 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 own ratings. See file, “Group Ratings Rubric.” This is due via email to your TA by midnight on 12/05.

*****ALL REVISIONS AND FINAL PAPER– All of your sections must be accepted by Monday, 12/05, or you will receive a zero for the sections not completed. Please compile all of the “accepted” portions of your papers into one beautiful final paper and submit this final paper to your TA’s gmail account by midnight on 12/05.*****

Due Dates:

09/12 Assignment 01 (Article Answer Sheet) midnight
09/26 Assignment 02 (Introduction) midnight
10/03 Assignment 03 (Question Domain) 6pm (due at lab)
10/31 Assignment 04 (Method section) midnight
11/07 Assignment 05 (Results section) midnight
11/21 Assignment 06 (Discussion section) midnight
11/21 Assignment 07 (Abstract) midnight
11/28 Assignment 08 (Writing Review) 6pm (due at lab); Bring writing lab slips
11/28 Assignment 09 (Presentations for ½) 6pm (due at lab)
12/05 Assignment 09 (Presentations for other ½) 6pm (due at lab)
12/05 Assignment 10 (Group Ratings) midnight

12/05 All revisions and final compiled paper midnight

Exam Dates

Exam I: Testing Center 09/27 – 09/29 (late day with fee 09/30)
Exam II: Testing Center 11/01 – 11/04 (late day with fee 11/05)
Final Exam: Testing Center 12/12 – 12/16 (no late day)
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<td>1</td>
<td>Topics: Overview and Introduction, Hypothetical Constructs, Select Groups</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Select group, Pick (or begin picking) Construct</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/05</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>NO LAB—LABOR DAY</td>
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<td>9/12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Topics: Writing the Introduction, Literature Searches</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Assignment #1: Article Answer Sheet; Topic approved by TAs</td>
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<td>9/19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Topics: APA References Format, Work on Writing the Introduction</td>
<td>Assignment Due: None</td>
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<td>9/26</td>
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<td>Topic: Question Domain/Writing Good Questions</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Assignment #2: Introduction</td>
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<td>10/03</td>
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<td>Topic: Content Validity Ratios (CVRs)/Enter Questionnaires to Qualtrics</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Assignment #3: Question Domain.</td>
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<td>10/10</td>
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<td>Topic: CVR Calculation and Writing the Method Section</td>
<td>Assignment Due: CVR Ratings completed on Qualtrics</td>
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<td>10/17</td>
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<td>Topic: Statistics and SPSS Tutorial—How to do the stats!</td>
<td>Assignment Due: None</td>
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<td>10/24</td>
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<td>Topic: Statistics and SPSS Continued…Do Stats on Own Data—WOOHOO!</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Bring questionnaire data to lab</td>
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<td>10/31</td>
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<td>Topic: Writing the Results Section and APA Tables/Appendices</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Assignment #4: Method Section</td>
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<td>11/07</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Topic: Discussion Section</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Assignment #5: Results Section</td>
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<td>11/14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Topic: Discussion Section Review, Abstracts</td>
<td>Assignment Due: None</td>
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<td>11/21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Topic: WORK DAY—Work on Discussion Section, Abstract, and Presentations</td>
<td>Assignment Due: Assignment #6: Discussion Section; Assignment #7: Abstract</td>
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<td>11/28</td>
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<td>Topic: Group Presentations for ½ of the groups (Assignment #9)</td>
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<td>12/05</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Topic: Group Presentations for ½ of the groups (Assignment #9)</td>
<td>Assignments Due: Assignment #10 Group Ratings Due; A final copy of the compiled paper with all revisions accepted is due by midnight.</td>
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