



## Syllabus

Foundations of Research Methods and  
Outcome Assessment PSYC 5200  
Fall 2024

### Contact Information

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### Goals

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills associated with empirically based practice.

- a. Learning why and how to measure client outcomes
- b. Choosing appropriate outcomes measures
- c. Organizing collected data
- d. Using data to evaluate and improve services

**Text:** Clement, P. W. (1999). *Outcomes & incomes: How to evaluate, improve, and market your psychotherapy practice by measuring outcomes*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

### Course Requirements

This course is set up as an independent study to accompany Internship I PSYC 6203. Students will read "Outcomes & Incomes: How to Evaluate, Improve, and Market Your Psychotherapy Practice by Measuring Outcomes" (Clement, 1999).

1. (total 30 points) Upon completing each section of the readings, an enrolled student should write a brief response paper addressing the readings. In completing this assignment, students should identify the main

points of the reading and discuss how these reading relate to their clinical work.

2. (total 30 points) Students in Internship I PSYC 6203 are responsible for writing a midterm and final case conceptualization paper. Each paper needs to demonstrate the application of the text.

a. For the midterm paper (15 points), students will read Chapters 1 & 2 and identify measure in Chapter 5 & 6 to be used. The short-term goals section shall contain data collection via the instrument(s) chosen.

i. During the case presentation in class, students will present and defend their choice of measures.

b. For the final paper (15 points): Students will have a section in their client write-up that includes data collected. Students will prepare an evaluation based upon their ongoing use of the chosen instrument(s).

3. All hours accrued while planning, scoring, and writing data are indirect. All hours accrued while administering the measures count as assessment.

**Note:** Since some clients prematurely end services, students should work with their individual supervisor on identifying measure for all clients.

a. Remember, a different client is to be presented in the midterm and final paper.

b. All instruments used should remain in the client file.

**Due: Monday, Oct 7th (midterm) and Monday, December 2nd (final).**

**Grades: 60-54 = A; 53-48 = B; 47-42 = C; 41 and lower = F**

**Important Dates:**

9/2	<i>Labor Day, no classes</i>
9/23	<i>Last day to file for December graduation</i>
10/4	<i>Last day to file for May graduation</i>
11/25	<i>Last day to file for a "W"</i>
11/27-29	<i>Thanksgiving Break, no classes</i>
12/8-12	<i>Finals</i>

**Note** Students living with disability must be registered with [Disability Support Services](#) before accommodations can be provided. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact me and must provide documentation by Disability Support Services. The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at

(940) 397-4140, TDD (940) 397-4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center 168.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and Public Law 101-336 (Americans with Disabilities Act) in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of individuals in its programs and activities.

A copy of the ADA Compliance Document is available online at [disability faq](#). It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications. Students who require special accommodations must register with Disability Support Services before these accommodations can be provided. An Accommodation Request Form can be obtained at [Accommodation Request](#).

### **Computer Requirements**

Taking a modern class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete tests and/or upload assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. **Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings.** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

- a. Brightspace (maker of D2L) has tutorials available on YouTube. Please go to [Brightspace YouTube](#) for additional help.

**Informed Consent:** This information is to inform the student of the limits of confidentiality while enrolled at MSU Texas or any other state school. Due to federal and state law, faculty and staff working for a university are required to report any information that falls under Title IX. Any student who indicates experiencing sexual abuse/misconduct, physical/emotional abuse, domestic violence, stalking, suicidal/homicidal ideation, or related experiences will have an incident report sent to either the MSU Texas Title IX and/or the Dean of Student's office. Student disclosure may occur via a face-to-face meeting, in-class self-disclosure, email, statement made in a written assignment, etc. If a student asks a faculty or staff person not to share the information, please note that by law, we have to report and I will report. Please note that as students, you may be aware of classmates/dormmates struggling and can make an incident report at: [Student Referrals and Incident Reporting Forms](https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?MSUTexas) or <https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?MSUTexas>

Report forms are:

Bias Incident Reporting Form  
 Campus Incident Report Form  
 Concerning Student Behavior Form  
 General Student Complaint Form  
 Sexual Misconduct Report Form  
 Student Alert Form

### **College Policies and Procedures**

Can be found at the bottom of the MSU home page or at [Human Resources Policy](#)

### **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Any evidence of cheating will result in a grade of "F" and being reported to the [Dean of Students](#).

### **Wikipedia**

At no time will a student be allowed to use Wikipedia as a source for any project or paper in this class. If it is determined that Wikipedia was used as a source for a project or paper, the student will be given a grade of zero automatically.

### **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Written assignments will be run through a plagiarism and AI checker called Turn It In. If at any point Turn It In identifies that a student used AI to complete an

assignment (such as ChatGPT), an automatic grade of zero will be given to the assignment.

## **College Policies**

### **Campus Carry Rules/Policies**

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

### **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

### **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

### **Campus Carry**

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### **Active Shooter**

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the FBI video entitled "Run. Hide. Fight." which may be electronically accessed via the University police department's webpage: ["Run. Hide. Fight."](#)

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

## **Student Code of Conduct**

MWSU's official policy in the University's Code of Student Conduct on page 52, states:

**Instructor Drop:** An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 9 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10-week summer term, or the 12th class day of a 4- or 5-week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods, the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar as the official drop date. A student dropped from a class by a faculty member for disruptive behavior has the right of appeal to the Student Conduct Committee through the Student Conduct office.

### **Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed**

*"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."*

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

**Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.**

*By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and educational purposes.*

**Travel Plans:** Please do not make travel plans that would hinder your access to a computer or the internet. You are responsible for maintaining electronic(s) equipment and internet access every day during this semester.

**Tentative Reading and Exam Schedule**

**Notice:** Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

**Readings 1: 8/26-9/30**

Chapter 1: Why Measure Outcomes in Private Practice

Chapter 2: How to Measure Outcomes in Private Practice

Read through and begin choosing outcomes measures (with supervisor's help).

Chapter 5: Outcome Measures for Children and Adolescents

Chapter 6: Outcome Measures for Adults and Couples

**Readings 2: 10/7-11/25**

Chapter 3: How to Organize Your Data into a Highly Useful Database

Chapter 4: How to Use Your Data to Evaluate, Improve, and Market Your Practice.

Be familiar with and able to choose outcomes measures (with supervisor's help).

- a. In Internship II, you should be able to consult with your peers in group supervision and aid them during their case conceptualizations.

Chapter 5: Outcome Measures for Children and Adolescents

Chapter 6: Outcome Measures for Adults and Couples