

PSY 504: PSYCHOLOGICAL MEASUREMENT

Fall 2026

THURSDAY 7-9:15pm; Kennedy, Room 200

Professor: Adam M. Volungis, PhD, LMHC

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Office: Kennedy 134

Office Hours: M: 9:30-11:30AM; TU: 12-2; TH: 12-2 (availability flexible outside these hours)

TECHNOLOGY EXPECTATIONS

- Regular access to a computer or laptop (PC or Mac)
- Broadband internet connection
- Ability to send and receive email and email attachments
- Ability to access Assumption College's and my personal website:
(<http://dradamvolungis.com/>)
- Ability to access Zoom
- MS Office, MS Excel, Adobe's Acrobat PDF Reader (available for free from
<http://www.adobe.com>)
- *Note: Please contact Information Technology for any internet/technology concerns. I cannot fix them for you. *Concerns regarding my website should be directed to me.*

REQUIRED TEXT

Whiston, S. C. (2017). *Principles and applications of assessment in counseling* (5th ed.). Cengage Learning.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to the instruments and the methods used in the measurement and evaluation of the psychological characteristics of human beings, including elementary principles of statistical analysis.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The following topics will be covered and discussed in-depth:

1. Nature and use of psychological tests for counselors
2. Historical antecedents of modern testing
3. Norms and the meaning of test scores
4. Reliability
5. Validity and item analysis
6. Selecting, administering, scoring, and communicating test results
7. Initial assessment techniques
8. Intelligence and general ability testing
9. Achievement and Aptitude testing
10. Assessment in career counseling
11. Measuring interests and attitudes
12. Appraisal of personality
13. Using assessment in counseling
14. Ethical, legal, and social/cultural considerations in testing

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Brightspace, Dr. V's Website, & email: Course announcements (i.e., emails) will be made through Brightspace. All other information (e.g., lectures, lecture recordings, blog discussions, assignments) will be provided on my personal website: <http://dradamvolungis.com/>. It is expected that you check your email and my website frequently to ensure that you are up to date with all class material and information. Feel free to email me with any questions or concerns. I check my email on the following “business” days: Monday-Friday. Although I typically reply to emails promptly (i.e., less than 24 hours), please give me 1-2 “business” days to reply.

Attendance: Due to the topic of this course being primarily class discussion, it is crucial that you attend class. Much of the value of this course lies in your presence and participation in the classroom. Therefore, your presence is important for the “community within the class.” If you are absent from class, you are still responsible for all information and material covered that day. Also, class will always start and end on time, thus, the expectation is for students to be present for the full duration of class. If you must come late or leave early, please notify me before class.

- ***Program Policy: “Absences result in missing significant material covered in courses. If a student misses more than 2 class meetings per semester in a given course for any reason, the student will not receive credit for the course. A grade of NC will be recorded and the student will need to repeat the course in a future semester. If a student misses more than 2 classes because of personal emergencies or similar extenuating circumstances, the student must work with the course instructor (and Program Director and Dean) to determine if an exception to the policy is warranted.”***
- Coming late to class is an important issue. A pattern of tardiness (even 10 or 15 minutes) is unacceptable and will be counted as an absence.

Zoom Etiquette: The following applies to any classes if they are held via Zoom. You are required to have your video activated during class meetings. Your “presence” in class is important because this will help everyone in this class (including the professor) get to know one another. You may use a virtual background if you wish but the background should not be distracting. The audio function should be muted during class meetings unless you are speaking. Additionally, please remain focused on the class meeting, not other tasks (e.g., checking email, texting, talking to someone in the room, eating a full meal). These behaviors are distracting and disrespectful to your peers.

Course Readings & Recorded Lectures: Please refer to the “Projected Course Outline” for the due date and topic of each reading and recorded lecture. You are expected to have completed the required readings and viewed the recorded lectures by the indicated class date. Class meetings will not consist of simply reviewing lecture slides. Students are expected to attend class prepared and ready to participate in class discussion on select topics and ask questions. In addition to the readings provided on the course outline, you may be required to read supplemental materials to enhance existing readings.

Submission Policy, Late Assignments, & Technological Malfunctions: All assignments should be submitted no later than the due date. Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments must be completed by 11:59 pm of the published due dates. Late work (i.e., work that is submitted after the due date) will only be accepted within a 24-hour grace period and will be reduced by one full letter grade. After the 24-hour grace period, late work will not be accepted and a ‘0’ will be given for the assignment. Please contact Information Technology for any technology problems

(unless it is my personal website). If you experience recurrent technical problems that prohibit you from completing multiple assignments, you may be asked to re-enroll into the course at a future date.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Academic Honesty: Representing the work of another as your own is a violation of fundamental principles of truthfulness and an offense against the academic community. Academic dishonesty may result in the student failing the course, at the discretion of the professor. *Academic dishonesty includes “traditional cheating”* on exams and case studies, as well as use of *AI and plagiarism* (i.e., failure to credit properly the ideas, organization of material or phrasing of another, including the use of term paper or reference paper services) of papers and other written assignments. Submitting one’s own work, in part or in whole, to more than one professor without proper notification is also academically dishonest and subject to appropriate disciplinary action. For more information, please consult Assumption University’s Academic Integrity Policy and Processes: <https://www.assumption.edu/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/academic-integrity-policy-processes.pdf> *I reserve the right to utilize turnitin.com and other LLM detection software if there are concerns of academic dishonesty. I will use the “Report It” option:*

