

SYLLABUS
ERM 693 - Advanced Topics in Educational Research

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Course Description:

This course is designed to engage each student in a genuine “research experience” prior to tackling the dissertation. By “research experience” is meant either

1. a paper of publishable quality or one that would be accepted for presentation at NCME, AERA, APA, The Psychometric Society Meeting, or a conference of comparable quality
2. a major, critical review article that would serve as the lit review chapter for your dissertation.

Grading:

The final grade will be based on the class paper (75%) and on class attendance and participation. (Ordinarily I pay no attention to attendance, but in this course attendance is essential.) In some cases, it may not be possible to complete the paper in its entirety, but do NOT rely upon this circumstance to do nothing until a week before the semester ends. It is very easy, by the way, to tell when this happens!!

Week 1	Misc Stuff
Weeks 2-3	Unresolved Issues & Topics in Test Bias and DIF
Week 4-5	Admissions/Certification/Employment Testing
Week 6	New Models for Computerized Testing (Guest Lecture, Luecht)
Week 7	Test Dimensionality – Unresolved Technical Issues (Guest Lecture, Ackerman)
Week 8	Technical Challenges in Performance Assessment
Week 9	State Accountability Systems
Week 10	Testing and cognitive psychology
Week 11	The “coaching” controversy

THEORY

Weeks 1 and 2 **Review of Classical Test Theory (Handout)**

Weeks 3 & 4 **Basic Concepts of IRT**

Week 5 **Parameter Estimation**

Week 6 **The Ability Scale (Theta)**

“True Score” and IRT

Item & Test Information

Week 7 **Assessing model-data fit/BICAL**

Week 8 **BICAL cont’d**

Mid-term examination

APPLICATIONS

Week 9 **Identifying biased items**

Week 10 **Test score equating**

Week 11 **Computer Adaptive Testing**

Weeks 12 – 15 **Class Presentations**

Week 16 **Final Examination**