**PSY 611 Oral Exam Questions**

You will be asked to answer three of these during your oral exam. You may use a whiteboard, if it is helpful to communicate ideas with figures or equations. You will not have access to notes.

1. Why do we study statistics?
2. What is construct validity, and how can we establish it?
3. How is internal validity different from external validity?
4. Explain why we should assume that effect sizes are overestimated in the literature.
5. What is a *p*-value and how is it used in research?
6. What does “statistically significant” mean?
7. How is probability used in (frequentist) statistics?
8. What is the difference between a population and a sample?
9. How do you interpret the confidence interval around a statistic?
10. What is a sampling distribution?
11. Why and how do we use a normal or *t* distribution when studying means?
12. Describe the process of conducting a null hypothesis significance test.
13. What are null and alternative hypotheses?
14. What kind of errors can you make under NHST and what do they mean? Which is worse?
15. What is statistical power? How can we increase it?
16. What is the relationship between Type I and Type II error?
17. What is an “assumption,” and why is it important to evaluate assumptions?