- “If you discover evidence of cheating, plagiarism, falsification or fabrication, abuse of academic materials, multiple submission or complicity in an integrity violation, complete the “Academic Integrity Reporting Form” under the “Report It” link on the main page of the portal. You will be notified if there is a prior infraction on file, or if this is a first offense. If it is the first charge, fill out a settlement form indicating what infraction you think has taken place, what evidence you have, and what penalty will be imposed if the student signs it, admitting responsibility. Schedule an in-person meeting with the student, present the evidence, and listen to their explanation with an open mind. This is a learning moment that may be the most important one your student will experience. (p. 10, Quickguide)”

Student Accessibility Services: Assumption College is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a disability (or think you have a disability) and, as a result, need a reasonable accommodation participate in this class, complete course requirements, or benefit from the College’s programs or services, then you should speak with me and contact Student Accessibility Services. All information regarding disabilities will be treated with confidentiality. Documentation guidelines are available at: <https://www.assumption.edu/people-and-departments/organization-listing/student-accessibility-services> *Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact me with any questions.*

METHODS of EVALUATION

1. ***Class Attendance, Participation, & Discussion Blog (10%).*** This course depends greatly on student preparation and participation. To facilitate preparation, students are urged to read all the material assigned for a given class prior to the day it is to be discussed, and to come to class with notes about the readings. Post-Midterm, each student is expected to complete a blog post in response to a question provided by the professor regarding the assessments covered in class that day. At least two replies to your peers’ posted responses are also required, no later than two days after the original post due date. The discussion board is available on my personal website: <http://dradamvolungis.com/>. These reflections are required in the spirit of assuring each student keeps up with assigned assessments and are prepared to engage in class discussion.

2. **Midterm Exam (25%).** Each student is required to complete an in-class midterm exam covering their knowledge and understanding of the readings and class lectures from the topic *“Historical Antecedents and Principles of Assessment”* as outlined in the ‘Projected Course Outline’ below (9/3—10/1). **The date of this exam is 10/8.** It is reasonable to expect this exam graded and returned to students with feedback by 10/22—10/29 (2-3 weeks).

3. **Psychological Assessment Development and Presentation (25%).** All students are required to participate in a small group class presentation on an assessment development proposal. The class presentations will be completed with a PowerPoint and supplemental handouts, including demonstration of assessment to the class. **These presentations are due on 11/19 & 12/3 (peer observations due 12/7).** A separate class handout describing this assignment in detail will be provided and reviewed no later than 10/15. It is reasonable to expect this assignment graded and returned to students soon after final grades are due.

4. **Psychological Assessment Review (10%).** Each student is required to individually complete one psychological assessment review. **These reviews are due on 12/3.** However, you are more than welcome to complete your review earlier than the due date. A separate handout describing this assignment in detail will be provided and reviewed no later than 9/24. This review will only be accepted through email at am.volungis@assumption.edu in MS Word. It is reasonable to expect this assignment graded and returned to students soon after final grades are due.

5. **Final Exam (30%).** Each student is required to complete a final exam covering their knowledge and understanding of the readings and class lectures from the topic *“Assessment Areas, Applications, and Issues”* as outlined in the Projected Course Outline’ below (10/15—11/12) and general integration of major themes from the midterm. **The due date for the final exam is 12/10.** The final exam will be provided no later than 11/19. It is reasonable to expect this exam graded and returned to students soon after final grades are due.

GRADING SCALE

A	93.0-100	B	82.5-87.4	C	72.5-77.4	D	62.5-67.4
A-	90.0-92.9	B-	80.0-82.4	C-	70.0-72.4	D-	60.0-62.4
B+	87.5-89.9	C+	77.5-79.9	D+	67.5-69.9	F	<60

PROJECTED COURSE OUTLINE

Date *Topic/Assignment*

Historical Antecedents and Principles of Assessment

9/3/2026 [1] Introduction & Review of Syllabus
Text Chapter 1 – Assessment in Counseling

- 9/10 [2] Text Chapter 2 – Basic Assessment Principles
- 9/17 [3] Text Chapter 3 – Reliability
- 9/24 [4] ***Receive Psychological Assessment Review (Due 12/3)***
Text Chapter 4 – Validity & Item Analysis
- 10/1 [5] Text Chapter 7 – Selecting, Administering, Scoring, and Communicating Test Results
Midterm Review
- 10/8 [6] ***Midterm Exam***
- Assessment Areas, Applications, and Issues
- 10/15 [7] ***Receive Psychological Assessment Development & Presentation (Due 11/19 & 12/3)***
Text Chapter 8 – Initial Assessment in Counseling
----Assessments: Suicidality & Substance Abuse
- 10/22 [8] Text Chapter 16 – Monitoring and Evaluating Counseling
----Assessments: Depression & Broad-Band
- 10/29 [9] Text Chapter 11 – Assessment in Career Counseling
----Assessments: Career & Anxiety
- 11/5 [10] Text Chapter 12 – Appraisal of Personality
----Assessments: Personality & Anger
- 11/12 [11] ----Assessments: Youth (Behavior checklists, Depression, Anxiety)
- 11/19 [12] ***Receive Final Exam (Due 12/10)***
Psychological Assessment Development and Presentation Due (Day 1)
- 11/26 *****THANKSGIVING BREAK*****
- 12/3 [13] ***Psychological Assessment Review Due***
Psychological Assessment Development and Presentation Due (Day 2)
- 12/10 [14] ***Final Exam Due***

Right of Revision Statement: As professor of this course, I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus as needed. It may be deemed pertinent to modify the syllabus as the class progresses through the semester. You will be informed of any changes as soon as possible, during class or via email and Brightspace.