

ERM 605
Syllabus and Schedule*

Week	Topic	Text Reading**
1	Review of Syllabus and course requirements Introduction	Ch. 1
2	Reliability	Ch. 2
3	Validity Introduction to using Blackboard	Ch. 3
4	Issues about bias in assessment	Ch. 4
5	What to assess and how to assess it	Ch. 5
6	Selected response items	Ch. 6
7	Free-response items	Ch. 7
8	Midterm Exam	
9	Performance assessments	Ch. 8
10	Portfolio assessment	Ch. 9
11	Instructionally oriented assessment	Ch. 12
12	Item analysis	Ch. 11
13	Standardized assessments	Ch. 13
14	Preparing students for assessment	Ch. 14
15	Item Writing Projects Poster Sessions	

* Schedule may be modified slightly if class requires additional instruction time for some topics.

** Popham, W. James, *Classroom Assessment: What Teachers Need to Know, Third Edition*, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2002.

ERM 605
Educational Measurement and Evaluation

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Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00-5:30 and by appointment

Required Textbook

Popham, W. J. (2002) *Classroom Assessment: What Teachers Need to Know (Third Edition)*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Goals and Objectives:

The primary goal of this course is provide an introduction to basic principles and practical applications of educational testing. You will learn much of the theory underlying writing test questions, constructing test forms, and analyzing test data. You also will have the opportunity to build and analyze test questions of different formats, using the methods and theory we study in the class. You will examine issues related to standardized tests commonly used in education settings. You will learn how to select, construct, score, analyze and interpret psychological and educational assessments. We will discuss limitations of and problems arising both from your own test development efforts and from data derived from current large scale testing operations.

Assignments:

Homework or a small project will be assigned most weeks. You will be required to do things such as write test questions, analyze test item data, calculate reliability and other test statistics, evaluate assessment instruments, and interpret test results. A due date will be included with each homework assignment. **I will not grade or provide feedback on homework assignments that are late.**

Each homework assignment will be worth points toward your final grade. The number of points each individual assignment is worth will be indicated on the assignment sheet. Seventy percent of your grade will be based on your homework and small project assignments.

In addition to written homework assignments, there will be weekly reading assignments from your text and from ancillary materials that I will provide throughout the semester. You will be responsible for material in the assigned readings regardless of whether it is also covered in class lectures. There will be opportunity to raise questions about material covered in the assigned readings during every class meeting.

Exams:

There will be one examination—a mid-term. The mid-term exam will be a “take home” examination. When working on the mid-term examination, the provisions of the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy will bind you. I strongly suggest you review the Policy in the *UNCG Student Handbook*. Any communication with persons other than your professor regarding any aspect of the examination, regardless of purpose or motivation, will be regarded as a serious violation of the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy.

The exam will be posted on *Blackboard*. You may download the exam or you may obtain a paper copy of it from the ERM department secretary, Anita Dorfler. All questions about the examination must be communicated to the professor through the *Blackboard* discussion board so that all students will have access to the response from the professor. The midterm exam must be returned to the professor. You may deliver your exam to the professor or submit it on-line. If you submit it on-line, be sure to send it registered mail. Late exams will be penalized with deductions of 20 points per day.

The midterm examination will be worth 30 percent of your grade.

Grading:

Grading will be criterion referenced. Achieving an average of 85 percent of possible scores will be required to earn a grade in the “A” range; an average between 75 and 85 percent will result in a “B” range grade; less than 60 percent, an “F”. Plus and minus grades will be used for grades near the cut points of different letter grades.

Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

Midterm Exam	30%
Homework	70%

Web-based course content:

There will be a web-based component to this course. This means that this class will not meet on campus every week. *Blackboard*, a server-based course management system, will be used for the web-based portion of the class. You can access *Blackboard* via the Web address: <http://bb.uncg.edu>. I will give you written instructions on how to use *Blackboard* and we will devote part of one class meeting to using the features of *Blackboard* that you will need to complete this course.

Special class announcements will be broadcast and class assignments and class notes will be found on *Blackboard* on a weekly basis. You can communicate with me and with each other through this system. Your questions about class material and homework assignments can be posted on the *Blackboard* discussion board. Through the discussion board, you will be able to view any questions posed by any member of the class as well as the answers provided. Students are encouraged to offer responses to questions raised by other students. When we do not meet on campus, you also will find special assignments, discussion questions, and relevant links to course related material on *Blackboard*. You should anticipate spending the equivalent to the time you would have spent in class working on-line during those weeks that classes do not meet. If you do not

have access to the hardware and software required for a web-based course available to you at home or at your workplace, you should plan to use one of the on-campus computer labs.

Class Attendance:

The lectures and discussions in this class will supplement, not simply duplicate the material in the text. When the class meets, we will frequently break into small groups in order to work on classroom problem sets or discussion questions. It is important that you attend class regularly. It also is important that you come to class prepared to participate.