**PSY 600K Midterm Directions:**

This exam consists of one extended “simulation exercise” containing multiple components. I have provided a fictitious research manuscript describing a fictional scale development project. Your task is to review this manuscript, using your knowledge of testing and measurement to identify errors and weaknesses and to suggest ways the authors could remedy these. Specifically, you should:

* **Identify 8 distinct flaws in the manuscript, corresponding to topics discussed in class (and/or the readings).** For your reference, here is an incomplete list of topics we have covered in class that may be relevant to this review:
  + Constructs & construct development
  + Validity
  + Item writing
  + Response formats & scales
  + Fundamental statistics
  + Classical test theory (including measurement error)
  + Reliability (including coefficient alpha)
  + The common factor model
  + Exploratory factor analysis
* **At least two of the flaws you identify should be conceptual rather than methodological (i.e., make sure to critique the authors’ argument and conclusions as well as their methods).**
* **For EACH of the 8 flaws:** 
  + **Describe** the flaw, issue, or error, with reference to the appropriate page and paragraph number(s) in the manuscript.
  + **Explain** why this was a poor choice on the part of the authors. It is safe to assume that the authors of this paper are not experts in measurement – please educate them.
  + **Reference** appropriate material from class (DeVellis, R & M, lecture notes, other readings) to support your argument. Be specific (e.g., page numbers). I expect at least one specific citation for each bullet point!
  + Offer a realistic suggestion for how the authors could correct the issue. It is fine for this suggestion to be labor-intensive (e.g., collecting more data).

**Each** of the 8 flaws you identify is worth a possible **10 points**, for a total of **80 possible points** on the exam. Full points will be awarded to answers that:

* correctly identify a flaw;
* provide clear, detailed, and accurate explanations for why the flaw is problematic;
* anchor these explanations in course material with appropriate references; and
* provide appropriate suggestions for how to remedy or avoid the flaw.

You should be able to discuss each flaw thoroughly in one good paragraph (or two at most).

You should submit your answers formatted as a review – that is, as a list of bullet points/paragraphs. Do not spend time on lengthy introductory material, and do not feel compelled to point out strengths in the paper in addition to the weaknesses.

Things to keep in mind:

* I promise that there are more than 8 potential issues in this paper. There are therefore multiple possible paths to a good grade – you do not have to see exactly what I see in order to do well. Your grade is based on the accuracy, depth, and clarity of your **explanations**, not on which particular flaws you see. If you find a flaw that isn’t on my list, I will certainly consider it based on the strength and clarity of your explanation.
* If you have concerns about what counts as a “distinct” flaw, please ask. For example, noting that one item contains a typographical error and another contains a grammatical error are not really distinct; these both correspond to the general topic of good item writing.
* Try to focus on the major issues and those that are most relevant to this class. For example, although the paper may contain deviations from APA style, such deviations are relatively unimportant compared to other issues in the paper, and this is not a course on APA style.
* Remember that an exam is an opportunity to **show off what you know**. I can only assess your understanding of the material based on what you turn in. Very brief answers (~ 1-3 sentences) do not show me the depth or breadth of what you know, so such answers may not earn full credit – I am looking for complete answers, not just correct answers. If you are in doubt about whether you’ve answered a question in sufficient detail, please ask.
* You are welcome to ask me questions at any time, but please do not discuss this exam with other students in the class until all students have turned it in.

**This exam is due on Wednesday, March 22, at 11:59 PM in Canvas.**