# COURSE UNIT INFORMATION SHEET (SYLLABUS)

## 2019/2020

### Name

PSYCHOMETRICS (IMP: 1st Cycle / 3rd Grade / 1st Semestre / Compulsory Curricular Unit)

### Teaching staff

(Also indicate the Professor in charge)

Maria João Afonso, PhD (Professor in charge)

Maria João Varandas dos Santos, MA

### ECTS

6

### Functioning

Four hours of classes / week, two theoretical and two practical.

- **Theoretical Class** (all students): **Tuesday**, 17:00 -19:00 (Room: Anfiteatro I, Ferreira Marques)
- **Practical Classes** (4 alternative classes):
  - **Wednesday**, P1 09:00 -11:00 / **P2** 11:00 -13:00 (Room 10)
  - **Thursday**, P4 09:00 -11:00 / **P3** 11:00 -13:00 (Room 4)

**Tutorial (Office A330):**

- **Theoretical Classes** (Maria João Afonso): **Tuesday**, 15:00 - 17:00
- **Practical Classes** (Maria João Santos): **Wednesday** 14:00 - 18:00 (until Oct./30)
  
  (Maria João Afonso): **Thursday** 14:00 - 18:00 (after Oct./30)

### Learning goals

**General:** Development of methodological skills, scientific humanism and ethical / deontological attitudes in psychological measurement and assessment.

**Specific:**

- Achieving and constructing scientific knowledge in the field of psychological measurement: test construction and psychometric study;
- Achieving and constructing scientific knowledge about the variety of instruments for psychological measurement in the cognitive and conative domains;
- Achieving practical and deontological skills in psychological measurement and assessment,
- Achieving technical skills for the use of research methodologies (development of psychological measurement instruments suited for the Portuguese population, scientifically relevant and technically appropriate);
- Developing scientific, technical and deontological skills for the use of psychological tests in behavior observation and in assessment for intervention purposes, in various psychological intervention contexts.

Skills to be developed

- Knowledge about the Psychometric Theory (theoretical models and empirical research): Measurement Theory (epistemological foundations of psychological measurement) and Tests Theory (theoretical and technical foundations of psychological measurement);
- Technical skills for the construction, metrological study, critical evaluation and practical use of instruments for psychological measurement and assessment;
- Knowledge of the ethical and deontological principles underlying measurement and assessment in psychology and development of adequate attitudes regarding its application;
- Skills for applying statistical methods to psychological measurement;
- Conceptualization of psychological measurement in the field of psychology: connection to various domains (Differential Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Personality Psychology); connection to application and intervention contexts (clinical, organizational, educational, etc.).

Prerequisites (precedences)

Not applicable.

Contents

1. PSYCHOMETRIC THEORY: MEASUREMENT THEORY
   - Measurement in Psychology: origins, contexts, purposes and foundations
   - Measurement Theory: measurement concepts; measurement stages; measurement models

2. PSYCHOMETRIC THEORY: TEST THEORY
   - Techniques for constructing, translating and adapting psychometric instruments
   - Techniques for studying the psychometric proprieties of tests in different measurement models
     - Item Analysis
     - Reliability
     - Validity

3. PSYCHOMETRICS AND THE ETHICS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
   - Technical and ethical perspectives on psychological assessment
   - The assessment of cognitive dimensions
   - The assessment of conative dimensions

4. PRACTICAL USE OF PSYCHOMETRIC INSTRUMENTS
   - Observation and measurement techniques
   - Data analysis and score interpretation in the practical use of psychometric instruments.
Bibliography

Teaching methods
- Dissertation lessons allowing student participation; theoretical presentation focusing on epistemological and conceptual frameworks for the understanding and the resolution of the kind of problems that emerge from psychological measurement and assessment;
- Theoretical-practical lessons, linking conceptual and application contents with practical components of the subject;
- Practical lessons, for direct contact and confrontation with contexts, problems and situations emerging from individual differences and their assessment;
- Compulsory practical assignment, aiming the development of practical skills and ethical and deontological attitudes in testing and assessment;
- Tutorial sessions, weekly scheduled, to support students in their study planning and in the practical assignment tasks;
- E-learning, using the Moodle platform, for the distribution of documents and the assistance of student’s training and practical assignment tasks.

Evaluation Regimes (General and/or Alternative)
- General Evaluation Regime: includes Written Examination and Practical Assignment. The compulsory Practical Assignment must be accomplished during the semester, while attending the practical lessons that support its execution.

- Alternative Evaluation Regime (only applicable to special students, such as those in ERASMUS abroad, worker-students, etc., who are prevented from ensuring the compulsory attendance regime necessary for the fieldwork): includes Written Examination and Practical Assignment (this Practical Assignment does not include the field work component.)

Evaluation Elements (Dates due, weights, minimum required grades)
- Written Final Examination, compulsory: for the assessment of students learning in the content areas explored in the theoretical, theoretical-practical and practical classes;

Weighting in the final grade: 0,70, applied to the examination mark, when ≥ 9,5 (14 points / 20).
Examination structure: 10 Multiple Choice items (with theoretical, theoretical-practical and practical contents), with a brief written justification required, for the response choice made + 1 dissertation item (with theoretical, theoretical-practical or practical content).

- **Practical assignment**: compulsory; group assignment (4 or 5 students) supervised and supported by the Tutorial sessions.

Weighing in the final grade: 0,30, applied to the practical assignment mark, when ≥ 9,5 (6 points / 20).

- **Attendance and Participation**: qualitative information considered for the purpose of rounding off the final grade.

→ **FINAL GRADE:**

- In accordance to the Article number 7 of the Learning Assessment Regulation [*Regulamento de Avaliação das Aprendizagens*], only the students who **succeeded in both compulsory evaluation elements** are considered to be in conditions to be evaluated, and then receiving an approved or a not approved evaluation.

  - If **both** compulsory evaluation elements meet the respective minimum criteria (are equal or above the minimum mark required for approval, 9,5), the weighting coefficients are applied and the student receives the the respective final grade.

  - If **one of the two** required elements of evaluation does not reach the minimum standard of achievement, the student will receive the mark of the evaluation element that has not fulfilled the minimum criteria of use.

  - If **one or both** of the required evaluation elements are missing, the student will receive a registration of “NA” (Não Avaliado) (no evaluation) which means he or she has not the complete information to allow the grade attribution.

**Rules for students having previously failed the course unit**

- Students will have to repeat the course unit if they don't achieve a grade which is equal or above 9,5, in one or both elements of evaluation (Written Examination and Practical Assignment);

- The grade obtained in one of the evaluation elements, Written Examination or Practical Assignment, while in the same year the approval is not attained at the other element of evaluation, is stored for one school year, although it can still be improved in the first or in the second season of the following school year.

**Rules for grade improvement**

- All the grades - examination and / or practical assignment - can be improved in the 2nd season;

- If one of the grades is stored for one year, because in the other required evaluation element it was not obtained the necessary approval, it can be improved in the following year;

- Practical assignment grades can't be improved in the Special and Specific Season (September).
## Requirements on attendance and punctuality

- **Attendance regime**: the attendance to the classes is sincerely advised, and so the student should seek to be present at least at the **minimum of 9 lessons / semester**, as the students should attend at least 2/3 of the lessons of each type (Theoretical and Practical lessons) (Article number 8 of the Learning Assessment Regulation [Regulamento de Avaliação das Aprendizagens]).

- There is no maximum limit of nonattendances allowed; the number of nonattendances is entirely a students responsibility. However, attendance in class will be registered for summary purposes and may be considered as qualitative information in student evaluation.

## Rules for special students (workers, elite athletes, student body leaders, military, fathers/mothers, with special needs) *

- The only students qualified for the application of the law (and the Alternative Evaluation Regime) regarding the worker-student status, as well as other statutes covered by the law, are those who have formalized their status at the Academic Services.

- The working students who have formalized their status at the Academic Services can use the Tutorial periods for individual supervision of their training.

- The same principle of individual supervision is applied to other groups of students considered exceptions (top athletes, students association leaders, military students, parent students, students with special educational needs) who have formalized their status at the Academic Services.

## Languages of instruction

- Lectures: Portuguese
- Readings: Portuguese, English, French or Spanish

## Disciplinary violations and penalties

According to the Evaluation of Learning Regulation of the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Lisbon, the following behaviors are considered as disciplinary offenses subject to disciplinary action:

a) To use or attempt to use materials, information, notes, study resources or other objects and equipment not authorized in academic exercises;

b) To help or try to help a colleague in committing a disciplinary offense;

c) To submit the same written work for evaluation in different course units without permission from the instructors, even if with minor changes;

d) To present someone else’s work as one’s own;

e) To forge, or change without permission from the author, any information or citation in an academic work;

f) To interfere, change or attempt to change grades;
g) To try to prevent or interfere with the proper functioning of classes, research or other academic activities;

h) To make false accusations regarding instructors, governance bodies, other students or non-teaching staff of the FPUL;

i) To falsify signatures in attendance sheets, documents relating to evaluation elements or in any official document relating to an academic process or status.

Disciplinary offenses committed in any assessment element can lead to its annulment, and must be reported to the Pedagogical Council or, considering their gravity and repetition, may lead to other penalties, to be determined by the Rector of the University of Lisbon.